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 April 20, 2016.
It was moved by David Ishida and seconded by Ros Tonai to approve the April 20, 2016 with the correction of the spelling of “differed” to “deferred.”

The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Guest Speaker
Diana Ponce de Leon, Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Diana spoke about the services that OEWD provides. There are two major sections - workforce development and neighborhood development. The budget for the neighborhood section is about $8 million for programs and services (not staff), including neighborhood grants and community benefit districts. 12 staff are employed. They work across numerous departments to fit community corridor needs. Diana works with Japantown, the Mission, Visitacion Valley, Broad Street, and Lombard Street. Services include small business support, ADA CASP inspections, and business retention. Upcoming programs include Small Business Week and SF Shop & Dine in the 49. OEWD often works with partners like JTF to engage with small businesses.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Land Use / Transportation Committee (Paul Wermer)

1. City Design Guidelines
They are waiting on the general City Design guidelines before doing the ones specifically to Japantown. Will be meeting on May 31 with Maya Small.

2. Criteria for Supporting Proposed Projects
The committee will be drafting specific guidelines to evaluate projects against.

3. Geary BRT Update
Kathy Cheatham is taking the lead on pressuring SFMTA for Laguna to remain a rapid stop; JTF will be providing support. The Webster Bridge will most likely remain, but there is less support for the Steiner Bridge. Although there is a homeless issue, many after school programs use the bridge. JTF has contacted Steiner Bridge neighborhood organizations, but there is less cohesion among them despite community support.

B. Economic Development / Marketing Committee (Alice Kawahatsu)

1. Visitor Center Update
JTF and NJAHS are operating a pop up Visitor Center inside NJAHS’s gallery space. They conducted an iPad survey to get feedback on the Visitor Center project.

C. Cultural Heritage

1. Landmarking - Rec and Park Request Update
Bob, Jon, Rich, and Sandy Mori met with Rec and Park, SFMTA, Breed’s Office, and DPW. SFMTA and Rec and Park will fund the project and it will be managed by DPW. The assessment can start as soon as within couple weeks, with much of the work mirroring JTF’s original proposal (different contractor).

The capital budgeting process will take a year, if not two. If the assessment finds that it’s a cosmetic and not a structural issue, it could be done by the Cherry Blossom 50th Anniversary, but a structural issue will take longer.

The settlement was for $450,000 with the original contractor. Rec and Park did not have spending authority, so it sat for 2 years before going to the general fund.

Jon Osaki acknowledged that getting a multi-department commitment is commendable. David Ishida got Rec and Park involved. JTF sent a letter to Phil Ginsburg, who acknowledged the city’s error.

Landmarking the Peace Pagoda is being held off until this issue is resolved.

D. Ad Hoc Community Benefit District

1. Property Owner Survey Update
Greg reported that 10 out of the 39 property owners have responded to the survey. 9 of these have approved going to Phase 2. Only 2 multi-property owners have responded, so JTF is working to increase that. JTF can’t proceed until the 25% response threshold is met and is working to negotiate the property voting rules. The Malls are built on top of the garage, so JTF is trying to negotiate the airspace problem and have a written policy established.
Ros asked if any property owners who have responded to the survey also qualify for the OEWD legacy business grants; Paper Tree is one example. Bob expressed that JTF should support small businesses in applying for these grants.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
Paul reported that the planning department is proposing to review and clean up the planning code for Chapter 7, which is where neighborhood commercial districts are managed. JTF Land Use Committee will be meeting with the planner and may request future board action to suggesting or reject changes.

VI. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**
The Soy and Tofu Festival is on Saturday, June 4, in the St. Mary’s Square. This year it will be a ticketed event JTF is funding free shuttle service provided by Kimochi between the Peace Plaza and the festival.

VII. **STAFF REPORTS**

A. Crime Report (Greg Marutani)
   Refer to the attached Crime Report.

B. Japantown Observations (Greg Marutani)
   Greg highlighted that JTF has gathered six letters in support of the Japantown foot patrols. Officers Nagamine and Zerga have been transferred to Bayview Station as part of their training. Captain Jaimerena suggested that JTF collect strong letters to send to Chief Suhr.

VIII. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
Alice encouraged the board to attend upcoming Japantown events. Anthony Brown announced the annual SF International Arts Festival at Fort Mason, from May 19–June 5 which features Japanese American community artists including Brenda Wong/Mark Izu’s performance of Uncle Gunjiro’s Girlfriend.

The board congratulated Clint Taura on being a new parent.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at the Union Bank Hospitality Room. The JTF Dinner will be on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at Nihonmachi Terrace at 5:30pm. Note that because June starts on a Wednesday, the Land Use and Cultural Heritage committees will be meeting on Tuesday, June 7, the first Tuesday of the month.

It was moved by Anthony Brown and seconded by Clint Taura to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalyn Tonai
Secretary