

I. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of April 18, 2018
It was moved by Alice Kawahatsu and seconded by Judy Hamaguchi to accept the draft minutes from the April 18, 2018 meeting.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

III. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Consideration of Recommendations for JTF Committee changes.

After an assessment on current JTF committee activities, membership, and staff capacity for committee support, a few recommendations were made by JTF staff to change some of the existing committee structure.

Steve Nakajo recommended the Japantown Economic Development and Marketing (JEDM) Committee to consolidate to the newly forming greater marketing committee, also known as the Communications Committee with Japantown representatives from JTF, Japantown Community Benefit District (JCBD), Japantown Merchants Association (JMA), Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC), Japan Trade Center, Japantown Garage Corporation, and possibly more. Current JEDM chair Alice Kawahatsu would be appointed to represent JTF in the Communications Committee.

Steve Nakajo also recommended the Cultural Heritage and Preservation Committee to be integrated into staff level. As staff continues JTF efforts on cultural heritage and preservation, the committee will go through further assessment and possible restructuring before it is brought back to becoming a functioning committee.

All existing committees will be obligated to comply to the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance.

A total of three comments were shared from the public. 1. An email from the public regarding this recommendation was shared from a JTF board member. The email...
expressed disagreement towards the dissolution of the Cultural Heritage and Preservation Committee and mentioned that there is no good reason or explanation for this dissolution. 2. A member asked clarification on this recommendation. 3. A member asked why the Cultural Heritage and Preservation Committee work is recommended to be integrated to staff level if staff capacity of JTF duties is already limited.

In response to these comments, Steve Nakajo clarified that the committee will not dissolve. The works of the Cultural Heritage and Preservation Committee will be done internally by staff, as it gets reassessed and reorganized. In addition to the limited staff capacity for committee support, the Cultural Heritage and Preservation Committee was decided to be integrated to staff level due to an existing conflict of interest in committee membership.

It was moved by Mark Moriguchi and seconded by Alice Kawahatsu to consolidate the JEDM Committee to the Communications Committee, and to integrate the works of Cultural Heritage and Preservation Committee to staff level until the committee structure and function are further assessed.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Land Use Transportation Committee

1. SFMTA Rideshare
   Glynis Nakahara reported that a representative from SFMTA attended the last Land Use Transportation Committee Meeting in May. Car share programs including Zipcar and Getaround has temporary spots in the neighborhood. These programs are going through an outreach process to work on locating permanent parking spots for the shared cars, and can go through a community hearing process for preferred spots before finalizing their decision.

2. Cultural Districts
   There was a public hearing on the Cultural Districts legislation on May 9th at City Hall, with many representatives from various communities supporting the Cultural District Legislation. JTF submitted to Supervisor Hilary Ronen’s office a correction on the legislation regarding the boundaries of Japantown.

3. Joint JTF/CHNA Geary BRT Meeting
   The joint JTF/CHNA Geary BRT Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17th at the Sequoias from 6:30pm-8:00pm. A presentation on the design will be made, followed by a Q&A session.

4. Webster Bridge Clean Up
   The LU/T Committee is working closely with the Department of Public Works (DPW) on planning and coordinating the painting of the Webster Street bridge. The volunteer painting event is scheduled on July 25th.

5. Pa’ina
JTF was asked by Beung Kwong, owner of Pa’ina for a letter of support to obtain a permit that allows Pa’ina to have live performances until 2:00am. LU/T Committee chairs and JTF board strongly suggests Beung Kwong to reach out to the AMC Kabuki management, property owner, and neighborhood residents to demonstrate good faith. He may also need to go through the Planning Commission in addition to the Entertainment Commission for this permit.

6. BCA
Glynis Nakahara attended a meeting of individuals who are working on researching short- and long-term remedies to avoid the sale of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) building.

A member in the public asked if Pa’ina has responded to a past noise complaint from the AMC Kabuki Theater. Pa’ina did respond to this issue by improving the soundproofing of the wall next to the theater and moving the location of the stage.

B. Economic Development/Marketing
1. Cherry Blossom Festival Visitors Information Kiosk
Alice Kawahatsu reported that the Visitor Information Kiosk participated in the Cherry Blossom Festival in April, with student volunteers and volunteers from the San Francisco Fire Department.

2. New Business: Hikari Sushi and Bar, Café Maiko
Alice Kawahatsu announced two new businesses that recently opened in Japantown: Hikari Sushi and Café Maiko.

3. Transition of Committee Decision
Alice Kawahatsu reported the possible transition of JEDM Committee to the greater Communications Committee at her last JEDM meeting on May 9th. The committee members showed support for this transition and expressed interest in attending these meetings in the future.

C. Update from Ad Hoc Peace Plaza Committee
Jon Osaki reported that Phil Ginsburg from the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) mentioned at a recent Asian Pacific Islander (API) meeting that Japantown’s Peace Plaza remediation is one of his top priorities for the next RPD Bond measure, as well as a few other projects in Chinatown and South of Market. There are two RPD Bonds planned in the next three years (2019 and 2020/21), but RPD is considering consolidating the two into one larger bond. The 2019 RPD Bond will begin sometime around August 2018. JTF will participate in the Bond process and is in contact with SFMTA for additional support.

RPD is prepared to move forward with the community design and project planning for the Peace Plaza remediation, and has allocated $6K for this process. Representatives from the Ad Hoc Committee will be meeting with the project manager, Michael Degregorio and other key players of the Peace Plaza remediation in the coming weeks as to initiate the planning process.
With continuous contact and outreach to the Board of Supervisors, and City department heads, the Ad Hoc Committee is receiving support from many City representatives for the Peace Plaza project.

The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting date is May 22, 2018.

V. **UPDATES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Sandy Mori announced the following:

- Executive Committee decision for JTF to not make a stand on board level on supporting the renaming of the Julius Kahn Playground, because it is outside the mission of JTF. JTF board members as individuals can make their own decision to take a position.
- Report on introducing JTF staff to Diana Ponce De Leon at the Mayor's Office of Economic Workforce Development (OEWD), as well as reviewing with her the deliverables and budget for the current and upcoming fiscal year.
- Submission of an add back proposal of $10K for the implementation of a Japantown Visitor Learning Center.
- Enrollment of two mentees to the Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition (PAAWBAC) Mentorship Program: Grace Horikiri Executive Director of JCBD and Coco Tando Administrative Manager of JTF. Both mentees will be introduced to City policies and have the experience of developing closer ties with City representatives and departments. Each mentee will be awarded $4K that will be contributed to their salary.
- Donation of $1,000 made to the JCYC Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) to enroll JTF as one of the organization for the internship program.
- Sandy Mori’s attendance at a recent California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJACLC) meeting with representatives from the remaining three Japantowns (San Francisco, San Jose, and Los Angeles). A $200 donation will be made to CJACLC to support the continuation of their efforts to preserve and bring recognition to the remaining Japantowns in California.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Update from the Ad Hoc Committee to Allocate Donated Funds in Memory of Bob Hamaguchi

Neal Taniguchi reported that the Ad Hoc Committee recommends using the donated funds for an internship program, as it follows Bob Hamaguchi’s philosophy of engaging youth in the community.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

None

VI. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A comment was made by a board member that JTF should follow up on the change of businesses in the community, to make sure that the community is strict with letting in chains businesses in the neighborhood. This is a good effort to JTF to take on. However, there will not be enough staff time to constantly research postings on businesses and maintaining close relations with the planning departments.
- A public member asked a question related to JTF Board participation in the United for Compassion. JTF Board participated in the gathering as individuals but not as a board.
VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

An announcement on the Buchanan Street Mall Celebration on June 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hamaguchi  
Secretary