I. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Sandy Mori. A quorum was acknowledged. Each guest introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Minutes of the JTF Board meeting of August 15, 2018*
It was moved by Mark Moriguchi and seconded by Seiko Fujimoto to accept the minutes from the August 15, 2018 meeting.
The motion passed unanimously.
No public comments.

III. GUEST SPEAKER: MAWULI TUGBENYOH, MAYOR’S OFFICE ON COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS
Mawuli Tugbenyoh, Mayor’s Office on Commission Appointments, shared information on the San Francisco City Boards, Commissions, and Advisory Bodies, and its application process. The Mayor’s Office on Commission Appointments is currently seeking new individuals to be on the San Francisco City Boards and Commissions. The application process usually consists of an application submission with a statement of interest, interview(s), and possible meetings with the mayor. For most cases, applicants must be a San Francisco resident, but applicants may be able to have the requirement waived. Most commissions and boards have a four-year term, but some can be two years while others can be indefinite.

See Attachment A for the List of City Boards, Commissions, and Advisory Bodies Created by Charter, Ordinance, or Statue. See Attachment B for the Application for Mayoral Appointment.

IV. UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STEVE NAKAJO
Steve Nakajo reviewed the highlights from the September 2018 Executive Director’s
report (Attachment C).

Steve Nakajo clarified to the Board that the year-round internship using Bob Hamaguchi donation is to be a student internship throughout the year rather, than just the summer. The student intern will provide support to the business legacy program, JTF participation in community events and festivals, running the kiosk, as well as administrative work. The stipend for the intern will be taken out from the Bob Hamaguchi memorial fund.

No public comments.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
A. Land Use/Transportation Committee…………..(Glynis Nakahara/Clint Taura DDS)

1. Cannabis Legislation
Glynis Nakahara reported that Nicole Elliot from SF Office of Cannabis attended the September 10th LU/T Committee Meeting to share information on the cannabis legalization. The Committee will convene a study group to learn more about the legislation and its possible impacts on Japantown. As of date, there are no cannabis dispensaries planned in Japantown.

A comment was made that JTF should have opportunities to be involved with the decision-making process of pending dispensary applications. Chinatown was brought up as a community that would be helpful to look into, to learn more about their successful efforts in regulating cannabis dispensaries in their district.

2. SUD Zoning on Mezzanines
Glynis Nakahara reported that the Cultural District Planning Legislation does not have any reference to mezzanine levels. She will reach out to the Planning Commission to have more information on the protocol.

3. Decorative Crosswalks
Glynis Nakahara reported that SFMTA will be re-striping the crosswalk on Post street between the Peace Plaza and Buchanan Mall. SFMTA has already re-striped the crosswalk, but contacted LU/T if they may be interested in having a decorative crosswalk in the future. The LU/T Committee may be interested in making the decorative crosswalks comprehensive and neighborhood-wide. The committee will contact JCBD if they would be interested in collaborating.

4. SFMTA Trees
Glynis Nakahara reported that SFMTA is planning to add new trees and replace trees in the neighborhood. New trees will be added to the Laguna bulb-outs and to the median where the new Buchanan crosswalk is planned to be located. The committee will need to provide a recommendation of trees by October, and are currently considering Kwanzan cherry trees since they are more resilient to windy weather.

A comment was made that plum trees may also be another option for the new trees since they bloom in autumn. With the cherry trees blooming in spring, there will be a good balance of blooming trees throughout the year if plum trees are added instead of more cherry trees.

SFMTA will be covering the cost to plant the new trees, but afterwards, Friends of the Urban Forest or the property owners will be responsible for taking care of the trees.

Glynis Nakahara also announced Clint Taura's resignation from the LU/T Committee.
Clint Taura will stay as a JTF Board Member.

B. Peace Plaza/Pagoda Committee………………………….(Richard Hashimoto/Jon Osaki)

1. Announcing the selected Peace Plaza Design Advisor
   Jon Osaki reported that interviews were conducted for the Peace Plaza Design Advisor, and the Committee chose RHAA Landscape Architects for their design advisor. Michael DeGregorio was also involved in the selection process, and approves the selection. The firm has expertise in Japanese landscape design; and Masahiro Inoue and Douglas Nelson will be the point persons for this project. Representatives from the PP/P Committee and staff will be conducting charrette with RHAA in October to discuss more about the Peace Plaza Project and RHAA’s role in the project. The purpose of the charrette is to discuss and give input into the proposed design for the Peace Plaza. The DPW landscape architects are developing their designs.

   The next Peace Plaza Community Meeting will be on Thursday, October 25th at the Japanese Community and Cultural Center of Northern California (The Center) Issei Memorial Hall from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. At this meeting, RPD will share results from the Peace Plaza surveys they conducted, and design ideas for the Peace Plaza Project will be shared. Writings from the JCHESS will be taken into account for the ideas, and the community will also have the opportunity to put input during this community meeting.

   To make sure that youth and young adult groups would also be involved in the community input process, the Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC) will work with Michael DeGregorio, and Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF) will encourage parents to attend this meeting as well.

C. Nominations Committee Update………………………………….(Judy Hamaguchi)
   Judy Hamaguchi reported that the Nominations Committee has been conducting interviews with candidates for the new JTF Board members. All applicants submitted their resume and biography. The Committee has a few more interviews left, and will be holding meetings to make a final decision on the final slate. The slate will be presented and voted by the Board on Wednesday, October 17th.

   JTF Board membership can go up to 21. A question was asked if the Board is seeking a certain number of new board members. The Board does not have a number in mind. A comment was made that the Board may experience more difficulty reaching a quorum at the board meetings if membership goes above 15.

   A member in the public asked if those considered for JTF Board is open for public discussion before the October meeting, and what qualities the Nominations Committee is looking for in new Board members. The list of candidates is not open for public discussion until presented in October, and different factors and considerations will affect who will be presented as the final slate.

VI. UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Recommendation to support Proposition E – Arts for Everyone*
   Sandy Mori shared information on Proposition E (Attachment D), and made a recommendation on behalf of the Executive Committee to support this proposition. The passing of this proposition will allow Japantown to receive potential funding for arts and culture. Funds may also be allocated to cultural districts, which Japantown would also
benefit from. The funding will come from the portion of the hotel tax growth after 8%.

It was moved by Jon Osaki and seconded by Beau Simon to support Proposition E – Arts for Everyone.
No public comment.
The motion passed unanimously.

2. Sandy Mori also reported that the Board will have a 6-month evaluation of the Executive Director, Steve Nakajo. There will be a closed session after the October 17th Board Meeting for everyone on the Board to give input to the evaluation. A form will be sent out beforehand with the Executive Director job description. Steve Nakajo will also have the opportunity to critique on how he works with the Board, and vice versa. After the closed session, the Executive Committee will compile the evaluation and will meet with Steve Nakajo.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Holiday lighting:
Richard Hashimoto and the rest of Board discussed how the holiday lighting should be run this year, and if donations should be collected from community members. The discussion will be deferred to the Executive Committee.

IX. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**
The following comment(s) were shared by the public:
Coyote sightings in neighborhood.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcement(s) were shared:
Aki Matsuri on Saturday, October 20th at the Peace Plaza to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Japan Trade Center.

Geary BRT construction begins on October 1st, and will last for approximately 26 weeks. During the construction period, there will be bus stop changes and infrastructure moves (ex. plumbing). The Geary Blvd. entrance of the Japantown Garage will be closed temporarily, but not throughout the whole construction period. There are no set dates reported for construction between Laguna St. and Webster St.

A Japantown reception was held for the newly appointed D5 Supervisor Vallie Brown on Tuesday September 18th from 6:30-8:00pm at the Pa‘ina Restaurant and Lounge.
The APA Heritage Gala fundraiser will be on October 3rd at the Olympic Club, honoring JACL and OCA. $225/person.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Sandy Mori at 7:30pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at the Union Bank Community Room.

* MAY REQUIRE BOARD ACTION