The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A new agenda was amended to include the Executive Director's report. A quorum was acknowledged.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Minutes of the JTF Board meeting on June 20, 2018
It was moved by Beau Simon and seconded by Jon Osaki to accept the draft minutes from the June 20, 2018 meeting.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
A. Diana Ponce de Leon, Invest in Neighborhood Project Manager, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
1. Diana Ponce de Leon is a contract monitor from the Office of Economic and Workforce Development. She was invited to the board meeting to give her perspective on her role in relations to our organization. She congratulated the Task Force for their many accomplishments and thanked them for their leadership, and accomplishment in creating the CBD.

2. In the new fiscal year, she will continue to support, and her work has shifted over time with JCHESS, and the Board’s interest and guidance. Marketing has gained importance in the last years with projects such as revamping the website, kiosk and visitor’s center and Japantown passport event. She ensures that the businesses will feel engaged and supported.

3. Diana explained the Cultural District legislation by Supervisor Ronen will enforce a city focus that is more interdepartmental with cultural districts and expressed that Japantown is the key in this legislation.
B. Nikkei Community Internship Interns
1. Each intern introduced themselves with their name, city, and organization placement.
2. Cat Kamita is from San Francisco and at JCCNC. Michelle Heckert is from Pacifica and at Kimochi. Koby Mamiya is from Belmont and at JCCNC. Arisa Nakamura is from Salinas and at JCCNC. Sean Sumi is from San Francisco and at JCCNC. Erika Kodama is from San Mateo and at NJAHS. Maya Kashima is from San Mateo and at Nichi Bei Foundation.

IV. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Steve Nakajo’s Executive Director’s report is on the amended agenda. He was grateful to have Diana talk about the financials and the recent accomplishments of the last fiscal year and deliverables. All deadlines have been completed with JCYC and the Mayor’s office. Steve expressed that infrastructure support is desperately needed since there are only 2 staff with 30 hours a week. It is difficult to maintain staff on a part-time salary with limited benefits. Steve is looking for someone for a Senior community aid position that wants a return to self-esteem and purpose.

A funding request is being sent to Adrienne Pon from Immigrant Affairs for unrestricted dollars to be used for infrastructure support. Lauren Nosaka wrote this proposal with the help of Steve Nakajima and enhanced support from Coco Tando. Nina Nakao is working on the Business Legacy Program, PG&E request, researching cultural districts, organizational charts, and Webster St. Bridge outreach & support. JTF is also fund requesting grant money from AARP & Keiro in LA.

We met with Seiko Fujimoto who still wishes to be co-chair on the Cultural Heritage Committee. Seiko is interested in culture. We met with David Takashima to talk about heritage which is a very broad word. Marketing will be integrated with JCBD but Steve wants Cultural Heritage to return to JTF. Steve was also present at the Budget Committee.

A Visitor Center proposal was written by Coco Tando and a presentation has been made to Cloe Daneshgar about utilizing Suite 525. There’s potential for a photo gallery, and meeting space for Suite 525.

Glynis Nakahara asked about the Tang-Peskin Legislation, which has to do with hotel taxes. Sandy Mori explained it’s a proposed ballot initiative for September by allocating hotel tax money to the city to give to cultural arts districts across the city. Steve pointed out it is a different way of giving money to the arts.

Rosalyn Tonai questioned the co-chair to Cultural Heritage. Steve explained that we are reaching out to people and asked if any board meets would like to join. Glynis stated that she is concerned about the meantime before the Cultural Heritage Committee is reestablished.

Beau Simon asked what the scope of the Bob Hamaguchi fund. The Board decided to spend the money on JTF support and Interns. Right now, we are following the NCI structure with the hope that it’ll be a year-round program in the future similar to the Community Center’s program. Nina Nakao is the first recipient of the Bob Hamaguchi Fund. JTF is allocating another $1,000 from the fund to the NCI internship to make it more livable. Glynis clarified that Coco Tando and Steve Nakajima are pro bono volunteers. Rosalyn pointed out that the Visitor Center might be too overwhelming.
and could potentially compete with JCCNC, JCYC or the NJAHS programs. She explained that staffing was difficult during the JCHESS process with Bob Hamaguchi. Sandy expressed that the point of the proposal is a strategic development.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Land Use/Transportation Committee………………..(Glynis Nakahara/Clint Taura)

1. Pa’ina Letter*

The Transportation Land Use Committee was approached by Beung Kwon, the owner of Pa’ina who is seeking an extension of their permit to 2am. The committee is moving to write a letter of “no objection.” Pa’ina may not have done enough outreach to nearby residents which is why it’s not a letter of support but a letter of no objection. Judy Hamaguchi’s point about the residents being affected is valid and the new owner outreach has been sadly limited. She also remembered that the new owner has only attended one meeting and told the committee he would alert the neighbors but has not done it. Michiko Yamada, a resident of the Golden Gate Apartments, foresees future problems and doesn’t believe her neighbors are aware of this future change. She also commented that the apartment residents do not speak English and would not know how to speak up even if they are negatively affected.

Sandy explained that Beung Kwon should not be assuming anything and should reply to Glynis’ inquiries about speaking to the residents. Sandy also mentioned that the Entertainment commissioner told her it seems like Japantown is not open to entertainment at night but they have an obligation to the residents first. Sandy suggests to table this because we don’t know when it will be brought up on the Entertainment committee. Steve doesn’t want the outlook to be that JTF is an obstacle to businesses. Steve remembered that the new owner will go to the Entertainment Commission with or without the support of JTF.

As for public comments, Jeremy Chan commented that the new owner has specifically only gone after the vocal dissenter from the last time. But Judy responded that she doesn’t believe the residents formally supported it. She also believes there will be consequences. If anything shuts it down, it will be the residents.

It was moved by Rosalyn Tonai and seconded by Judy Hamaguchi to table the Pa’ina Letter.

The motion passed with eleven votes in favor, and two against.

2. New LU/T Committee Member*

The Committee is unanimously recommending the Board to approve Jeremy Chan as a new committee member. He introduced himself as a former JTF employee and current law student at UC Hastings.

It was moved by Neal Taniguchi and seconded by Beau Simon to approve Jeremy Chan as a committee member. There were no public comments.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
3. Webster Bridge/D5 Clean Team
The Bridge Painting Day will be held on July 28th, 9am-12pm. The painting is part of a larger district 5 cleanup day project. A survey was released and more than 500 votes were received. The color that won was green. Public Works will repair the railing and prepping it. Registration had an overcapacity of volunteers. Judy pointed out that this decision did not happen without controversy regarding the color and outreach. Glynis commented that Hoodline picked up the story and two days after the article was published, 300 surveys were filled out. Alice Kawahatsu also mentioned that the voting was on Channel 7 News. Alice suggested Glynis to personally invite Vallie Brown to the painting.

4. Geary BRT Final EIR
Glynis expressed there is a potential move of the Star King bus stop by the Unitarian and Baptist Churches to either westward or eastward stops. She sent this information to seniors and senior organizations to make sure they are aware of this dispute. Tomo Hirai asked if it will be one bus stop or the other or both. Glynis pointed out that it is unclear and to let her know if there are people you know who are affected and or interested in this issue. There will be more MTA meetings about this.

5. Committee Minutes
Steve Nakajo asked the committee to take their own minutes; LU/T agreed to do it if all other committees also take their own. Jon Osaki said the Ad Hoc committee will fall in line.

B. Update from Ad Hoc Peace Plaza Committee…….(Richard Hashimoto/Jon Osaki)
1. General Update
The first community design meeting is July 31st. Jon expressed that he wants to have as many voices involved in the process so that nobody says “I didn’t get a say” and wants to incorporate others as much as possible and be inclusive of the JCHESS findings. Michael DeGregorio has been designated as the project manager from the city. Ad Hoc Committee emphasized that this will be a community partnership with Rec & Park.

On July 19th, the full Rec & Park Committee meets. Judy Hamaguchi, Alice Kawahatsu, Steve Nakajo, and Emily Murase will testify for the importance of the Peace Plaza at this public meeting.

2. July 31st Community Meeting at JCCNC’s Issei Memorial Hall 6pm-8pm

C. Nominations Committee Update……………………………..(Judy Hamaguchi)
Judy Hamaguchi informed us that the nominations committee had their first meeting on July 17th. Board members terming out at the end of November 2018 are Alice Kawahatsu, Sandy Mori, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Jon Osaki and Clint Taura. Judy will not assume that each member will continue to serve so each member will be asked later tonight. Each member agreed to continue serving but Mark commented that the asking should be done in private. Judy agreed and said everyone will be contacted. There is potential for 21 board members and currently 13
board members. Last year, there were two resignations (Paul Wermer and Anthony Brown.)

The Committee will start making a list and open it up for recommendations from any/all board members. The committee currently has five to six potential board members on their list and are interviewing the candidates individually. Interviews will be held in September.

VI. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND JTF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Recommendation regarding sponsorship of 2018 Fall Festival, Oct. 20, 2018*
The Board’s recommending that JTF is a sponsor only on a volunteer basis. Judy commented that since this is a 3-D event, the Task Force will not financially support it.

The motion was moved by Mark Moriguchi and seconded by Judy Hamaguchi to approve JTF as a volunteer basis only.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
The Board is going to do a six-month evaluation of Steve Nakajo as the new Executive Director in October.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS
A. JCYC, SF JACL, and Nichi Bei Foundation is convening a meeting on the 23rd at the JACL headquarters at 6pm. It is a follow up to the vigil that was held after the November 2016 elections. Many groups feel strongly that Japantown needs to publically denounce the travel ban ruling. The executive order is authorizing the detention and separation of families and many believe it’s the same logic applied to Japanese incarceration. We need to speak out and make a public demonstration of opposition.

The vigil is being planned for August 9th, which is the eve of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act and will be held at the Peace Plaza.

B. Sandy mentioned a mini reception for the new District 5 Supervisor Vallie Brown will be planned.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 15th, 2018.