**JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA COMMITTEE**
**MINUTES**
**UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM**
**22 PEACE PLAZA**
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**
Jon Osaki, Richard Hashimoto, Rosalyn Tonai

**OTHERS PRESENT:**
Doug Nelson, Masahiro “Mas” Inoue, Michael DeGregorio, Toks Ajike, Karen Kai, Alice Kawahatsu, Benh Nakajo

**STAFF PRESENT:**
Max Loubet, Steve Nakajo

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

- **UPDATE ON PARK BOND PLANNING**
  - Jon Osaki introduced Toks Ajike, Director of Capital Planning from Recreation and Parks Department
  - 10 year capital plan was released 3 weeks ago, $255M parks bond on that will be on the November 2020 ballot currently in draft form. In addition, $50 million will be moved from Earthquake Safety & Seismic repair from Kezar project so the total bond will be approximately $300M.
  - Once the plan is approved, they will begin community involvement process.
  - Richard asked why the bond was being delayed to 2020. Mr. Ajike confirmed the city must have the capacity to address the needs throughout the city, also highlighted Mayor Breed’s immediate need for affordable housing and homeless.
  - Jon confirmed the May 1st deadline of the amount and timing of the bond and the initiation of community process.
  - The director confirmed the community process is set for 8 months.
  - Jon stated that the original parks bond was planned for $150 million.
  - The director confirmed since the 2008 bond the amount has not increased.
  - Karen asked if there is an executive summary within the plan, the director confirmed the report is online and the section is included within. She also asked if the Earthquake and Seismic Mediation Bond was specific for Kezar pavilion, Mr. Ajike confirmed it would be focused in combination with other facilities involving Police, Fire and EMS services.
  - Karen stated that the Peace Pagoda has not had any structural assessment study.
  - Jon highlighted the long process will be beneficial to ensure nothing is rushed.
  - Doug asked whether the bond process is approved by commission. Mr. Ajike confirmed it is approved by the commission and the board of supervisors.
• Jon highlighted once the design process is done, members must be very active in the community process.
• Karen asked if there will be more community meetings. Mr. Ajike confirmed there will be additional community meetings.

**Updates on Design Process**
• Michael began a presentation highlighting the design process.
• Design team has taken comments from previous meeting and began to implement comments. The team has brought about multiple questions regarding the design.
• RPD submitted the CEQA application on December 19th.
• Since there are no utilities affected by the renovation, the SFPUC had no concerns.
• Once a consensus for design base is confirmed, they will create cost estimates.
• Mas showed the base design, highlighted the “wave” was the most popular and second was the “loop”. The design team created a compound design with two different options to arrive at the current design with the “peacefulness and sacredness” using “softer language to embrace the people” with the trees and seat wall integrated into the design.
• Mas highlighted the energy flow from Buchanan to Geary; stage area next to Pagoda will be kept and can be extended for special events; new cherry trees will be installed; two ramps take you to the lower portion of the design, multiple ideas for wall on Geary Street will either use a shoji screen panel or painted mural or bamboo screen. Buchanan Mall will have a water feature but revealed the community stated it were either too open or too closed.
• Mas highlighted the planting of different trees and the importance of seasonality, options include a combination of Japanese maple, cherry trees, Japanese pine, bamboo, ginkgo and evergreen tree.
• Michael highlighted the need for a multi-seasonal approach with the trees.
• Jon asked about the determination of the capacity for maintenance with the extended greenery, Michael confirmed the design team approves maintenance regulations.
• Mas discussed the planting process using specific box structures to install the soil in order to contain enough volume.
• Mas highlighted the use of various lighting the design team is exploring.
• Alice asked if it was possible to illuminate the top of the Pagoda. Rich confirmed there are light fixtures on the top tier but those lamps have burned out and needs to be replaced.
• Mas introduced his idea of incorporating an interactive Japanese map to enrich the history of Japan, discussed the need for an interpretive element referencing Japanese culture.
• Karen stated it would be great to have a Japanese American element specifically focused towards the history of the Japanese American community.
• Michael discussed the options for a sculptural element and water feature options to enhance the connection to Buchanan Mall welcoming people into the plaza. Rich opposed any water feature due to the issues within the garage but later said as long as the waterproofing is installed correctly and maintained properly, he is okay.
• Mas praised Michael and the design team for their great efforts. Michael highlighted the dynamic within the design team is working greatly.
• Rich asked if the cost estimate will include the waterproof remediation and design. Michael confirmed it will include both waterproofing and design and will also address the repairs noted in the McGinnis-Chen Report inside the garage.
• Doug ensured the need for quality materials and craftsmanship will be factored into the cost estimate.
• In the “Wave” design, the capacity for festivals seems smaller and Karen discussed her concern addressing those who run the festivals should be involved in the design process to ensure special needs for performances and festival setup. Jon confirmed there will most likely not be additional meetings with the festival curators due to the time constraint. Michael added that the design team had explored capacity limits but the consensus from surveys and meetings favored the “Wave” design over the other designs.

• **Next Steps and Scheduling of Final Community Meeting**
  • Jon discussed the next community meeting will be held in March to ensure the additional elements to the design will be discussed and incorporated.
  • Michael confirmed the design team would like the committee to meet in 2 weeks before the next community meeting in March in order to continue narrowing the design.
  • Steve highlighted state funding will be a long process and emphasized the need for a cost estimate.

• **Other Business**
  • None

• **General Public Comment**
  • None

• **Next Meeting**
  • Next committee meeting will be held February 7th @ 5pm to review design progress.
  • Next community meeting will be held either March 12th/19th/21st at the JCCCN. Michael will confirm availability.

**Adjourn: 6:08PM**