NOTES FROM THE
AD HOC PEACE PLAZA/PAGODA COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
COMMUNITY ROOM OF UNION BANK
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jon Osaki, Richard Hashimoto, Judy Hamaguchi, David Ishida, Alice Kawahatsu, Rosalyn Tonai

STAFF PRESENT:
Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:
Ai Hiyami (Japan Consulate), Jeff Mori, Sandy Mori

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

Jon Osaki called the meeting to order.

UPDATE ON TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET AND INFORMATION
Jon reported that, after speaking with Glynis Nakahara who consulted with a number of landscape architects she calculated approximately $1.5 million should be included for generic landscaping, but made it clear that the figure was a ballpark guess since there are no formal renditions of what landscaping would be desired.

Rich Hashimoto distributed the community’s landscape architect’s redesign of the Peace Plaza (Attachment A) that was ultimately denied by the City as they proceeded with the selected architect. He also include an article printed in November 11, 1991 that described the proposed redesign (Attachment B).

Rich Hashimoto stated that the “new” design would probably need electrical wiring for possible lighting needs and plumbing for irrigation and that due to the age of the existing electrical and plumbing may also need some upgrades.

Jon suggested the “ask” should be $2 million to be added to the estimated $8 million for the repair of the Peace Plaza to resolve the leaking of water into the Japan Center Garage.

UPDATE ON SCHEDULING A PRELIMINARY MEETING WITH LONDON BREED
Sandy Mori reported that she has reached out to London Breed’s office for a meeting about this subject, but acknowledged that the Board of Supervisors are busy working on the new fiscal year budget so her availability has been limited. Sandy said she would reach out directly to London Breed.

UPDATE ON MEETING WITH DAVID TAKASHIMA AND NEXT STEPS WITH NAOMI KELLY
It was confirmed that Brian Strong was the “go to person” on city bond issues and that he indicated his willingness to work with the committee on this project if and when it reaches a formal plan.

Sandy added that the Mayor has asked the department heads to include the Peace Plaza on the capital improvement list. At this time she does not know where the project ranks of the list.
Jon suggested the committee check on the City’s bond timeline as well as the Recreation & Parks Department.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT POTENTIAL SUPPORT FROM JAPAN AND ROLE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL**

It was agreed that the Consul General be updated on the Peace Plaza and Pagoda project and to share the issues with him as soon as possible.

Jeff Mori added that Kintetsu continues to support Japantown and, it is his understanding, that they would be willing to turn over the special covenants that they included in the sale of their property to 3D Investments so that the malls continue to be a visitor and tourist attraction for Japantown.

Sandy added the committee to possibly consider adding someone from the Osaka Sister City Committee so they are aware of this effort to preserve the Pagoda, which was a gift from the people of Osaka.

Jeff said he would be meeting with Emily Murase very soon and confer with her about what would be the best strategy to possibly engage the Osaka Sister City on this project.

It was reported that the committee is working on raising funds to refurbish a cable car from Osaka that is currently in San Francisco.

Regarding that committee’s upcoming trip to Osaka to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the relationship, Rich received an email today from SF-Osaka Sister City Association that due to scheduling conflicts, Mayor Ed Lee would not be going on the trip.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at the Community Room of Union Bank