

**JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019  
6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM  
1675 POST ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

**ATTENDEES:** Sandy Mori, Glynis Nakahara, Judy Hamaguchi, Kenta Takamori, Benh Nakajo, David Takashima, Alice Kawahatsu, Jon Osaki, Beau Simon, Coco Tando, Scott Hamaguchi, Seiko Fujimoto, Mark Moriguchi, Rosalyn Tonai

**ABSENT:** Jacquelyn Chew, Richard Hashimoto

**STAFF:** Steve Nakajo, Lauren Nosaka, Nina Bazan-Sakamoto, Brandon Quan

**GUESTS:** Adrienne Shiozaki-Woo, Raymond Woo, Jeremy Chan, Karen Kai, Kenji Taguma, Derek Tahara, Elena Nielsen

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of September 18, 2019.

It was moved by Benh Nakajo and seconded by David Takashima to accept the minutes from the August meeting (Attachment A.)

The motion passed unanimously. No public comments.

**III. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STEVE NAKAJO**

Steve Nakajo reviewed the highlights from the October 16, 2019 Executive Director's report (Attachment B.) Steve reported that the Japantown Cultural District team has attended 2 Cultural District workshops on finance, budget, and administration. There are 7 Cultural Districts and each district received \$230,000 for the first year of funding. The first town hall meeting will be November 14<sup>th</sup>, the grand launch will be during the Cherry Blossom Festival in 2020 and a 2<sup>nd</sup> community meeting in Fall 2020. The CHHESS Report is due in Fall 2020 and MOHCD assured JTF that the consultants will be funded past July 2020. Steve Nakajima wrote the \$30,000 proposal for the SF Japantown Foundation for Peace Plaza infrastructure support. JTF will approach the Kase Foundation for Peace Plaza support and will make a formal presentation to the foundation. JTF submitted a \$5,000 proposal to the New Generation Nikkei Fund for Visitor Center support. The Visitor Center will be located in the West Mall near Café Hana. JTF ED Steve Nakajo attended a meeting with Oliver Mar and Daniel Bryon on October 9 to discuss the future development of Japan Center Malls.

Nina Bazan-Sakamoto gave a Cultural District update:

- The Japantown Cultural District (JCD) team held their mini-launch at Aki Matsuri on October 20. The team was an integral part in the theme development, programming, and marketing the November 14 Town Hall meeting. The theme for Aki Matsuri was a Japanese Autumn Festival celebrating the bounty of nature, fall harvest and a healthy, thriving, harmonious community. The public was able to participate in the workshops and demonstrations. It was 12-5pm at the Peace Plaza. Nina spent 3 workshop sessions creating a huge painting with the JCYC Youth Leaders and was presented at Aki Matsuri.

- The November 14 Town Hall meeting will be held at JCCCNC's Issei Memorial Room 6-8pm. The community will be able to give input for the CHHESS Report, and gain as many ideas as possible at the breakout groups.
- The team has been working closely with the LU/T and CHSC committees on breaking down the JCHESS report and plan on attending every meeting.

Brandon Quan gave a 2020 Census Update. Brandon announced that the Census Bureau is in the planning phase and will not have language materials available until December. The Census Bureau is very understaffed and only 1,000 out of 8,000 Census jobs have been filled.

- He met with the SF Public Library about using their space for computers. He met with API Council's new Census Coordinator, Miya Summers.
- He is working with Rodney Chin of the YMCA to have a recruiting session in partnership with the Census Bureau. The qualifications for a Census job are over 18, a US citizen, and a background check. The hours are flexible and a candidate is assigned to their home zip code.
- He highlighted Art+Action, an art group from the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, as the official art focus marketing campaign for the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA). OCEIA is the grant funder for the 2020 Census Project. If anyone knows someone who is an artist, let Brandon know so he can get in touch with Art+Action.
- Brandon will start planning workshops with JCYC, Nihonmachi Little Friends, Kokoro, and Kimochi Home early next year.
- The Census form is online and is available in 12 languages. The paper form is only in English and Spanish. The public can call in and is available in the same 12 languages as the online form.
- NJAHS will have walk-in sessions for the community.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### A. Land Use/Transportation Committee (Co-chairs, Glynis Nakahara/Kenta Takamori)

1. There were no updates from the Land Use/Transportation Committee.

##### B. Peace Plaza Committee (Co-Chairs, Jon Osaki/Richard Hashimoto)

###### 1. Peace Plaza Updates

Jon Osaki reported that Steve Nakajima is part of the SF Recreation and Park Advisory Team for the community outreach process. The committee is waiting for the community outreach schedule for the bond process. The committee will be directly reaching out to the JTF Board of Directors and interested members to cover all of the SF Recreation and Park community meetings. It's important to have someone speaking about the Peace Plaza at every meeting.

##### C. Cultural Heritage Sustainability Committee (Co-chairs, David Takashima/Coco Tando)

1. Coco Tando reported that the committee recommends to the board that JTF submits a letter of support to the State Historical Resource Commission for the Japanese YWCA to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is a list of sites, building and objects significant to the American history, architecture and culture. By having it added to the list, the Japanese YWCA will be eligible for tax provisions and federal grants.

##### Public Comments:

- The 1830 Sutter Building where the Japanese YWCA is located is the only building built by and for the Issei women. It is very significant for our community. It's the first National Register building that is being nominated for its significance as a Japanese American place.
- The Board Chair of Nihonmachi Little Friends attended and asked JTF for approval of this great opportunity for the community.

It was moved by Glynis Nakahara and seconded by David Takashima to submit a letter of support to the State Historical Resource Commission for the Japanese YWCA to be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The vote passed unanimously.

## 2. Update on JCHESS Breakdown

Coco Tando shared the JCHESS breakdown draft with the Board and gave a quick summary of the draft (Attachment C,D & E). Many JCHESS strategies fit into several CHHESS categories so the same strategy was put into multiple categories. The Japantown Cultural District team plans to launch a separate Japantown Cultural District website.

## D. Nominations Committee

(Chair, Judy Hamaguchi)

Judy Hamaguchi reported the open spot should be filled and had a conversation with Anthony Brown to see if he would be interested in returning to the Board. However, at this time he had to decline due to personal reasons. Coco Tando will resign from the Board and her last meeting will be the November Board meeting. The committee will reconvene and discuss the 2 open seats. The vote will happen at the next November Board meeting. Board members must be present at the next board meeting in order to vote.

## V. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### 1. Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

Sandy Mori reported that an Ad Hoc Bylaws committee meeting was held with Sandy Mori, Mark Moriguchi, Kenta Takamori, and David Takashima. There may not necessarily be changes in the Bylaws. There might be protocols that the committee may come up with for the Board. If any Board member has any proposed changes in the Bylaws, let Mark, Kenta or David know.

Sandy announced that Neal Taniguchi resigned due to personal reasons. There are 3 open seats on the Board.

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

## VIII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were shared:

Sandy Mori announced that Aki Matsuri will be on Saturday, October 19 from 12-5pm at the Peace Plaza.

Sandy is organizing 1 or 2 tables representing JTF for the SF Japantown Foundation 2020 New Year's Celebration with Osechi Ryori on January 9, 2020 at Hotel Kabuki. The tickets are \$200 per person.

Karen Kai announced that the Rainbow World Fund and the Crystal City Pilgrimage will be holding a Border Angels Fundraising Party to help provide backpacks of travel supplies for migrant families. It will be held on Sunday, October 27 4-7pm on 2004 Gough Street (near Clay), SF.

Jon Osaki shared that the Tsuru for Solidarity will be having a community meeting at the SF Buddhist Church at 10am on October 26. They will be providing information for their pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage will visit several detention centers. There will be gathering at Washington DC in June 2020.

Kenji Taguma mentioned that Films of Remembrance will be shown in New York including Jon Osaki's Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066, and 7 other films. Tomo Hirai has left Nichi Bei. Derek Tahara from SunnyVale has replaced her.

Elena Nielsen shared that JCBD will be having a Fix-It Japantown Clean Up on October 26, 9-12pm. They will be picking up litter and working with the Mayor's Fix-It team and SF Department of Public Works.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 6-8pm at Union Bank Community Room.