

JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019
6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
1675 POST ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

ATTENDEES: Sandy Mori, Judy Hamaguchi, Jacquelyn Chew, Benh Nakajo, Beau Simon, Alice Kawahatsu, Richard Hashimoto, Mark Moriguchi, Clint Taura, David Takashima, Glynis Nakahara, Kenta Takamori

ABSENT: Seiko Fujimoto, Neal Taniguchi, Scott Hamaguchi, Coco Tando, Jon Osaki, Rosalyn Tonai

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

GUESTS: Steve Nakajima, Grace Horikiri, Karen Kai, Robert Rusky, Michiko Yamada, Elena Nielsen

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of July 17, 2019.

It was moved by Richard Hashimoto and seconded by David Takashima to accept the minutes from the July 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 August 21, 2019 Executive Director's report (Attachment B.) Steve announced that Kinmon Gakuen, NJAHS, Yasukochi's Sweet Stop and Nichi Bei Foundation were successfully approved as Legacy Business Status at the Small Business Commission on August 12. Former JTF staff, Nikki Yoshikawa worked on these businesses and is still committed to help JTF with Legacy Business Program applications. Elena Nielsen completed Cafe Mum's application and is currently in the process for the next round. Richard Hashimoto, Grace Horikiri and Steve Nakajo participated in a phone conference call with Geary BRT. The Steiner Street Bridge is set to be demolished in November 2019, which means that Geary Street is will blocked off and cars will be rerouted. Steve gave a brief update on the Peace Plaza Project reporting that JTF was successful at the August 7 SF Rec & Park Capital committee and August 15 Full Rec & Park Commission meetings to win approval of the design concept plan for the Peace Plaza renovation. The cost of the Peace Plaza renovation was quoted to be \$25 million. Steve updated the board that he is still working with 3-D Investment on the Visitor Center Kiosk. The kiosk is proposed to be in the West Mall near the coffee shop and removing the ponds. Cultural District Project Manager Nina Bazan-Sakamoto, Consultant Mark Izu and 2020 Census Outreach & Education Coordinator Brandon Quan introduced themselves to the board.

Grace Horikiri gave a JCBD update:

- The Street Lamp Banners are up in Japantown and will be up for 1 and a half years. JCBD held a reception for the 3 Japanese American artists who participated in the banner artwork. JCBD plans to have 2-sided banners in the next round.
- The SafeCity Camera Program is in Phase 4, the final phase. There will a total of 125 cameras in Japantown. JCBD is looking into Phase 5 to expand the camera program to include areas outside of the JCBD boundaries.
- The Big Belly Trash Cans will be installed on August 27. Grace thanked the sponsors, Kinokuniya, Japan Center Garages, Japantown Merchants Association and Nihonmachi Street Fair. There will be a short video on how to use the trash cans.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. Kenta Takamori reported that the LUT Committee at their monthly meeting on August 8 discussed how to respond to SFMTA's decision to permit the Bikeshare location on Buchanan and Sutter St. The committee felt it was worth the effort to try and propose an alternative location. The committee brought the following recommendation to the JTF Board that JTF request the SFMTA to consider as an alternative to the recently permitted bike share station (on Buchanan St at Sutter St), a different location, on the north side of Post St, west of Webster St, and that the JTF immediately file an appeal against the recent permit decision. The co-chairs met with SFMTA who commented that they intended to have three bikeshare stations in Japantown but compromised with one central location instead. Glynis and Kenta met with the Golden Gate Apartment Manager, whose apartments would face the alternative location. The manager thought this alternative location was preferable than the Buchanan St. location. SFMTA informed the co-chairs that they would remove the bikeshare station whenever festivals are being held. Glynis suggested amending the motion to include that JTF immediately file an appeal if there is such an appeal process against the recent permit decision.

Public Comments:

- JCBD wrote an email to Deanna Desedas, chair of the SFMTA Small Business Advisory Group. From the JCBD standpoint, I went to all the street level businesses on Buchanan. They did not want the bikeshare station and wrote opposition letters even in Japanese to hand to Deanna. I explained to Deanna there was no process and did not offer any feedback from the businesses. She followed up with Adrian Leung and said they are looking at alternative areas. We need to voice our concerns earlier than later.

It was moved by Clint Taura and seconded by Mark Moriguchi for JTF to request SFMTA to consider as an alternative to the recently permitted bike share station (on Buchanan St at Sutter St), a different location, on the north side of Post St, west of Webster St, and that JTF immediately file an appeal if there is such an appeal process against the recent permit decision.

The vote passed with ten in favor and two opposed.

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

1. A Report back on the August 7th SF Rec & Park Capital Committee Meeting & August 15th Full Rec & Park Commission Meeting

Richard Hashimoto reported that he and Jon Osaki met with Phil Ginsburg, the General Manager of SF Rec & Park. On August 7, the SF Rec & Park Capital Committee unanimously voted to make a recommendation to the August 15 Full Rec & Park Commission meeting. At the August 15 meeting, the commission unanimously approved of the concept design and vision plan. Rich emphasized to the board that JTF needs to make sure that the funding is allocated in order to receive the full amount from the Parks Bond. Michael Degregorio, the

Project Manager, created a video on the vision plan, concept design and interviewed Jon Osaki, Sandy Mori and Steve Nakajo.

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

1. Update on JCHESS Breakdown

Sandy Mori reported that Coco will report to everyone an update on the JCHESS breakdown. Jacquelyn Chew reported that she and Coco analyzed the JCHESS strategies to see how each strategy corresponds to the six categories in the CHHESS report. The next monthly meeting will be held on September 9, 6pm at JACL.

D. Finance Committee (Mark Moriguchi)

1. Approve submission of the proposed 2019 – 2020 budget to the OEWD

Mark Moriguchi presented the OEWD proposed 2019-2020 budget to the Board (Attachment C.) This budget is for JTF's basic infrastructure of \$174,000 for fiscal year 2019 to 2020.

It was moved by Alice Kawahatsu and seconded by Benh Nakajo to approve submission of the proposed 2019 – 2020 budget to the OEWD.

The motion passed unanimously. No public comments.

2. Approve submission of the proposed 2019 – 2020 Cultural District budget to OCD

Mark presented the OCD proposed 2019 – 2020 Cultural District budget to the Board (Attachment D.) This budget is \$230,000 for fiscal year 2019 – 2020.

It was moved by Benh Nakajo and seconded by David Takashima to approve submission of the proposed 2019 – 2020 Cultural District budget to OCD.

The motion passed unanimously. No public comments.

V. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Consider for Action: The JTF shall adopt a policy to decline all future requests for a letter or statement that indicates support, whether it be in written or verbal form, from any business which has received or aspires to receive a Cannabis Permit from the City and County of San Francisco

This particular issue came up at the last board meeting and it was referred to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee agreed to bring this proposed policy for action to the JTF Board. If any business which has a Cannabis Permit or aspires to receive a Cannabis Permit from the City, were to come to JTF in the future, and ask JTF for support verbal or written, JTF would decline all future requests for a letter or statement that indicates support. Cannabis issues take away from this board's ability to focus on other important issues related to JTF's mission. If a cannabis representative were to come to JTF, JTF can respond by saying this is not one of the issues JTF considers.

Public Comments:

- There was disappointment that this issue was not sent back the LU/T Committee because this involves one of the topic areas that LU/T has been discussing. It would be better if JTF take no position on cannabis permits in Japantown.
- JTF should not be taking a position. The Board and community are divided on this issue.
- A cannabis dispensary would need to apply for a conditional use permit meaning that there is a public process. The community has the opportunity to speak for or against a business at the Planning Commission. The business does not need support from JTF at all.

It was moved by Kenta Takamori and seconded by David Takashima to adopt a policy to decline all future requests for a letter or statement that indicates support, whether it be in written or verbal form,

from any business which has received or aspires to receive a Cannabis Permit from the City and County of San Francisco.

The vote passed with six in favor and five opposed.

Sandy informed the board that the following documents are available to Board members: JTF Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, and Sunshine Ordinance. If a board member needs a copy, let Lauren Nosaka know and she will give you the documents. Sandy requested a separate Ad Hoc Bcommittee to look at the Bylaws. Kenta Takamori, David Takashima and Mark Moriguchi volunteered to be on this committee.

Judy Hamaguchi, the Nominations Committee Chair, will have her Committee prepare for the Annual October meeting of nomination for new or outgoing board members.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

VIII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were shared:

Alice Kawahatsu gave an update on the D5 Forum. JTF is working with the League of Women Voters, and Cathedral Hill Neighbors Association to have a D5 Forum on October 10 at 6pm held at JCCCNC. The League of Women Voters will pay for the forum. It will an educational forum.

Judy Hamaguchi announced that JCCCNC will have Tabemasho on September 21, Nichi Bei Foundation will have their Wakamatsu Pilgrimage on October 5, and SF JAACL will hold their Annual Health Fair on October 19.

Clint Taura reported that the Issei Memorial Garden was being installed during the week of August 19.

Jacquelyn Chew announced that Osaka Matsuri will take place on September 28 at the Peace Plaza. She will be the MC and there will be a Mr. Osaka segment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Sandy Mori at 8:08pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6-8pm at Union Bank Community Room.