

**NOTES FROM THE  
CULTURAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE  
1684 POST STREET  
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rosalyn Tonai, Judy Hamaguchi

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Karen Kai, Benh Nakajo, Merry Nishimura, Patty Wada,

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Greg Marutani

The meeting commenced at 12:10 p.m.

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. Legacy Business Program**

Rosalyn provided an update on the Kabuki Springs & Spa Legacy Business application indicating that their application would be presented at the Small Business Commission on March 26, 2018 at City Hall as their application had received an affirmative vote from the Historic Preservation Commission hearing on March 7, 2018. It would be the first business in Japantown to be so designated; Nihonmachi Little Friends was designated a Legacy Business however it is a nonprofit business in Japantown.

It was reported that applications had been given to Paper Tree and Benkyodo owners to review and consider completing the necessary paperwork.

Rosalyn added the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) is close to completing their application to become a Legacy Business as well.

She offered whatever assistance her staff could provide in completing applications by going through the NJAHS archives and share photos and/or any additional information that may be in their files.

In reviewing other businesses in Japantown that may be eligible to apply for Legacy Business designation a list was created:

Asakichi	Mashiko	Soko Hardware
Auto Freak	May's Coffee Shop	The Sweet Stop
Katsura Garden	Miseki Jewellery	
Kimochi, Inc.	Sannpo	

Discussion ensued about creating a one-page fact sheet about the benefits of applying for Legacy Business designation, possibly in Japanese as well.

It was noted that this would require staff time, which is at a premium at this time.

With respect to Japanese translation, Seiko, as co-chair of the Cultural Heritage Committee might do the translation.

**B. Cultural Heritage District Ordinance (Proposed)**

Rosalyn reported that she met with Carolina Morales, aide to Supervisor Hillary Ronen who is working on an ordinance that would outline the process for communities to seek designation as a cultural heritage district. It is modeled after the JCHESS plan and is currently referenced in the proposed ordinance. Supervisor Ronen is working on getting the various city department heads to secure their support of the proposed ordinance before introducing it to the full Board.

**C. State Cultural Districts (Proposed)**

Rosalyn also mentioned that she attended a meeting where Assemblyman Phil Ting shared that the State is looking into implementing a statewide program for designating certain areas as cultural districts, however, he did not have any additional information at that time to share with the audience.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.