

AD HOC JAPAN CENTER MALLS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 5:30PM

VIA ZOOM

Committee Members: Sandy Mori, Glynis Nakahara, Beau Simon, Daryl Higashi, Grace Horikiri, Joyce Oishi, Lori Yamauchi

Others Present: Benh Nakajo, Alice Kawahatsu, Andy Mo, Derek Tahara, Elena Nielsen, Jeremy Chan, Judy Hamaguchi, Tomo Hirai, Michiko Yamada

Staff Present: Steve Nakajo, Lauren Nosaka, Brandon Quan

I. Call to Order

II. Information on City staff support regarding 3D Covenants

- Mayor Breed appointed Rich Hillis to be new planning director. He has past experience as Chairman of the Planning Commission and economic development for Mayor Newsom.
- Rich has spoken with Joaquin Torres, Head of Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and he assigned 2 staff members, Ted Conrad & Anne Taupier, as city staff support to work on the future issues of the Japantown Malls.
- There is a separate Community Covenants Committee. Members are Paul Osaki, Judy Hamaguchi, Rosalyn Tonai, Glynis Nakahara, Richard Hashimoto, Steve Nakajo, Sandy Mori, Robert K. Sakai, Allen Okamoto, Diane Matsuda, and Don Tamaki
- The Ad Hoc Committee is trying to set up a meeting with the Community Covenants Committee to meet and discuss their goals and vision for the future.
- The Community Covenants Committee has only met several times and has had talks about what their ideas of the covenant should be. However there has not been a definitive answer of how they want it to be yet.
- In 2021, 3D's decision to maintain ownership is due. In 2006 3D signed a contract that states they had to maintain ownership for 15 years. 3D says they have every intention of maintaining ownership but that does not mean they will definitely do that. There is still a possibility that they sell the buildings.

III. Discussion of the role/work of the Ad Hoc Japan Town Center Committee

- The Cultural, History, Housing, Economic Sustainability Strategy (CHHESS)'s strategic plan only covers what happens if 3D were to maintain ownership. This does not guarantee that 3D will maintain it. We should create broader guidelines to the strategic plan.
- The covenant does not cover what happens if the buildings were to be demolished and built by a new company.
- We must incorporate culture in these discussions as Japantown is not just a retail mall. Japantown should be an experience, not just for retail shopping.
- We should check in with the Japantown stakeholders, see how they feel and if they have any ideas, as they are a big part of the community.
- There has to be a balance between being a place of social gathering and retail shopping.
- If we can make it work, we can have a forum where the public can ask questions to either

- 3D or the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the future of Japan Town.
- We could also have members submit questions to either Sandy or Lori so that we can discuss next time we reconvene.
 - Steve, Brandon and Nina will gather information from the 3 documents members requested (latest CHHESS draft, 3D Covenants Agreement and List of Japantown Property Owners) and provide it at the next meeting.
 - The committee plans to have a breakout group session at the next meeting to further discuss their roles and work responsibilities within the committee.

IV. Announcements

V. Public Comments

NEXT MEETING

Next Ad Hoc Japan Center Malls Technical Committee will be held on January 11, 2021 5:30pm via zoom.

ADJOURN: 7:02PM