The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

I. DEBRIEF COMMUNITY MEETING OF JULY 31, 2018

Jon stated that he was pleased with the turnout of the first community meeting and asked attendees for their opinions.

There was no group roundtable discussion which would have helped navigate people through the story boards and what is being proposed. There was also disappointment that there was not that much direction when it came time to reviewing the boards.

In order to improve the presentation of the next community meeting, Jon asked for suggestions.

Breaking up into groups for roundtable discussions are more productive in hearing comments from attendees that may be reluctant to address the entire room. Although the dot stickers and post-its are good, it should be more directive and specific as to what Recreation and Park Department (RPD) is asking and trying to achieve.

It was suggested that JTF could help RPD facilitate the meetings so that the attendees have a better understanding of the project.

II. UPDATES FROM RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Sandy reported that RPD is continuing to solicit surveys at most community events and having focus groups meetings with community organizations. Sandy suggested that if there are any groups that RPD should reach out to, she will forward it RPD since some groups or individuals that may have a conflict in attending meeting dates and times.

It was suggested that RPD reach out to organizations outside of the city that use or have interest in the design of the plaza and to inform them about those groups including children and youth serving organizations and schools.

Another comment made was how the surveys are being disseminated and when will we know the results.
III. **COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISOR**

Jon announced that $50,000 has been allocated by RPD for the design consultant. The goal is of the Peace Plaza renovation is to be on the 2019 Parks Bond that will be on the November ballot. This means that we have to have selected a design advisor by end of September. Unfortunately, compared to other RPD projects, the Peace Plaza is behind in the city approval process which is the reason for the aggressive schedule.

Sandy reminded all at the JTF board meeting of July 18, 2018, the board unanimously approved to authorize the Peace Plaza Committee the ability to make decision on behalf of the JTF, conduct interviews and to select the design advisor.

For the design advisor, Jon asked if the committee had any criteria we want to consider. A suggestion was made that the design advisor knows the city's contract approval process and have credibility with the city. Jon suggested knowledge of Japantown, sensitivity to working with historic areas, ability to build consensus, knowledge of Japanese landscape architecture, knowledge of strong design concepts and how to maximize the functionality of the space (sound, light, etc), urban space design experience, and a firm who can advise on authentic cultural interpretation.

Inquiry was made as to how much influence does the design advisor have over the city's design team. The understanding is that the design advisor will examine the city's plans and compare that to what the community requires. They will also be our liaison between the community and with DPW design team. It will be the responsibility of the Peace Plaza Committee to ensure the proposed design meets the community needs as expressed by RPD.

The design consultant should have experience with community, have some historical knowledge and be familiar with the Planning Department's Landmark Designation Report for reference.

The advisor shall also have the capability to advise the community the appropriateness and sensitivity of the cultural elements that are being proposed in contemporary and traditional design.

Build in functionality of the space for community use and at the same time make sure the design is logical for the purpose it was intended.

IV. **IDENTIFY SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The next Peace Plaza Committee meeting has been rescheduled to September 13, 2018. Between now and that date, the selection committee will be engaged in the selection process to announce the design advisor.

It was suggested that the committee reach out to major universities and colleges that have landscape architecture to make recommendations of a design consultant. Due to the very stringent time constraints, this may not be possible.

It is obvious that one of the co-chairs be on the selection committee and since Richard Hashimoto has experience with the past two renovations and past chair of the Cherry Blossom Festival for numerous years, he was selected. Glynis Nakahara was selected for her background in architecture and in design. She is also a co-chair of JTF Land Use Committee. The third member should be a staff of JTF and Steve Nakajo was selected.
It was mentioned that Micheal DeGregorio will be present in the interviews but is not a panel member and will not be asking any questions. His participation would only be to answer any questions that panel members may have from RPD side.

Motion was made to approve the above members for the selection panel. The motion was seconded and was unanimously approved.

If there are any additional firms that may want to consider the project we should be informed now and submitted to the selection panel by the end of this week.

Due to the strict timeline, the selection panel needs to act promptly in order to meet the September 13th date and, to be fair and consistent with all applicants during the process.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Okamoto commented that he is surprised that technical consultants were not being considered. Geary Boulevard produces a lot of traffic noise which may adversely affect the overall design characteristics. Also, a lighting consultant should be considered for evening lighting and lunar illumination of the plaza.

Kenta Takamori reminded that the project should be an urban space design rather than suburban design that should be taken into consideration. In addition, a Japanese design which may be perceived as authentic but, to a Japanese landscape expert it may be wrong or even offending and cautioned the committee when making a decision.

Karen Kai does not feel a firm sense of what the design advisor will do and how the community's view will be implemented into the design. Moreover, there is a sense of confusion that although the committee has stated that the design advisor is a community advisor, there is also discussion that the advisor will be for RPD, DPW and community. This is not being made clear. She is also not seeing a clear community process which may also confuse other community organizations. The advisor should have the capability to broaden or view on what we are asking for the appropriateness of the design.

Glynis responded to some of the comments stating that she will get clarification from Michael DeGregorio. The selected advisor should be someone that we have influence over to be the community’s design advisor.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

September 13, 2018 at JACL Headquarters

The meeting was adjourned at 6.11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Hashimoto

Richard Hashimoto