JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA COMMITTEE
MINUTES
UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM
22 PEACE PLAZA
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Sandy Mori, Glynis Nakahara, Jon Osaki, Richard Hashimoto

OTHERS PRESENT:
Doug Nelson, Masahiro Inoue, Steve Nakajima, Michael DeGregorio, Karen Kai, Jeremy Chan, Nan Park

STAFF PRESENT:
Steve Nakajo, Max Loubet and Nikki Yoshikawa

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

I. DEBRIEF OF OCTOBER COMMUNITY MEETING
SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING – OCT. 25, 2018
- Positive comments on breaking out in different groups & facilitators involved in the project
- Staff provided great outreach
- SF Rec & Park members were organized & clear compared to first community meeting
- Review feedback from participants of community meeting
- Review opinions about designs from architects
- Take good aspects from each scheme and combine for best fit out of the 3
- 160 people signed in, 71 cards received
- Input responses to Google form on RPD website
- “Wave” was the #1 choice, “Frame” 2nd, “Loop” 3rd

II. UPDATES FROM REC & PARK ON COMMUNITY INPUT
- “Wave” was the #1 choice, “Frame” 2nd, “Loop” 3rd
  - Design: Wave
  - Connectivity: Wave
  - Location: Wave
  - Planting: Wave
  - Seating: Frame
  - Shade solution: Frame
  - People wanted change, Wave is the sweetspot, Loop was overdone
  - “Frame” design locked view from Pagoda
  - “Wave” was popular b/c Japanese influence and flow
  - Torii gate in Wave design: up for interpretation
  - “Loop” felt contemporary, most people did not like the flow, bad set up for events

III. DISCUSSION WITH DESIGN CONSULTANTS ON COMMON THEMES AND CONCEPTS
- Board Member reactions
  - Stage
- Permanent stage separate from Pagoda or keep stage attached
- High effort/expense for building temporary stages for events
- Current stage on Pagoda worked in conjunction with temporary wooden Stage
- Stage used about 12 times/year
- How will it be used the rest of the year?
- Strong feedback at first meeting: some people do not want permanent stage
- Permanent stage should blend in with the design
- Minimum cost of portable stage: $10-$15k for each festival, $2500 Rec & Park rental fee
- Concern for design inclusivity
- Need for a deeper meaning tied into community history
- Tell a story in the design, “wave” approach embraces this
- Create a foundational symbol within infrastructure
- Water elements
- Important, symbolic, meaningful elements
- Use these symbolic elements to encompass culture/community
- More space needed in lower levels to accommodate more people during festivals
- Hold festivals on Post St rather than Pagoda?
- Maintain temporary set ups instead of permanent solutions, better suited for non-festival days the rest of the year
- Notion that blocking off streets deters business to stores/parking
- Create a JTF kiosk for tourist information
- Activation of community is key
- Wall on Geary: Tear it down? Acoustics will be affected
- How can the space be utilized?
- Proposal for Japanese mural
- Incorporate design elements that are distinctly Japanese American Community is being heavily involved
- “Frame” elements feels like a gathering place w/ seating and benches, young people want an area for socialization
- Children’s play structure
- Potentially out of place, rather all-encompassing elements for all ages/generations
- Homeless
- Take inventory, maintain sanitation
- Potential for bleacher seating

Designer’s opinions
- Each event will bring its own energy, aesthetic design not as important as functionality
- Need for design to provide energy for non-festival days the rest of the year
- Japanese gardens are typically quiet and tranquil, how can we create a design that maintains high energy on non-festival days?
- Convey these ideas to the design team for direct influence in final design
- Torii gate “Wave” design landscape closes off plaza from Post St
- Need for more transparency between each side of the plaza
- Loop design could potentially bring in seniors
- Idea of opening walls into the mall, could work with frame concept
- Creating an urban space, how to appropriately incorporate Japanese influence “wave” keeps it contemporary and modern
Keep functionality and softness, how to maintain balance between contemporary and traditional
Elements must be meaningful, random elements such as Torii gates don’t make sense
Keep an open plaza for flexibility
The plaza is an urban open space and not meant for a Japanese garden

IV. REVIEW OF PLANNING TIMELINE (CHARRETTE, NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING, ETC.)
   • Design cost estimate

V. OTHER BUSINESS
   • None

VI. NEXT MEETING
   • Next board meeting: Tuesday December 18th, 5pm at Union Bank Community Room
   • Next charrette w/ designers planned for early December
   • Third community meeting will be in January or early February

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Toshiro Loubet

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