ATTENDEES:  Alice Kawahatsu, Paul Wermer, Anthony Brown, Judy Hamaguchi, Glynis Nakahara, Beau Simon, Rosalyn Tonai, Benh Nakajo, Clint Taura.

ABSENT:  Seiko Fujimoto, Jon Osaki, Richard Hashimoto, David Ishida

STAFF:  Kimi Fukuyama, Greg Marutani, Malia Okamura

GUESTS:  Michiko Yamada, Tomo Hirai

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

It was moved by Paul Wermer and seconded by Clint Taura to accept the agenda as submitted.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

II. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting on March 15, 2017
It was moved by Paul Wermer and seconded by Mark Moriguchi to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2017 with the correction that the references to “May 16” should read “May 17,” a comma added to separate Micky Imura, George Yamasaki, and add “Peace Plaza and Pagoda” ad hoc Committee.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

III. Guest Speaker
No Guest Speaker

IV. Committee Reports
A. Joint meeting w/ Cultural Heritage and Ad Hoc Committees
Paul reported that it was the recommendation of the special joint committee meeting to send a letter to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) approving the landmarking of the Peace Plaza and Pagoda.

It was moved by Paul Wermer and seconded by Anthony Brown to send a letter to the Historic Preservation Commission that the JTF endorses the draft report on landmarking the Peace Plaza and Pagoda and to have Rosalyn Tonai and Paul Wermer be added as signators along with Alice Kawahatsu.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Paul reported that the SF Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) does not have funds budgeted for streetscape beautification or for ongoing maintenance for the Geary BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) section for the Laguna and Webster Street stops.
As the stops would include both sides of Geary, Paul has reached out to St. Francis Square and the Fillmore District to have a community meeting on June 8th as a joint SFMTA and Land Use Committee, follow up on June 22nd.

DPW has a “Better Streets” program; perhaps get city to fund call outs on the crosswalks to help identify Japantown.

B: Economic Development/Marketing  (Alice Kawahatsu)

1. Visitor Center and Kiosk Update
   Alice reported that the kiosk is completed; when delivered by contractor, staff and committee will need to check on how well it can be rolled out from NJAHS to the Peace Plaza and back. The committee is planning to have an unveiling and some publicity to play up the Visitor's Information Kiosk.

   The builder donated approximately $7,000 worth of work and materials as he wanted the kiosk to look as “professional” as possible.

   Rosalyn reported that a volunteer coordinator is still being sought to staff the visitor's center. A job description has been completed.

C: Cultural Heritage  (Rosalyn Tonai)

1. See Land Use Joint Committee Meeting

D. Finance Committee  (Mark Moriguchi)

1. 2017-18 Budget Update
   No additional information was available at this time as the Mayor’s Office has not yet issued his proposed budget to the Board of Supervisors, which would probably be in the first part of June.

E. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Ad Hoc Committee  (Jon Osaki/Richard Hashimoto)

   In the absence of Jon and Richard, Greg Marutnai reported that the members of this ad hoc committee met on May 2, 2017. After a thorough discussion about the various issues surrounding the remediation of the leaks from the Peace Plaza into the Japan Center Garage, a tentative plan is being considered to include the structural integrity of the Pagoda, as well as the eventual repair of the leaks as present in the Chin McGinnis report.

   The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at the Community Room of Union Bank. It will begin at 5:00 p.m.

   Jon Osaki will be asking Glynis Nakahara for mock community design components and how much they may cost.

F. Executive Committee (Alice Kawahatsu)

1. JTF Liaison to CBD Steering Committee*
   It was moved by Alice and seconded by Anthony to designate Glynis Nakahara as the official JTF Board liaison to the current Steering Committee and to report back to the JTF Board. It passed by a unanimous vote.
The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

G. CBD Steering Committee  (Greg Marutani)

1. Status of Petition
   Alice reported that the CBD for Japantown received a formal recommendation from the Government Audit and Oversight (GAO) Committee to advance the item to the Board of Supervisors.

2. Next Steps
   Greg reported that he is working with Chris Corgas from the Mayor’s Office of Workforce and Economic Development (OWED) to update the database of the property owner addresses, provide other items needed for the Department of Elections to mail the necessary material to accompany the mailing of the ballots that would also include the Management Plan and Engineer’s Assessment for the proposed Japantown CBD that would be sent out on a flash drive.

   Glynis suggested the Steering Committee consider sending some information to the property owner prior to the ballot mailing that would provide information on the benefits of the CBD, offer contact information to respond to any questions that a property owner may have as well as host at least one or two meetings for property owners and merchants to attend where a “pitch” would be presented and then open up the session for comments and/or questions.

   The concern that Glynis had was a property owner who would receive the official ballot indicating that property owner would be assessed additional fees would more than likely cast a “no” vote.

   Greg said he would convey this concern and recommendations with the Steering Committee, which is scheduled to meet Wednesday, May 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the JACL Headquarters located at 1765 Sutter Street.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Nomination Committee Chair*
   It was moved by Glynis Nakahara and second by Anthony Brown that Judy Hamaguchi be the chair of the Nomination Committee.

   The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

   Judy will reach out to other individuals that would include JTF Board President, as well as Board members and non-Board members to serve on the Committee. When formed, his committee would be tasked with recruiting candidates for the Board.

2. Alice announced that Kimi was leaving on May 31, 2017. She also announced Malia Okamura as a temporary employee through July 15, 2017. Her main job will be working on redesigning the JTF website.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vas announced that this is Small Business Week
VII. STAFF REPORTS
   A. Crime Report (Refer to Advanced Material)
   B. Japantown Observations (Refer to Advanced Material)
   C. President’s Report (Refer to Advanced Material)

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   Judy announced the SF JACL received a grant from the California Civil Liberties Fund Project (CCLEP to bring a one-man play, “We Hold These Truths” to San Francisco in August 2017.

   Jeremy announced that his newly formed Yosakoi dance group will have free summer workshops on June 2\textsuperscript{nd} and the 9\textsuperscript{th} starting at 7:00 p.m. They will practice at the Nagata Dance Studio located above Tampopo in the Buchanan Mall.

   The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

   Respectfully submitted,

   Rosalyn Tonai
   Secretary