

**JTF Board Meeting  
April 24, 2006 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Kimochi Inc. Conference Room  
Meeting minutes - DRAFT**

**Attendees:** Scott Belser, Doug Dawkins, Seiko Fujimoto, Michael Gowe, Caryl Ito, Sandy Mori (Pres.), Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Rosalyn Tonai,  
**Staff:** none  
**Guests:** Seiji Horibuchi  
**Excused:** Tak Matsuba, Tetsuya Yoshida

**Call to order at 6:10 p.m. by Sandy Mori, President  
Scott Belser acted as secretary and took the minutes  
The order of the agenda was adjusted to accommodate presentations from guests.**

**A. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of February 27, 2006**

The minutes of the Meeting of February 27, 2006 were approved unanimously as submitted. The President noted that the meeting of a number of members of the Board on March 27, 2006 did not represent a formal meeting of the Board due to the lack of a quorum. It is considered a meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

**B. 1746 Post Street – Rosalyn Tonai, Cultural & Historical Preservation Committee and Seiji Horibuchi, Current Owner of 1746 Post St.**

The head of the Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee, R. Tonai, gave a presentation discussing the cultural and historical significance of the former “Hokubei Mainichi” building site. A copy of her presentation is attached as an appendix to these minutes. The report discussed the historical background on the site at 1746 Post Street, formerly occupied by the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The report focused on the period prior to the Hokubei Mainichi’s ownership in the 1950s.

The reason for the Board to consider the Committee’s report is the proposed reuse of the property site as a center for modern Japanese culture (“J-Pop”), requiring demolition of the current structure. The report of the Committee ends with the conclusion: “...we are generally in favor of the proposed replacement building.” citing its structural problems and the lack of compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Board unanimously accepted the report with appreciation for the committee’s effort. In the Board discussion, it was noted that the Task Force has previously voted to support the proposed reuse. S. Mori then reviewed the current status of the planning and other approvals for the re-use project. The SF Redevelopment Agency (SFRDA) is in the process of evaluating the project, including an assessment of the historical significance of the building and a determination of whether an EIR is required.

The current owner of the site, Mr. S. Horibuchi, presented to the Board an update on project status. He discussed a number of design changes he had made to accommodate the history of the site, such as including a room to display historical information and photographs. He

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requested possible assistance from the Task Force with regard to the community's support for the re-use project. He reported that an important meeting between his development team and SFRDA was scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2006. Depending on the outcome of that meeting, he requested that the Task Force draft a letter to SFRDA expressing its support. The consensus of the Board was that it would be willing to provide such a letter if appropriate. The Board also discussed that it may also be necessary to indicate JTF support at the "public comment" meeting of SFRDA on May 2, 2006. Mr. Horibuchi also reviewed the latest conceptual drawings of the site.

## C. Chair's Report

**Update on Japantown Development Issues** – The Board discussed current developments with regard to Japantown development. The Board reviewed copy of agreed covenants with the 3D Corporation for mall and hotel development. S. Mori discussed the proposed designation of Japantown as a "Special Use District" under the sponsorship of Supervisor Mirkarimi. The Board discussed the range of views within the community with regard to this issue without taking a formal position. In addition, the Board briefly considered the sale of the Kabuki theater to Sundance and the need for written protections for the community in connection with that sale.

**Update on Executive Director** -The Board also addressed other areas that have emerged since the resignation of the Executive Director. A reconciliation and financial resolution is necessary with regard to the Japantown book sales, including payments to distribution partners and sales tax. Certain individuals have approached the President offering to provide assistance to the Board. The Board must also decide JTF's response to a possible contract with the Transportation Authority to provide outreach for the Geary Street project. JTF must also address possible revisions to the "marketing plan" that JTF must prepare in connection with its contract with the Japantown Parking Corporation. Specifically with regard to public disclosure of the Director's resignation, the Board agreed that its policy is to maintain strict confidentiality on such a personnel matter.

**Financial Matters** -By consensus, the Board agreed that JTF's current financial condition required that it NOT immediately hire a replacement Executive Director. Also because of financial concerns, the Board will direct that the current intern working with JTF, Darryl Abantao, no longer work to receive disbursements under the "Litterhawk" program. As a result of these financial issues, Board members may be asked to increase their participation in JTF actions. In addition, the Board agreed that JTF should work to complete any obligations required under its two contracts with a) pedestrian safety survey and b) Transportation Authority outreach with the goal to avoid further financial losses.

## D. Committee Reports:

### **Finance Report – Mark Moriguchi**

M. Moriguchi and S Belser have agreed to review the financial information and prepare necessary summaries of JTF's financial status and outlook.

Health and Safety: S. Mori reported that she had received strong inquiries from the Department of Public Health with regard to completion of the pedestrian safety survey that JTF had agreed to conduct. It appears that the surveys have been completed, but analysis

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has not been performed. A report on the findings was due on March 31, 2006. It is important that the Board and Committee identify an approach to enable JTF to complete its obligations under the contract. S. Mori and B. Nakajo (head of Committee) will work together to make this decision.

## **Business and Economic Development – Tak Matsuba**

Not present to report.

## **Health and Safety Committee – Benh Nakajo**

No report.

## **Cultural and Historical Preservation Committee – Rosalyn Tonai**

Item B

## **Communications and Marketing Committee – Seiko Fujimoto**

It was noted that a newsletter had been sent out.

## **E. Other Business and Announcements:**

### 1. Preserve America Community Neighborhood Program

The Board also considered a request from JCCCNC to support its application (due May 1) to represent Japantown in the national “Preserve America Community Neighborhood Program.” The Board discussed the request but did not act.

### 2. Kokoro

The Board also briefly discussed a financial and governance update on the Kokoro facility. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.