

**NOTES FROM THE
CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE**
1684 POST STREET
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ros Tonai, Judy Hamaguchi, Glynis Nakahara Seiko Fujimoto

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Kai, Merry Nishiimura, Patty Wafa

The meeting began at 12:10 p.m..

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update on Visitor Center and Cart

Ros presented the proposed visitor cart and its purpose. She noted that the need to secure volunteers to staff the cart, including the operation of the iPads, screen display, etc. Rolling out the cart during various festivals and outdoor activities in Japantown would be the best times to get it out into the public.

A variety of issues were discussed such as history of Japantown, bilingual capabilities, number of volunteers, where to recruit them, provision of training for the volunteers, etc. These items would be forwarded to the Japantown Economic Development and Marketing (JEDM).

It is important to continue to collect survey responses whenever the cart is out at the public events as well as the visitor center.

One suggestion was preparing a list of “Five Secrets of Japantown” for visitors to further their experience and knowledge about Japantown.

B. Update on Ruth Asawa Fountains

None at this time.

C. Update on Landmarking of Pagoda and/or the Peace Plaza

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Japantown Peace Plaza Remediation – Plaza Survey

Reviewing the Executive Summary, Recommendations, and Conclusion it appears that the survey was limited to the issue of leakage from the Peace Plaza and the impact on the Japan Center Garage and did not include any analysis of the Pagoda.

The Executive Committee is recommending the JTF create an ad hoc committee to work specifically on this item with the major objective of ensuring that the community is involved in the process from the very beginning.

B. Issei Women's Memorial Building Seeking SF Legacy Business Designation

It is the recommendation of the Cultural Heritage Committee that the JTF Board send a letter of support for their application to become a legacy business. It is the Nihonmachi Little Friends operation that is seeking the Legacy business recognition from the City.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be at Noon, Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at the NJAHS.