Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Caryl Ito, Rosalyn Tonai, Doug Dawkins, Lisa Watada, Seiko Fujimoto, Denis Henmi
Staff: Bob Hamaguchi
Guests: Megumi Inouye
Absent: Sandy Mori, Tak Matsuba, Benh Nakajo, Mark Moriguchi

A. Recognition of Quorum established by 6 members. There was a quorum.

Meeting called to order: 6:15 p.m. by Caryl Ito, Vice President

B. Approval of Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of April 27, June 1, Nov 2, and Feb 2 meetings. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

C. Megumi Inouye, San Francisco Bay Area Grassroots Summit 2010.
Ms. Inouye was here to inform the board about the summit planned for Aug 24-30, 2010 in San Francisco. This is a semi-annual event that alternates between Japan and USA. There will be approximately 200 delegates coming from Japan. They will be hosted by homestay families throughout the Bay Area with activities tailored by the host county representatives. The summit aims to strengthen the peaceful relationship between Japan and USA by fostering grassroots friendships. The profile of attendees is unknown at this time. Inouye is interested in having the community develop a list of recommendations for Sunday, Aug 29 which is the day that the group and the homestay host families will gather in Japantown before departing the next day for Japan. Seiko Fujimoto is organizing a parade on Post Street and will be working with the Japantown Merchants Assn. on the event. Inouye is seeking ideas for communicating the Japanese American's history and plans for cultural preservation. Suggestions were to have a committee that includes local CBO's, merchants, and residents to organize the day's events. Inouye will be meeting with JMA after the Cherry Blossom Festival.

B. Report from Bob Hamaguchi, Executive Director

Financials/Funding Sources – The financial statements for February 28, 2010 were in the board package.

Better Neighborhood Plan Update – The next Organizing Committee meeting is scheduled for Wed Mar 31 in the Union Bank Community Room. There will be a need to conclude the discussion of the format and schedule for the community review of the draft plan. A schedule, committee structure, and co-chairs was included in the board package. The proposed review schedule and process was put together with a subcommittee of Paul Osaki, Karen Kai, Robert Rusky, Aya Ino, Diane Onizuka, and Hiroshi Fukuda. The Planning Department would like to see the process completed in fiscal 10-11; however, it is this subcommittee's recommendation that the process will take about 3 months into fiscal 11-12.

JEDM – The Japantown Economic Development and Marketing Committee budget proposal to Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development was included in the
board package. Hamaguchi reported that he was just advised that there will not likely be funding before the new fiscal year. This will upset current plans for street cleaning, new banners, and reduction to the marketing consultant’s fees. A new budget will be submitted.

**MOH/OEWD Business Assistance Grant** - Hamaguchi reported that he has obtained one new client bringing the total assisted to five. He hopes to obtain at least five more clients before the end of the contract on Jun 30. Under this contract, we hosted a Social Networking Workshop on Monday February 22. It was well attended by eleven merchants. Speakers included Ryan Kimura, Tak Matsuba, Gary Kishida, and Ari Morimoto. A Customer Service Workshop is being planned for May.

Hamaguchi reported that he has submitted a request for a similar CDBG grant for fiscal 10-11.

**PG&E Grant Application** – Included in the board package was copy of the grant application to PG&E for a similar $8,000 operating grant.

**C. Other Business and Announcements**

The board meeting scheduled for Monday April 26 is cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The board went into Closed Session and guests were dismissed.