



**NOTES FROM THE
JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING**

1684 POST STREET
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Rosalyn Tonai, Seiko Fujimoto, chairs Judy Hamaguchi, Richard Hashimoto, Glynis Nakahara.

STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Hamaguchi, Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

Patty Wada, Karen Kai, Merry Nishimura.

Meeting began at 12:10 p.m.

Co-chair Rosalyn started the meeting asking for attendees to introduce themselves and share their expectations and intentions. The Committee's purpose was explained. CH Committee would comprise of people in the community and interested parties who want to support the implementation of the JCHESS as it relates to Cultural Heritage/Public Spaces. The CHC would closely work with JTF staff in a supportive manner and make recommendations to the JTF Board. The interim guidelines of the Committee roles and membership requirements are still under formation and revision (Attachment A).

LANDMARKING OF PAGODA IN PEACE PLAZA

Planning staff is budgeted through June 30, 2015 to work on landmarking the Pagoda in the Peace Plaza. They also have funding and staff time set aside to prepare the mandatory historic research evaluation report.

What should be land marked, the pagoda, the pagoda and the base along with the stage area, or possibly the entire the Peace Plaza. A schematic of the Peace Plaza was distributed (Attachment B).

Diane Matsuda who is on the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is also looking into landmarking the Pagoda.

The Pagoda needs to be seismically upgraded, as does the Japan Center Garage, which is below the Peace Plaza.

A lawsuit was filed against the contractor who (supposedly) waterproofed the JCG because it failed with plenty of water seeping into the JCG. The contractor was required to pay for damages but those dollars went into the general fund of the City. The amount was not known.

It was the consensus of the Committee to approach the Planning Department with JTF's intention to support the :

1. historical landmarking of the pagoda and the stage area, subject to a closer evaluation of the structural integrity of the structures by an independent structural engineer; and

2. recognition of the entire Peace Plaza as a culturally significant site, but that such recognition would not prevent or unnecessarily delay any needed renovation to the pagoda. Also, that any renovations to the plaza not close the Japan Center Garage.

RUTH ASAWA FOUNTAINS IN BUCHANAN MALL

Bob reported that an assessment of the work involved in repairing the Ruth Asawa Fountains has been completed. Though he has not read it, he cited that the estimate to repair the fountains may be around \$400,000.

NEW ITEM

A representative from Nihonmachi Little Friends and another from Kinmon Gakuen will be invited to attend the next meeting.

The next meeting will be at Noon, Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at the NJAHS,

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.