JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA COMMITTEE
MINUTES
UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
22 PEACE PLAZA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Sandy Mori, George Yamasaki, Jr., Rosalyn Tonai, Glynis Nakahara, Alice Kawahatsu, Jon Osaki, Richard Hashimoto

OTHERS PRESENT:
Doug Nelson, Masahiro Inoue, Steve Nakajima, Judy Hamaguchi, Kenta Takamori, Michael DeGregorio, Karen Kai, Nob Mihara, Paul Okamoto

STAFF PRESENT:
Steve Nakajo, Lauren Nosaka and Nikki Yoshikawa

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

I. INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY DESIGN CONSULTANT
On September 6, 2018, the Peace Plaza selection panel consisting of Glynis Nakahara, Steve Nakajo and Richard Hashimoto conducted interviews of three potential design consultants. The highest ranking design firm was RHAA. Douglas “Doug” Nelson and Masahiro “Mas” Inoue from RHAA provided a brief bio and history of their work emphasizing on public spaces such as Union Square, Dolores Park, Palace of Fine Arts, Salesforce Plaza and Japanese Tea Garden. RHAA has also work experience with community groups and Recreation and Park Department on similar projects.

II. DISCUSSION OF DESIGN CONSULTANT ROLE AND SCOPE OF WORK
Michael DeGregorio provided a summary of the project to date. Michael stated that RHAA will perform as a liaison between the community and the city’s design team. Doug will look at all of the historical assets and Mas will provide all of the Japanese experience into the design.

Steve Nakajima asked for clarification on how we know how much the design consultants are engaged or have input.

Michael stated that Mas has already met with the design team and spent some time in editing one of the designs. Doug stated that the existing arrangement is somewhat unusual since Recreation and Park Department is paying the fees but RHAA works for the community. It was suggested that a client meeting take place soon so that there is an understanding of what each person’s role is.

Jon suggested that the November meeting serve as the client meeting after the community meeting to summarize that meeting.

Rosalyn liked the transparency for confirming the community design between the design team and design consultants is disclosed unlike past designs. She then asked what occurred in the design charrette.
Michael summarized the first design charrette that was held on October 1st with Alice Kawahatsu, Glynis Nakahara, Rich Hashimoto and Steve Nakajo attending from the community.

III. REVIEW OF OCTOBER 25, 2018 COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

Sandy suggested that the agenda for community meeting on Oct. 25th be discussed as to how the meeting and group roundtable discussions would be managed and what groups are being targeted i.e. youth, seniors, Japanese speaking, etc.

Michael assured that print material will be translated into Japanese and Masahiro will be a moderator for the Japanese speaking table. There will be a moderator at each table to gather comments and report back to the design team. He then shared the moderator guide for the second community meeting (attached to these minutes).

Doug stated shared some of the concerns and felt confident that the second community meeting will have a positive outcome and put some skepticism at ease.

Jon mentioned that results from the community meeting should be presented to the Peace Plaza Committee before they are implemented into the designs which should satisfy any skepticism.

One of the objectives is to get everyone to comment on the designs including those that are modest or introverted to speak out. There will be comment cards and post-it notepads for those that may be difficult to voice their opinions.

Michael summarized the agenda and the flow for the community meeting. Comment cards will be given to each attendee as they enter and are asked to fill it out after seeing the three concepts or during the round table discussions. All comment cards will be collected and shared with RHAA.

Most of the discussion was on how the process for the second community meeting would be managed. There were concerns shared by some committee members that the second community meeting does not follow the same path as the first community meeting where there was confusion by attendees. The second meeting should have clear direction and what the objective of the meeting is, which is to break out into table groups and discuss the three concept plans. One person from each table is to report on their group’s discussion.

IV. REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY DESIGNED CONCEPTS FOR OCT. 25TH COMMUNITY MEETING

At the time of the meeting, the designs and slide show were not ready. They will be made available at the community meeting.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Rosalyn asked where we are in terms of the vision plan process. Michael responded that we are in the middle of the established timeline. After the first community meeting and initial charrette, we are down to three design concepts and should be down to one plan in February 2019, which will determine the cost of the repair and design. This date may be too late if the RPD commission approves in February. Michael stated that the timeline can be expedited before the commission hearing.
Steve Nakajima expressed that the goal is to have this project on the 2019 Parks Bond and therefore, we should be concentrating on what the cost of the renovation will be so that the community can then ask city officials for support.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**
Kenta Takamori suggested that instead of having 20 tables for general discussion we should consider assigned tables such as merchants, residents, youth and seniors.

Kenta also mentioned that based on the current timeline of the process, we should be able to determine the range on the cost.

Steve Nakajo and Steve Nakajima commented that the projected cost is $50M ($25M for repairs and $25M for the design) at this time.

Karen Kai suggested that each table have a concept drawing instead of referring to a drawing pasted on a wall. She also suggested having sticky notes available for comments.

**VI. NEXT MEETING DATE**
Due to holiday schedule, the next meeting will be Wednesday, November 7th at 5:00 p.m. at Union Bank Community Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Hashimoto

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