Japantown Task Force Cultural Heritage Committee (CHC)
April 1, 2019
JACL Building

Attendees: David Takashima, Jeremy Chan, Jacquelyn Chew, Judy Hamaguchi, Sandy Mori, Benh Nakajo
Staff: Lauren Nosaka, Max Loubet
Guests: Caryl Ito, Rosalyn Tonai

I. This meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by David Takashima.

II. Old Business

a. Approval of February 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes
   It was moved by Sandy Mori and seconded by Benh Nakajo to approve the February 4, 2019 minutes.

   No public comment.
   The motion passed unanimously.

b. Continue discussion on the Japanese Tea Garden
   Guest speakers from the Friends of the Japanese Tea Garden group came to the last meeting February 4, 2019. CHC drafted a letter of support endorsing the Friends of the Japanese Tea Garden’s efforts to restore the garden’s pagoda.

   There will be a booth at the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival on April 13, 14 and 20 for the Friends of the Japanese Tea Garden. The booth will inform the public on the mission of the group, how the group is connected with the Park Alliance, the history of the Tea Garden, and how to donate to the group. $2 million is needed to restore the pagoda.

   It was motioned by Jeremy Chan and seconded by Jacquelyn Chew to bring the drafted letter of support for the Friends of the Japanese Tea Garden before the full Japantown Task Force Board.

   Benh Nakajo recused himself from the vote.
   The motion was otherwise passed.

III. New Business

   a. Proposal on the re-name of the committee
      David Takashima proposed amending the ‘Cultural Heritage Committee’ name to ‘Cultural Heritage Sustainability Committee’, adding the word ‘Sustainability’ to emphasize the importance of sustaining culture and history as our community evolves over time, as recommended by Steve Nakajima.

      It was motioned by Jeremy Chan and seconded by Jacquelyn Chew to bring the new name ‘Cultural Heritage Sustainability Committee’ to the JTF Board.
The motion was passed unanimously.

b. Recommendation on the new co-chair of the committee Coco Tando
Seiko Fujimoto has stepped down as co-chair of the committee. David Takashima recommended Coco Tando to replace her position as co-chair.

It was motioned by Benh Nakajo and seconded by Jeremy Chan to have Coco Tando as the new CHC co-chair.

The motion was passed unanimously.

c. Arts Commission and Office of Community of Development
We will be eligible to submit requests for funding through Proposition E that sets aside funds for arts and culture. There are several entities that administer these funds including the Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts, and the Office of Community Development.

The Arts Commission has not made any commitments for funding for JTF but is willing to provide other types of non-monetary support.

The Office of Community Development administers the Cultural District legislation, of which Japantown was the first Cultural District. The Office of Community Development will be coming out with an RFP in April, from which CHC plans to request $250k of funding for cultural arts programming and additional JTF staffing to execute these types of initiatives. This funding can be requested to be renewed annually. CHC will work with Steve Nakajima on drafting the request.

IV. Other Business

- Jeremy raised that the Nagata Dance studio is currently vacant, and a potential option for the visitor center project and a way to bring other performing groups to rent it. However, it may have already been rented out.
- Ito Yosakoi is performing at the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival on the second weekend of the Festival.
- The SF JACL is hosting an event with the Minidoka Swing Band from Portland, OR to raise money for the JACL’s education program on Friday, May 17 at 6:30 pm.

V. Public Comment
No public comment.

VI. Next Meeting
The next CHC meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, 2019 at the Union Bank Community Room from 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by David Takashima at 7:15 pm.