**ATTENDEES:** Alice Kawahatsu, Paul Wermer, Seiko Fujimoto, Richard Hashimoto Judy Hamaguchi, David Ishida, Glynis Nakahara, Benh Nakajo, Neal Taniguchi, Rosalyn Tonai

**ABSENT:** Anthony Brown (Excused), Seiko Fujimoto (Excused), Mark Moriguchi (Excused), Jon Osaki (Excused)

**STAFF:** Bob Hamaguchi, Greg Marutani, Jeremy Chan

**GUESTS:** Naomi Amakawa, Kathie Cheatham, Lois Ohwa, Nancy Nagano, Beau Simon, Greg Viloria, Michiko Yamada

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

II. **Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting on February 21, 2016.**
It was moved by David Ishida and seconded by Glynis Nakahara to approve the February 17, 2016 minutes as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. **GUEST SPEAKER**
Greg Viloria, Sakura 360

Greg Viloria discussed Sakura 360, a program and committee of the Cherry Blossom Festival that showcases Japanese pop culture and aims to increase youth participation. The committee has grown to about 40-50 people over the past two years. Some of their programming includes a kendama competition, a fashion show, DJ performances, a photo booth, and an interactive art wall with the Asian Art Museum. Last year they received $5000 in funding from the Cherry Blossom Festival, while this year they are aiming for it to be a self sustainable committee.

IV. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Land Use / Transportation Committee (Paul Wermer)

   1. Citywide Design Guidelines
The city has a working group editing the guidelines, with a timeline of adopting in July. The Land Use group will be rescheduling a meeting (previously 3/22) to review the design guidelines.

2. Geary BRT / MTA Meeting March 14 Update
Geary BRT has proposed a solution to keep the Webster Bridge while adding a crosswalk and a bus lane. They are less convinced about keeping the Steiner Bridge, due to a perceived lack of support from constituents. The Geary BRT working group is reaching out to Hamilton Park and other parties who use the Steiner Bridge.

Based on the city’s research, because the Rapid area is from Powell to Arguello, the time distance from Laguna to downtown/the Richmond is only 3 minutes slower on a Local vs. a Rapid train. In addition, the Laguna Rapid stop currently only reaches about ~2900 ridership while most rapid stops receive about ~4500 riders. Therefore, the city’s current proposal is to continue removing the Laguna Rapid Stop.

It was noted that Supervisor Breed and her aide attended the meeting. The Geary BRT working group will meet on Monday, April 4th, from 6pm-8pm at (tentatively) the JACL to discuss these concerns.

B. Economic Development / Marketing Committee (Alice Kawahatsu)

1. Holiday Lighting 2015 Survey Update
The committee sent out a feedback survey and received 25 responses. A common feedback point was to add additional lighting to the Buchanan Mall. Most people said they would donate at least $1-$100 to next year’s lighting project. Most people who responded identified themselves as “community members/visitors,” so the committee is working to reevaluate their strategy for engaging businesses.

2. Japantown Communication Update
The subcommittee met last week to get an inventory of current communication practices in Japantown, including Nichi Bei resources and the SF Japantown website and Facebook page. Jeff Matsuoka from JARF discussed how information is disseminated within the religious community. Yoshiro Tasaka from the consulate discussed Japanese newspapers such as BaySpo, the Consulate General's Facebook page, as well as new groups like Japantown Chounaikai and Bridge that aim to link the conventional Japanese American and shin-Nikkei communities.

The key gap is consolidating outreach resources. Other gaps include social media training for organizations as well as Japanese translation for outreach. At the next meeting, we will discuss strategy for improving and consolidating outreach strategies.

3. Visitor Center Update
The architects have developed a mockup for a portable cart that could be placed within the NJAHS gallery or moved outside for festivals.
At the Cherry Blossom Festival, NJAHS will have window monitors showcasing historic and modern photos of Japantown and conduct a survey collecting feedback on a visitor center. JTF will also be conducting the survey at their Info Tent outside.
4. Festival Funding
The JEDM committee is currently doing research on Festival programs that would be eligible for the grant money.

C. Cultural Heritage (Ros Tonai)

1. Landmarking of Peace Plaza / Pagoda Update
Ros Tonai deferred to Greg Marutani, who discussed that Nihonmachi Parking Corporation decided not to endorse the fountain repair plan, because the project is also not replacing the cobblestone (the city’s assessment was only for fountain repair).

A meeting will occur to review the contract between the city and NPC.

JTF sent a letter to the city requesting funds for assessing the Peace Plaza leak. The letter will be addressed at a capital committee meeting Wednesday April 6th.

D. Finance Committee (Mark Moriguchi)
In Mark Moriguchi’s absence, Bob Hamaguchi noted that JTF was approved for the $25,000 MOED grant. They will fund JTF on June 30th, thus providing continued funding for the Community Benefit District.

E. Executive Committee
Paul Wermer and Greg Marutani are meeting to continue By Law Amendment revisions.

F. Nominating Committee
Beau Simon and Clint Taura were nominated as board members. Beau Simon has a legal background in real estate development and is involved in the Union Square Business Improvement District. He has attended JTF meetings since its formation, provided commentary on 1481 Post Street, supports security community issues, and is involved with CAAMFest. Clint Taura is a community involved business owner who helps bring younger leadership to the board.

It was motioned by Ros Tonai to approve the slate of nominations and seconded by David Ishida. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Fire Commission
David Ishida discussed that the Supervisor Breed is questioning the mayor’s reappointment of Steve Nakajo and Michael Hardeman to the Fire Commission. Steve Nakajo is reaching out for community members to send public support for his reappointment.

Judy Hamaguchi recused herself from the discussion for having a conflict of interest.

Bob Hamaguchi noted that there is a precedent for the board to take action without prior notice, given the timing of events. It was discussed that Steve Nakajo has advocated for greater representation among women and people of color. By writing a letter, JTF would be supporting a pillar of the Japantown community.
It was motioned by Paul Wermer and seconded by Ros Tonai to write a letter of support for Steve Nakajo to the Rules Committee, copying the rest of the supervisors. The motion passed with 9 approves and 1 abstain.

**Comfort Women**
Judy Hamaguchi discussed that they’re looking into at Post Square at St. Mary’s as memorial locations. Eric Mar is discussing curriculum starting at the middle school level.

**Meet the Captain**
JTF, JMA, and the Business Watch Group are jointly hosting a “Meet the New Captain” event on Tuesday, March 29th at 5:30pm at the JACL for John Jaimerena, the new police captain of Northern Station.

**VI. General Public Comment**

**VII. Staff Reports**

A. Crime Report (Greg Marutani)
   Greg referred to the crime charts, highlighting the additional data on auto boosts, auto thefts, and petty theft by hour. The majority of petty thefts happen between 11am and 6pm, corroborating that many of these crimes happen around lunchtime.

B. Japantown Observations (Greg Marutani)
   The March 2016 “Japantown Observations” highlights include the opening of Izakaya Umai in the East Mall (replacing Ramen Underground), as well as the 311 app/number for reporting for public incidents like abandoned shopping carts.

**VIII. President’s Report**
Alice reviewed her report, which includes highlights from the recent Earthquake tributes.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at the Union Bank Hospitality Room

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalyn Tonai
Secretary