NOTES FROM THE
LAND USE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
1765 SUTTER STREET
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:
Paul Wermer, Glynis Nakahara, Jon Osaki

STAFF PRESENT:
Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. with introductions of all those present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

GEARY BRT (BUS RAPID TRANSIT)
Liz Brisson from the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and Colin Dentel-Post from the SF County Transit Authority (SFCTA) were in attendance.

Many of those who were present expressed their opposition to the SFCTA recommendation to keep the Laguna stop only a local.

Three items were highlighted by Paul Wermer regarding the Geary BRT that include:
1. Maintenance of the Webster Street Bridge, in particular the railing and lighting;
2. Signage of MUNI stops at Laguna, Webster, and Fillmore to assist riders to identify, which buses will stop at these locations;
3. Input from the community regarding the streetscape design including the areas around the MUNI stops and the median.

When asked if the merchants on Post Street would be notified of the work on the Geary BRT along Japantown would be notified in advance of the work, the response from the City representatives was affirmative.

Regarding the question of how the public would be able to distinguish between an approaching Local and Rapid bus, the word Local would be lit in blue while the Rapid would be lit in red, but not the number “38” of the bus route.

With regard to the signage at the MUNI stops the point was raised that the Fillmore stop should be balanced in promoting the Fillmore Jazz District and Japantown.

Ms. Brisson suggested a meeting with some of the LU/T Committee to go over the final draft of the Environmental Impact Report to take in any comments and concerns that may remain prior to the January 5, 2017 meeting of SFCTA. She will coordinate with Mr. Wermer on a date and
time. Mr. Wermer will share the information with the LU/T Committee and others who attend the LU/T meetings.

UPDATE ON NIHONMACHI PARKING CORPORATION (NPC) PARKING LOT DEVELOPMENT
Robert Sakai, President of the NPC informed the Committee that the NPC received five applications by the extended deadline to their Request For Qualifications (RFQ). The NPC Committee is in the processing of reviewing the applications and plans to issue the Request For Proposal (RFP) to those applicants who qualify to submit their design for the potential development of the two parking lots adjoining the Buchanan Mall.

Mr. Sakai said the NPC committee would review the submissions, make their recommendation to the NPC Board, and his preference would be the Board would select a finalist and solicit the shareholders in making the final decision. He will report back to the Committee when this item is finalized by the NPC Board.

When asked if the NPC is seeking one or two developers, the response was it would more than likely be one developer, but the NPC would not rule out an application to develop one lot and another developer developing the other.

When asked about if the RFP would be made available to the public, Mr. Sakai said he would bring this to the NPC Board for a decision and report back to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:
None at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
None at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the JACL HQ.
BACKGROUND:
In May, 2015 the owners of 3D Investments proposed a 3 story, 40 ft high, 6 unit building on Buchanan west side) between Sutter and Bush streets. The building will have 4 1-bedroom and 2 2-bedroom apartments, with 5 parking spaces below the apartments. The building will be built on top of the hotel’s existing underground parking spaces.

The project architect held a pre-application meeting in 2015 which JTF representatives attended, and they were responsive to our comments.

In order to soften the impact of the concrete base, they plan to install sidewalk greenspace (see site plot on page 2)

Page 3 shows the front and rear site elevations, which illustrate how the building size and bulk relate to the neighboring buildings.

The final design was approved at planning, the rather complex engineering design has been completed and construction is planned to start in early 2017.
UPDATE: 1805 Buchanan Development Project