

**JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019

6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
1675 POST ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

- ATTENDEES:** Glynis Nakahara, David Takashima, Judy Hamaguchi, Alice Kawahatsu, Beau Simon, Jacquelyn Chew, Coco Tando, Richard Hashimoto, Scott Hamaguchi, Clint Taura
- ABSENT:** Seiko Fujimoto, Jon Osaki, Benh Nakajo, Sandy Mori, Mark Moriguchi, Neal Taniguchi, Kenta Takamori, Rosalyn Tonai
- STAFF:** Steve Nakajo, Lauren Nosaka, Elena Nielsen
- GUESTS:** Tomo Hirai, Jeremy Chan, Adrienne Shiozaki-Woo, Ray Woo, Karen Kai, Robert Rusky, Michiko Yamada

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Vice President Glynis Nakahara. A quorum was acknowledged at 6:10pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of May 15, 2019.

It was moved by Alice Kawahatsu and seconded by David Takashima to accept the minutes from the May 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 May 15, 2019 Executive Director's report (Attachment B.) Steve announced that we will appear in front of the full Rec & Park Commission on July 18 10am at City Hall, Room 416 and requested for board members to attend and give public comment. Steve introduced Elena Nielsen as Nikki Yoshikawa's replacement for the Legacy Business Program (LBP). Kinmon Gakuen, Yasukochi's Sweet Stop and Nichi Bei Weekly are in the queue. Elena is shadowing Nikki and will meet with Café Mums to discuss the LBP process with them on June 22. Steve is still in negotiations for the Japantown Cultural District from the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development due to changing the positions from 1 project manager and 1 consultant to 2 project managers and 2 consultants. Once the Cultural District budget is approved, staff will pass it through Cultural Heritage Sustainability Committee's co-chairs then to the Board of Directors and then to the general public. Japantown Cultural District is one of 6 cultural districts in SF and has been awarded \$230,000. Most of the funding will go towards building the infrastructure and the rest will go towards communications. There are 6 goals: Cultural Heritage Conservation, Tenant Protections, Arts and Culture, Economic and Workforce Development, Land Use, and Cultural Competency. The start date for the 2020 Census might be Fall 2019 or as late as January 2020. The reason why is because there is a question of citizenship on the form and that question is being reviewed by the Supreme Court.

Elena Nielsen gave an update on JCBD.

- New Community Ambassador Carl Newt began working for Block by Block. Block by Block started a new contract with JCBD and increased the hourly wage to \$16 an hour.
- Phase 3 of the Japantown SFSafeCity Camera Program is complete: 104 surveillance cameras are installed with 80% coverage of JCBD. Phase 4 will cover Union Bank and Buchanan mall.
- There will be a training meeting with SFPD Northern Station to go over the SafeCity Camera Program video retrieval policy and procedure on the week of July 24.
- The JCBD Marketing and Communications Committee is currently working on 4 projects:
 - The Street Lamp Banners, which will be installed on or before July 1. A reception will be held in July honoring the three artists who contributed their work. The date is TBA.
 - The target date for completion of the revamped Japantown website is October 2019. Greg Vilorio, JMA, and the Japan Center Malls are working with the JCBD.
 - The JCBD is looking into costs and approval for projection mapping for either thePeace Plaza or the Buchanan Mall.
 - The JCBD received support from Kinokuniya to be the fourth and final sponsor for the Bigbelly Trash Can project. The other three sponsors are Nihonmachi Street Fair, the Japan Center Mall, and the Japan Center Garage.

Public Comments:

- Can the budget worksheet from the Cultural District proposal be provided?

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Land Use/Transportation Committee (Glynis Nakahara/Kenta Takamori)

1. NewEra @ 1700 Post.

Glynis Nakahara reported that NewEra gave a presentation to the committee and passed out the proposal (Attachment C). NewEra is a wellness lounge which will include the sale of cannabis products. The two owners, Jessica Sharp and Cynthia Boedihardjo approached JTF and are seeking a letter of support that the building owner has requested to receive. The proposal is for a cultural lounge and experience center to bring people together with a sound therapy room, tea lounge, cannabis, edibles, and non-combustible cannabis such as vaping. Business hours would be 10am-10pm and an indoor and outdoor security guard. They're looking into membership options for the community. They're interested in offering their space for community meetings and fundraisers. They're in the very beginning of the Entitlement process which will take 2 years. Glynis announced that if this is a topic of concern or interest, please attend the next committee meeting on July 11.

Public Comments:

- NewEra is interested in showcasing a gallery space and feature talks from local Japanese American artists. If the CHSC wants to look at it in that angle, it might be something to consider especially for having more art spaces in Japantown.
 - NewEra doesn't have plan but they have a concept of what they want to do. They have been doing popups with some of these elements and offered to invite JTF if we are interested. There is a 2-year lag with cannabis before they can receive their license.
 - Where do they want to place this?
 - A commenter read that there was a proposal for a new cannabis club on Bush St. in the New Filmore newspaper.
- ###### 2. Recommendation to the Board by the committee that JTF writes a letter to SFMTA opposing the proposal to install a Ford Gobike station on Buchanan at Sutter St

Glynis reported that the committee drafted a letter to SFMTA opposing the proposal to install a Ford Gobike station on Buchanan at Sutter St (Attachment D.) At the June LUT meeting, the committee discussed the proposal. Glynis and Kenta talked to the merchants near the proposed

Ford Gobike station. Two voting items took place at the meeting: a vote to oppose the proposal and a vote to continue working with SFMTA and collaborate to find a solution. Lyft filed a lawsuit against SFMTA on their rights for exclusive dockless bikes.

Public Comments:

- The City is looking into dockless bike stations similar to the Red Jump Bikes. Lyft is trying to enforce their rights for dockless bike and stationary dock stations.
- A commenter gave grammatical suggestions for the opposition letter.

It was moved by Clint Taura and seconded by Beau Simon for JTF to write a letter to SFMTA opposing the proposal to install a Ford Gobike station on Buchanan at Sutter St. with suggested amendments.

The vote passed with nine in favor and one opposed.

B. Peace Plaza Committee (Jon Osaki/Richard Hashimoto)

1. Full SF Rec & Park Commission Hearing on July 18, 10am City Hall Room 416
Glynis Nakahara circulated a sign-up sheet for board members to attend the Full SF Rec & Park Commission Hearing.

Public Comments:

- Could a draft letter be provided for organizations to give their input?

C. Cultural Heritage Sustainability Committee (David Takashima/Coco Tando)

No update at this time. Refer to ED's Report for status Internal Item D.

D. Finance Committee (Mark Moriguchi)

Mark Moriguchi was not present at the meeting so Glynis asked if everyone had a chance to review the Revenue and Expense Report July 2018 to March 2019 (Attachment E). No questions or comments were asked.

V. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Consideration of JTF to be a co-sponsor of the D5 Supervisors' Debate with CHNA
Glynis reported that Marlayne Morgan from the Cathedral Hill Neighbors Association (CHNA) approached Board Member Alice Kawahatsu inquiring if JTF would be a co-sponsor of the D5 Supervisors' debate. Alice explained that the debate would be between Supervisor Vallie Brown and Dean Preston in September or October before the November election. CHNA would like to hold it in JCCCNC's Issei Memorial Hall Room and share the cost with JTF. CHNA is looking into the cost of the rental space and is willing to pay more than half of the cost. The portion JTF pays would come out of JTF's funds.

Public Comments:

- Japantown was not discussed at the previous debate. Having it in Japantown would be good to center the discussion around the location.
- It's a good way to put Japantown on the map.
- Some members of the board may favor Vallie Brown. The board should remain neutral.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Beau Simon commented that he has a close relationship with Sarah Brett from Maven Property in the Japan Center Mall. If JTF needs any help with Maven Property, Beau is available for assistance.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were shared:

Alice Kawahatsu announced that Konko Church will have their annual Summer Festival Bazaar on July 13 and 14 11:30am-4pm. She also announced that Dr. Watanabe will be a public speaker at 1909 Bush St. presenting about health issues, diet and exercise from 10am on June 23.

Tomo Hirai announced that Nichi Bei Weekly will have their annual Soy & Tofu Festival on June 29 at St. Mary's Cathedral. The tickets are \$5 each. There will be an ongoing shuttle to take attendees from the Peace Plaza to St. Mary's.

Alice also announced that JTF will be participating with the Visitor Center kiosk at the Japan Day Festival on June 30 12-4pm at the Peace Plaza. Among the many performances and demonstrations, there will be a 100-year-old dancer performing and Rev. Kawahatsu will have a calligraphy demonstration.

Adrienne Shiozaki-Woo announced that Vicky Mihara Avery's service will be held at the Buddhist Church of SF 11am on June 29.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Glynis Nakahara at 7:28pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, July 17 2019 6-8pm at Union Bank Community Room.