ATTENDEES: Alice Kawahatsu, Paul Wermer, Anthony Brown, Judy Hamaguchi, Glynis Nakahara, Beau Simon, Rosalyn Tonai, David Ishida

ABSENT: Seiko Fujimoto, Benh Nakajo, Jon Osaki, Richard Hashimoto, Clint Taura, Neal Taniguchi

STAFF: Greg Marutani

GUESTS: Kathie Cheatham, Tomo Hirai, Karen Kai, Steve Nakajima

I. **Call to Order**
   The meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Alice Kawahatsu, President.

   It was moved by Paul Wermer and seconded by Rosalyn Tonai to adopt the agenda.

   The motion was unanimously approved.

II. **Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting on March 15, 2017**
   It was moved by Paul Wermer and seconded by Anthony Brown to approve the March 15, 2017 minutes as amended correct the spelling on “Nihonmachi” and replace “Designation” to “Evaluation” (HRER).

   The motion was unanimously adopted.

III. **Guest Speaker**
   No Guest Speaker

IV. **Committee Reports**

   A. **Land Use / Transportation Committee (Paul Wermer)**
      There was no report at this time.

   B. **Economic Development / Marketing Committee (Alice Kawahatsu)**
      1. Visitor Center
         Alice reported that the Kiosk would be completed and delivered in time to meet the deliverable deadline.

      2. Cherry Blossom Festival
         Alice reported that during the Cherry Blossom Festival (CBF) the Visitor Center in the gallery of National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) was open both weekends and JTF had an outdoor booth during the first weekend of the CBF. Surveys were taken at both locations using iPads. A request was made to find out how many surveys were completed and if an analysis of the responses would be available for the Board to review. Rosalyn stated she would approach her staff about combining the results and preparing the requested analysis.
Steve Nakajima suggested that some of the “before” and “after” photos could be added to the digital presentation on the large screen at NJAHS and included in the JTF report about marketing and promoting Japantown as well as acknowledge the support received by various city departments to complete the repairs and improvements in time for the CBF. Rosalyn concurred.

C. Cultural Heritage (Rosalyn Tonai)
   1. Update on Landmarking & Peace Plaza/Pagoda
      Rosalyn reported that both Tim Frye and Desirée Smith staff from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) attended the April 11 meeting of the Cultural Heritage Committee where they provided an update on the status of the draft proposal to landmark the Peace Plaza and Pagoda.

      Rosalyn added that she re-sent the quotes and the audio tape of the interview of George Yamasaki to Desirée to determine which quotes would enhance the report.

      If necessary, JTF would convene a meeting of individuals such as Seiko Fujimoto, Allen Okamoto, Micky Imura George, Yamasaki, Shiz Mihara for the HPC staff to interview.

      Rosalyn recommended having a special meeting of the Cultural Heritage, Land Use, and the ad hoc Committees to discuss the draft plan to be sure there is agreement on the recommendation(s) to the JTF Board in preparing a letter that would be sent to the HPC regarding its position on the landmarking of the Peace Plaza/Pagoda.

      The recommendation would be to landmark both the Peace Plaza and Pagoda. The Pagoda has been unchanged since its installation in 1968, though in need or major repairs. The intent of landmarking the Peace Plaza would be to preserve the open space and maintain culturally and historically significant design features such as the fire (eternal flame), water, and stones that were a part of the original design and included in the “remodeling” version. We’ve asked Land Use committee to comment on the City’s draft of Peace Pagoda and Plaza Landmark Designation Report. (Distributed as “first –read” Handout to the board)

      It is anticipated that the JTF Board would approve the final Designation Report at the May 16, 2017 Board meeting, send a letter of its position to the HPC so the item could be placed on the June 21 meeting for its first reading, then proceed to have the second reading at the July 19, 2017 meeting of the HPC.

      As the Board of Supervisors usually takes a break in August the formal action of this body would not occur until some time in September.

      Paul inquired about the possibility of preserving the “line of sight” of the Pagoda to avoid having major developments that may block the visibility of the Pagoda. This matter would be posed to the HPC staff for a response.

      Paul suggested the next Land Use meeting that would be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the JACL Building. Rosalyn concurred.

D. Finance Committee- (Mark Moriguchi)
Mark reported that $140,000 has been requested and submitted to the mayor through the API Council that Jon Osaki when he met with the mayor. E. Executive Committee Alice reported that after reviewing the Operating Plan prepared by Bob Hamaguchi there were some questions that needed to be clarified. She would contact Bob to discuss the line items in question.

F. CBD Steering Committee Update (Greg Marutani)

Greg reported that both the Management Development Plan and the Engineer’s Report were approved by the City Attorney’s Office, which allowed the initial petition phase to commence. He reported that material about the Community Benefit District for Japantown had been mailed out to the property owners that would be affected by the proposed CBD with a cover letter, a frequently asked question sheet, a map of the CBD, and the petition notice containing the property location and assessment amount for the property, which was based on frontage and square footage.

A minimum of 30% of the property owners’ assessment would need to be returned in favor of proceeding to a formal ballot that would be sent to the property owners from the City’s Treasurer.

Concern was expressed that the due date of May 7, 2017 was rather short to conduct outreach and/or public information sessions to answer questions and/or convince the property owners of the benefits of having a CBD and assessing themselves.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. None at this time.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Karen Kai recommended sending a letter to the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) regarding their minimal support and the minimal amount of funds that would be available for the design and implementation of the streetscape along the Geary Corridor from Laguna to Webster Street.

Paul indicated he would move forward with drafting such a letter.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Crime Report (Greg Marutani)

Refer to advanced material folder.

David commented about the increase in crimes in Japantown.

Greg noted that the auto boosts have been the major contributor of the number of crimes reported in Japantown.

Paul stated be believed it may be helpful for the local residents and merchants to meet with Captain Jaímerena of the Northern Station and a representative from the District Attorney’s Office about what can be done, what priority the auto boosts have in terms of arrests and in-prosecutions.

Greg mentioned that the Japantown Business Watch Group would probably support such an event. He believed the co-chairs of the BWG would support such a meeting.
B. Japantown Observations (Greg Marutani)
   Refer to advanced material folder.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   None at this time

   The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 16, 2017 at the Union Bank Hospitality Room

   The meeting adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

   Respectfully submitted,

   Rosalyn Tonai
   Secretary