The meeting began at 5:10 p.m.

Jon Osaki gave a brief history of the Peace Plaza, the continued leaking into the Japan Center Garage (JCG) that has been a long time. He learned that the repair of the Peace Plaza is on the City’s Ten-Year Master Plan, but did not know how high on that list but is proposed only for repairing the leaks.

Jon proposed that the scope of work be clearly defined by the Committee.

Jeff asked that the open space remain even if the Malls are sold for development.

The structural integrity of the Pagoda, including the copper roofing, should be assessed, plan ahead to include plumbing for possible future needs as well as electrical wiring and outlets for use of the public area.

Consider the implications of how the owners of the East and West Malls might benefit and could expedite their ability to sell their property.

Sandy pointed out that the 15-year lease with 3D would expire in 2021.

Repair of Peace Plaza may benefit from the engagement of the Japan Consulate regarding the appropriate repairs to the Pagoda, especially earthquake safety.

London Breed has expressed support for looking into ways to finance the repairs of the Peace Plaza as well as the ongoing maintenance of the Peace Pagoda and Plaza.

The Committee discussed approaching London and requesting that she seek the support of the Mayor to propose a garage bond or possibly “tap” into the JCG revenue to use some of their funds to maintain JTF. Another funding source that could be looked at is the hotel tax fund.

It was reported that the community raised approximately $200,000 for the renovation of the Peace Plaza.
For the reason that two Cherry Blossom Festivals had taken place without the use of the plaza, the community applied pressure to the City to complete the renovation in time for the 2001 festival. Due to, inclement weather, lack of waterproofing membrane and the poor quality of the contractor, leaking continued prompting the City to file a lawsuit against the contractor. A judgment was entered with the City receiving approximately $500,000 from the settlement that went into the City’s General Fund.

In the late 1980’s, Western Addition Parking Corporation (WAPC) gifted the City $500,000 towards the first waterproofing project. When WAPC dissolved in 1998, they contributed $550,000 toward the repair of the leaks prior to the formation of the Japan Center Garage Corporation.

With respect to the draft report prepared by the Planning Department to consider landmarking the Peace Plaza and Pagoda, there was support move forward with the process based on the items specified in Article 10 that addressed keeping the Peace Plaza an open space, retain the basic elements of the original Peace Plaza such as the eternal flame, rocks, etc. It was understood that the landmarking would not hinder the work of the PPP Committee and possibly benefit their efforts should the landmarking status of the Peace Plaza and Pagoda be approved.

**NEXT STEPS**

Jon agreed to prepare a budget for the scope of work of the proposed project so it can be shared with President of the Board of Supervisors, London Breed as well as Mayor Ed Lee. Jon would also consult with Glynis Nakahara about the possibility of determining a generic cost per square foot for any work that might be recommended on the Peace Plaza to incorporate into the budget.

Sandy agreed to arrange an informal meeting with London Breed to update her about the recommendations of the JTF. The meeting would include both Jon Osaki and Richard Hashimoto. The group will propose the possibly financing strategies and request that a formal meeting be set up with London and the Mayor.

David agreed to meet with David Takashima who works with Naomi Kelly, to ask for his assistance with the work of the Committee.

David would inquire about where the repair of the Peace Plaza is on the City’s Ten-Year Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at the Community Room of Union Bank