JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018
6:00 PM – UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

ATTENDEES: Seiko Fujimoto, Richard Hashimoto, Alice Kawahatsu, Sandy Mori, Mark Moriguchi, Glynis Nakahara, Benh Nakajo, Beau Simon, Neal Taniguchi, Rosalyn Tonai.

ABSENT: Judy Hamaguchi, Jon Osaki, Clint Taura.

STAFF: Steve Nakajo, Greg Marutani


I. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of March 21, 2018
It was moved by Richard Hashimoto and seconded by Alice Kawahatsu to accept the revised draft minutes from the March 21, 2018 meeting as amended to remove Mark Moriguchi statement as he was not present.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
Steve Nakajo highlighted his memo to the Board (Attachment A).

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Land Use Transportation Committee


2. Recommendation to Support Proposed Kabuki Hotel Restaurant Entrance Relocation from Post Street next to Hotel Entrance

   It was moved by Neal Taniguchi and seconded by Mark Moriguchi to send a letter supporting the relocation of the restaurant entrance on Post next to the hotel main entrance.

   The motion was approved.

3. Recommendation regarding SB 827 (Transit Zoning)
Glynis Nakahara reported that the Senate Committee did not approve SB 827 proposed by Scott Wiener, which means the Transit Zoning bill is “dead” but could be re-introduced next year.

B. Cultural Heritage Committee

1. Update on Legacy Business Program

Rosalyn Tonai reported that the Kabuki Spring and Spa has been officially approved as a Legacy Business, which is the first businesses to be so recognized in Japantown.

She added that NJAHS is willing to assist businesses by offering their services to go through their archives for research and completion of a Legacy Business application whenever possible.

Sandy Mori added that this is one of the deliverables for JTF for their current contract with the Office of Workforce and Economic Development (OEWD).

2. Information on the API Cultural Preservation Forum

Rosalyn announced that the biennial conference sponsored by the Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHIP), a national network of preservationists, historians, planners, and advocates focused on historic and cultural preservation in Asian and Pacific Islander American communities will be holding its biennial forum in San Francisco, November 10-13, 2018.

Karen Kai added that once the program is drafted APIAHIP would be seeking endorsements from as many organizations as possible.

C. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Ad Hoc Committee

Sandy Mori added that they are continuing their outreach to meet all of the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) and SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) commissioners. The goal is to be included in the 2019 park bond initiative.

* A $100,000 requested by the Ad Hoc Committee to be set aside for a community design process is being considered by RPD.

* In response to a question about the funds, and whether they would have to be spent by June 30, 2018, Sandy said the funds could be carried over to the next fiscal year.

* President Mark Buell from the RPD is very supportive with the renovation of the Peace Plaza and will work with the Phil Ginsburg, General Manager.

* the 2019 RPD Bond will begin sometime around August 2018. JTF will participate in the Bond process.

• she and Steve Nakajo would be meeting with staff of Assemblyman David Chiu seeking possible funding from the state.
Richard Hashimoto reported that a portion of the ladder inside the Peace Pagoda was removed a few days ago, but unsure as to which department of the City removed it.

The April 24, 2018 meeting is being cancelled. The next meeting would be May 22, 2018.

D. Economic Development/Marketing
Alice Kawahatsu reported that the kiosk was located on Post Street for the first weekend of the Cherry Blossom Festival. She thanked Richard Hashimoto for the excellent location, Steve Nakajo for the many cadets from the fire department and the other volunteers, among them Sandy Mori, Steve Nakajo, and David Wada.

V. UPDATES FROM THE PRESIDENT
Sandy Mori announced the following:

* Steve Nakajima submitted three proposals to the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD), including one for JTF; one proposal was awarded in the amount of $15,000 for JCBD marketing.

* JTF is being recommended for $138,000, less than the $140,000 requested; she will check calendar to see which meetings that representatives should show up to speak on behalf of the need for funding for Japantown.

A. Request to authorize Executive Committee to Negotiate Possible Compensation to a Consultant Within JTF Funds
Sandy reported that the Executive Committee concurred with looking into compensation for consultant
It was moved by Beau Simon and seconded by Benh Nakajo to have the Executive Committee look into formulate an amount of compensation to offer the consultant subject to the fiscal resources available within the JTF

The motion was approved.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
A. Update from the Ad Hoc Committee to Allocate Donated Funds in Memory of Bob Hamaguchi
Neal Taniguchi reported that there are two possible proposals being considered for use of the approximately $11,000 funds received by JTF in memory of Bob Hamaguchi.

The first is an internship program and the other permanent lighting on the Buchanan Mall.

He added that both proposals would more than likely need additional fund raising.

Steve Nakajo spoke in favor of an internship program such as the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program referencing the fact that two of JTF’s Community Aides were participants in the NCI program.

VI. NEW BUSINESS
VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
None

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Benh Nakajo announced that if anyone is interested in obtaining kimonos and obis no longer used by the Cherry Blossom Queen program; funds would assist court member expenses.

Sandy Mori announced there will be two Mayoral Forums on April 26th 10:30 a.m. at Herbst Theatre, the other at the Betty Ong Recreation Center that begins at 4:30 p.m.

Tomo Hirai announced that J-Sei, located at 1285 66th Street in Emeryville, is hosting a special exhibition, “A Place of Her Own” an innovative art exhibition exploring the hopes and dreams of women, from May 12th through June 24th. The opening reception will be Saturday, May 12th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tomo is among the artists in the exhibition.

Neal Taniguchi announced NJAHS is sponsoring a fundraising dinner celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. He distributed invitations.

Alice Kawahatsu announced the publication of the 50th anniversary Cherry Blossom Festival booklet is available for $25.00 or two for $45.00.

Beau Simon announced his law firm Cooper, White & Cooper LLP, is again a sponsor of the CAAM Asian Film Festival and encouraged everyone to take advantage of the firm’s offer to attend the opening night screening of “An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy”, as well as two films CWC is sponsoring, “White Rabbit” and “Nailed It.”

Sandy Mori announced that the closing event “Aunt Lily’s Flower Book: One Hundred Years of Legalized Racism” will be a live performance by First Voice is the closing event for the CAAM Film Festival that will take place at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hamaguchi
Secretary

Attachment A