I. Call to Order
The meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Alice Kawahatsu, President.

Change of Agenda
It was moved by Anthony Brown and seconded by Rosalyn Tonai to move the Executive Committee reports ahead of the Land Use/Transportation Committee reports.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Anthony Brown and seconded by Rosalyn Tonai to move the Nominating Committee reports after the Executive Committee reports.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

II. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting on JULY 19, 2017.
It was moved by Anthony Brown and seconded by Glynis Nakahara to approve the July 19, 2017 minutes with the correction that “John” should be spelled as “Jon”.

The motion of approval passed by nine votes, with one abstention by Neal Taniguchi.

III. Guest Speaker
No guest speaker at this meeting.

Alice Kawahatsu introduced Kaori “Coco” Tando as the new Community Aide for the Japantown Task Force.

IV. Committee Reports
A. Land Use / Transportation Committee
1. Geary BRT Streetscape Update
Glynis Nakahara reported that the Geary Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Streetscape Community Meeting was held at the Union Bank Community Room on August 14, 2017. The meeting was held for the community to have an overview of the Geary BRT Streetscape presented by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), and to also contribute ideas for the decorations on the side bars surrounding the median of the zig-zag crosswalks. The new crosswalks on Geary
BRT would be implemented on Buchanan and Webster Street. Many of the community members who attended the meeting were residents of St. Francis Square. More discussions were held regarding the safety of the crosswalks, and less on the decoration of the median. The Land Use/Transportation Committee will reconvene and set a second Community Meeting in September.

2. Ford GoBike Report
   Greg Marutani reported that a representative from the Ford GoBike visited the Land Use/Transportation Committee meeting on August 8, 2017. The representative explained the purpose and operation of the bike rentals, and suggested two areas in Japantown as a potential bike station for the program. One would be in front of Konko Church, and the other would take away three parking spaces in front of Union Bank on Post Street.

   The stations are solar powered, and both were to be 50-70ft range. The Land Use/Transportation Committee expressed opposition to the installation of the bike station at the two areas. Some reasons for opposition included the concerns of merchants losing their customers due to the removal of parking space, possible accidents happening due to the already congested Post Street with high foot traffic, and the blockage of the streets during larger Japantown events such as the Cherry Blossom Festival and Nihonmachi Street Fair.

   The Ford GoBike representative mentioned that the stations could be removed during the larger Japantown events, but did not provide a solution to who would cover the cost of these removals.

   The Land Use/Transportation Committee gave suggestions to the representative, such as making smaller stations in Japantown, installing them in the Japan Center Garage with other methods of powering the stations, or installing them on Geary Boulevard. However, Ford GoBike seems to have one concrete system planned of the installment of their bike stations, that requires to be outdoor and at least 50ft long. The Land Use/Transportation committee concluded that this system would not fit well with the small streetscapes of Japantown, and Ford GoBike needs better consideration of how the installation would affect the residents, merchants, and visitors.

   The Land Use/Transportation Committee recommended that the JTF Board approve sending a letter to SFMTA regarding Japantown’s opposition to the installation of the bicycle stations as they currently exist. Outreach to the Japatown community should also be planned by the committee, so that they would be informed about the issue and contribute their opinions toward bicycle station installment in Japantown.

B. Economic Development / Marketing Committee (Alice Kawahatsu)
   1. Kiosk/Cart at Nihonmachi Street Fair
      Alice Kawahatsu reported that the kiosk was at the Peace Plaza on both days of the event, August 5 and 6, 2017. With the help of many volunteers that the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) provided, the kiosk was run well and had many visitors during the event.

   2. Search Continues for Volunteer Coordinator
Rosalyn Tonai reported that the funding for Volunteer Coordinator this summer went to the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI), therefore the work for the Volunteer Coordinator was delegated by many of her NJAHS summer interns as part of their community leadership training. The summer interns also worked on program and advertisement postings on the NJAHS visitor center monitor.

3. 50th Anniversary of Japan Cultural and Trade Center
Richard Hashimoto reported that a large celebration is currently being planned for March 2018, because the year marks the 50th anniversary of the Japan Trade and Cultural Center, Peace Plaza and Pagoda, and the Japan Center Garage. Adam Strauss was hired to be in charge of the planning of the celebration, with the involvement of the Japantown hotels, garage, and malls. American Multi-Cinema (AMC) would also be contacted to be involved with the celebration. A kickoff event is planned for March 28, 2018, which marks the 50th anniversary. On the following Saturday, March 31, 2018, a larger celebration will be held. A year-round event or decoration may be organized inside the malls as well.

The third meeting for the planning will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. at the Union Bank Community Room.

C. Cultural Heritage (Rosalyn Tonai)
1. Update on Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Rosalyn Tonai reported that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) hearing for the Peace Plaza/Pagoda landmarking was held on August 16, 2017, and did not pass. However, the commissioners did support that the Peace Plaza and Pagoda should not be separated entities. Some concerns regarding the landmarking were discussed during the hearing, which caused the commissioners to decide to defer the hearing to the next month. One concern was that the landmarking of the Peace Plaza/Pagoda may disturb future renovation or remediation projects. In addition, the commissioners suggested that the parameters of the design of Peach Plaza/Pagoda should be clearly defined for architects and designers to understand the community's values during future remediation or renovation projects. It was discussed during the Board meeting that before the hearing, the communication between JTF staff, committees, and the district supervisor may have been insufficient.

The next HPC hearing for the Peace Plaza/Pagoda landmarking will be on September 20, 2017.

2. Nihonmachi Little Friends Update
Rosalyn Tonai reported that Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF) was approved as a Legacy Business at the HPC hearing on August 2, 2017.

Karen Kai announced that the hearing for the Small Business Commission (SBC) for NLF is held on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the San Francisco City Hall Room 400.

D. Finance Committee (Mark Moriguchi)
2017-18 Budget Update
Greg Marutani reported that City Hall is working on the budget amendment to the current grant. The amendment would be an additional $130,000, and the documents will be
processed for JCYC to sign. Robert Hamaguchi has been working on the budgeting for the next year, with the grant amount adjusted from $150,000 to $130,000.

E. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Ad Hoc Committee (Jon Osaki/Richard Hashimoto)
Update
Richard Hashimoto reported that Steve Nakajima conducted a workshop on July 24, 2017 that identified the goals, objectives, and action items to be done for the remediation of the Peace Plaza, Japan Center Garage, and Pagoda.

Richard Hashimoto explained the tasks done and to be done by the committee to achieve their financial, design, and constituent objectives for the remediation project.

The main goals for the “Peace Plaza, Garage, and Pagoda Remediation Project” were announced as: 1) Obtain the funding for the project, and identify the utilization of the funding 2) Involve the city and community constituents involved in the project, and 3) Have the infrastructure and design exceed standards.

The Ad Hoc Committee is in the process of including the Pagoda in the remediation project. The current state of the project includes only the remediation of the Peace Plaza, with the Japan Center Garage assumed to be included.

F. Executive Committee
Adoption of Amendments to JTF Bylaws
There were no solicitation for feedbacks and revisions from the JTF Board Members.

It was moved by Richard Hashimoto and seconded by Mark Moriguchi to adopt the amendments to the JTF Bylaws.

The motion passed by a super majority (2/3) vote of the entire number of JTF Board members.

G. CBD Steering Committee (Greg Marutani)
Update on Status of Community Benefit District
Greg Marutani reported that the Community Benefit District (CBD) passed by a vote of 55.22% from the property owners. JTF would be selecting an attorney who will support the formation of Japantown’s CBD.

The next CBD Steering Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

H. Nominating Committee
Term of Board Members
Judy Hamaguchi announced the Board members that would serve on the JTF Board until December 2017. The names were randomly selected from a bag then sealed in an envelope labeled Envelope 1. The names drawn consisted of: Mark Moriguchi, Paul Wermer, Jon Osaki, Benh Nakajo, and Anthony Brown. These members are one-third of the whole JTF Board. Another third of the JTF Board members were also randomly selected and would serve until December 2018 and the remaining third would serve until December 2019. The names are being kept sealed in separate envelopes, labeled Envelope 2 and Envelope 3. All drawings were done by the Nominating Committee on
July 14, 2017. The announcement of the remaining names was decided to be done at another date.

The Board members drawn from Envelope 1 would be individually phone called before the Board meeting in September 2017. These individuals would be asked if they would like to continue their term until December 2017, with an additional option to continue even after December 2017. If a member decides to finish his or her term, the Nominating Committee would assemble possible slates of potential officers, and will announce these slates at the JTF Board Meeting in October 2017. The nominations will be voted in November 2017.

V. NEW BUSINESS
None at this time.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**
A member in the public expressed his concern about the CBD that passed recently. Some of the property owners did not understand the voting for the CBD, and are upset from hearing the results. Better outreaching and communication with the property owners and the community would be necessary to move forward with the new changes.

It was also mentioned that there should be better outreaching and communication between the JTF committees and Japantown community to work together and improve Japantown as a whole.

VII. STAFF REPORTS
A. Crime Report (Greg Marutani)
   None at this time.

B. Japantown Observations (Greg Marutani)
   None at this time.

VIII. PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Refer to Advanced Material.

IX: Announcements

Richard Hashimoto announced a Salsa Dancing event on October 7, 2017 at the Peace Plaza from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (setup from 9:00 a.m.). The event is sponsored by SF Mambo.

Alice Kawahatsu made an announcement for the Osaka Matsuri held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Japantown Peace Plaza.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalyn Tonai
Secretary