



JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

NOTES FROM THE LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

1765 SUTTER STREET

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Coco Tando, David Takashima, Judy Hamaguchi, Seiko Fujimoto, Jeremy Chan

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Nakajo, Lauren Nosaka, Nina Bazan-Sakamoto

GUESTS:

Karen Kai, Rosalyn Tonai, Sandy Mori

The meeting began at 6:03 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The meeting began with a moment of silence led by Seiko Fujimoto for those who died from the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb.

It was moved by Coco Tando and seconded by Seiko Fujimoto to approve the July minutes. They were so approved.

UPDATE ON PROPOSED BUDGET OF \$230,000 FROM THE CITY'S CULTURAL DISTRICT FUNDING INTRODUCTION OF CULTURAL DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGER UPDATE ON CULTURAL DISTRICT STAFF POSITIONS

Steve Nakajo presented on the "Japantown Cultural District Job Descriptions with Matrix" document (see attached document). He noted that the other JTF committee chairs were invited to this presentation, and that he and Nina are happy to present to any board member.

The City's Cultural Heritage district department, newly created by Supervisor Ronen, has \$1.3 million distributed among 6 Cultural Districts (including Japantown). The Cultural District Initiative's overall strategies are Cultural Heritage Conservation, Tenant Protections, Arts and Culture, Economic and Workforce Development, Land Use, and Cultural Competency.

Steve Nakajo has hired 1 project manager, Nina Bazan-Sakamoto, as a full time position. JTF has also hired 3 consultants: Mark Izu, Lewis Kawahara, and Wes Nihei (who is the editor).

Tasks are distributed amongst them in the document as follows:

- PM (project manager) = Nina (project manager)
- C (Consultant) = Mark/Lewis, Wes
- ED (Executive Director) = Steve Nakajo

Steve decided to divide the project manager position into a full time and part time position. They interviewed four out of six candidates. The #2 candidate was offered a position as a part time manager but declined due to the lack of benefits.

The resumes of the new hires were temporarily distributed at the meeting. With respect to their qualifications, Steve spoke about Nina's fluency in Japanese and Spanish, Mark Izu's connections to Asian American artists, and Lewis Kawahara's background of teaching Japanese American

studies at SF State as well as his interest in real estate.

JTF is further ahead than the other districts, having hired and going into strategy meetings.

The Job description matrix outlines the tasks distributed amongst JTF staff and committees.

- R = responsibility
- A = accountability
- C = Consult

Nina's primary initial task will be to continue the process of a reference list and outreaching to all stakeholders, including artists. She will organize a large outreach meeting and two community meetings. The first community meeting will be before mid-November. The goal of this meeting is to be inclusive with respect to Japanese American and Asian Pacific Islander American community members and organizations, which is challenging due to the crowded community calendar. This will be followed by a launch meeting (which the City is encouraging to be "fun" like a block party), and then a second community meeting in 2020.

Wes Nihei, as the part time "editor," will work solely on the CHHESS document, based off the original JCHESS. The 3 consultants will integrate with and support Nina. Board members will support the process as consults through the committee process. Nina will be the liaison with the committee co-chairs, and the project managers and consultants will attend committee meetings.

Nina, Steve Nakajima, and other staff will have a month of strategic planning meetings every Monday at 10am, starting on August 12, to flesh out the job description matrix and determine each person's tasks. All question marks on the tasks matrix will be assigned.

The City originally expected existing JTF staff to absorb the Cultural District project responsibilities, but Steve said this did not work with JTF's structure.

The document includes a line item budget with salaries. JTF Treasurer Mark Moriguchi has seen the budget, and the board will be asked to approve the budget at the next board meeting.

Ros expressed her concern that the deliverables are so broad. She said JTF should focus on the "stuff" and not the "fluff"; i.e. focus on the specifics, and not just a big show.

The tenant advocacy prong may shift to advocate for small businesses (who are suffering due to online shopping) and advocating for affordable/senior/low income housing in Japantown.

Steve discussed how Kimon Gakuen could be used as an art gallery or performance space. Also, 3D Investments is open to building JTF a visitor kiosk in the West Mall (replacing the ponds). They will need to create a volunteer structure to staff the visitor kiosk.

Ros expressed concern that the positions are salaried (instead of hourly) because the consultants may run out of hours due to the amount of work. Steve said that they weren't able to make them as salaried positions.

Sandy commented that Steve has already done the heavy duty negotiating and administration with respect to the project. She said that rather than moving backward and micromanaging, the committee should look forward with respect to implementation.

Karen stressed the importance of community involvement and participation. She said that the

Land Use committee, which includes writers of JCHESS and Paul Wermer (an expert on regulation), want to help.

UPDATE ON JCHESS BREAKDOWN

Coco updated on the project to determine which categories overlap with JCHESS and which ones are specific to the CHHESS report.

There were six existing strategies in the JCHESS report that Coco aligned with the CHHESS initiatives. Coco will give a fuller breakdown once they incorporate the proposed strategies.

Many of the initiatives relate to Cultural Heritage Conservation. The Tenant Protections are primarily with respect to historical buildings, and less to residential properties or small businesses. There are also several Land Use strategies, as well as brief arts and culture and economic workforce development strategies. Coco could find no initiatives directly with respect to Cultural Competency.

The committee discussed what could fit in the culturally competent section. Ros commented that cultural competency is related to city services (specifically, “to promote culturally competent and appropriate City services, policies, and narratives”). Ros and Jeremy suggested that JTF could make recommendations to the City as to how to provide more culturally competent services. Karen commented that cultural competency could discuss different projects done with the city, such as the Buchanan crosswalk panels.

Sandy and David commented that it is up to each district to determine how the topics fit their district. It was suggested to ask the department for clarification, and then from there determine how JTF would like to proceed.

Coco asked if any committee member could compare the proposed strategies. Ros said she assigned it to Katie, their NCI intern. David said he could help with Cultural Competency.

NEW BUSINESS:

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., September, 9, 2019 at the JACL HQ.