

May Board Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2021 • 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Via ZOOM conference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86909160163> Meeting ID: 869 0916 0163

One tap mobile +16699006833,,86909160163# US (San Jose)

Attendees: Robert Sakai, Mary Ishisaki, Kathy Nelsen, Daniel Byron, Kim Kolbe, Dennis Kern, Alex Prouty, Steve Ishii, Emily Glick, Emily Nichols

Absent: Rob Malone

Staff: Grace Horikiri, Brandon Quan, Melissa Ayumi Bailey

Guests: Rich Hashimoto (JMA), Yasuaki Miura (Super-Mira), Sandy Mori (JTF), Adrienne Shiozaki-Woo (NLF), Sam Mihara, David Dunham (SFMTA), Greg Vilorio (JCM), Jeremy Chan (JTF), Elena Nielsen (JCCCNC)

- 1. Call to order and roll call** **6:00**
The meeting was called to order at 6:02PM.
- 2. Vice President's Announcements** **6:03**
There are no announcements at this time.
- 3. Action Item: Approval April 28, 2021 Minutes** **6:05**
Motion: Dennis Kern; Second: Mary Ishisaki
The motion passed unanimously.
- 4. April Financial Report** **6:10**
 - A. Action Item: Approval of April Financial Reports**
Motion: Kathy Nelsen; Second: Dennis Kern
The motion passed unanimously.
The current balance in the Union Bank account is \$848,568. We have accumulated depreciation on the cameras and equipment for \$204,527. This brings us up to \$358,216.90 for total fixed assets and brings the total assets to \$1,206,895 with retained earnings and income. The Budget to Actual Variance report through the end of April states a net income of \$58,352 of which we also have equipment depreciation to date of \$56,000, which is a net of \$114,627. The carryover assets of \$399,613 which includes a \$40,000 reserve which is for SafeCity Cameras. We have 2 months remaining in the fiscal year and will be coming out a little in the plus or over. We are currently reviewing salaries and will ask for a closed session next month to vote on adjustments to be made. We are also expecting an increase in Block by Block expenses, so until we have a better handle on both of those things, we will have to continue working on the FY2021-22 budget in June.

- B. Update: Community Ambassadors wage increase for FY 21-22
At last month's Board Meeting, Rich Mongarro addressed Al Rhone's salary, which is below the CA minimum requirement. An increase is being taken into consideration given this fact. We have to wait for Block by Block's contract for further updates.

5. Executive Director & Staff Reports 6:20

A. COVID efforts / Heart of Jtown Resiliency Fund Update

We are holding our final COVID test date this Friday and are working to extend this program into June and July. The temporary mural project planned for 1700 Post must be relocated as the boards were removed from the building in advance of business reopening. We are working with Kinokuniya to find a new location for these murals. We are hoping to possibly auction the murals off after the end of the display to gain additional income to help small businesses. Miseki Jewelry will be closing due to retirement. Ichi Pub (1700 Post) will not be reopening. This brings us to 10 lost businesses during COVID. New businesses coming in include: Jina Bakes in Kinokuniya, K-Pop Karaoke in Japan Center West Mall (Geary side). Other calls with interested businesses will be directed to the property managers.

B. Nihonmachi Community Coalition (formerly Japantown Safety Committee)

Japantown Community leaders created this group. This past Sunday a bento fundraiser was held and 250 boxes were sold. Funds raised will be used to support the Coalition's efforts. Grace participated as a panelist concerning safety in Unity Against Viruses event held in Chinatown at the Far East Cafe. Mayor Breed and other AAPI community leaders spoke and 250 people were in attendance. On May 31st, a national solidarity rally against AAPI hate is being held at Portsmouth Square. Jon Osaki will represent Japantown.

C. Grant Submission Updates

No new updates since last month.

D. Cleaning & Safety Reports

On April 18th, a community clean up took place. Al was able to paint the San Wang outdoor dining build out as part of COVID support to small businesses. In April, we received 2 requests from SFPD for videos: one about the graffiti recently seen in Japantown, and another for a cell phone theft.

6. Japantown SafeCity Program Updates 6:30

A meeting is scheduled tomorrow. The cameras at the Nakamoto Building are installed. We are currently working on the license agreement in order to get them online. We are also updating the usage policy and making sure it is still current since it has not been updated for one year. The Mid Market CBD policy has some new items that seemed important to include.

7. JCBD Marketing & Communication Committee Updates 6:35

There are a few different projects in progress at the moment. Currently, we are looking to resurrect the Japan Center Malls mural project originally started in 2017-2019. The committee has met to discuss prospective locations along Geary St., reviewing the timeline

of work, reviewing the type of requirements needed dependent on if this is considered a City funded or private project based on JCBD's relationship to OEWD. We are working with the City on these items as well as with 3D on the Waiver of Proprietary Rights required for public art in San Francisco. The original Artist Focus Group from 2017-2019 will be approached to select the artist and concept designs for this iteration of the project. We are working with Rec and Park and the Arts Commission on the Breath Bliss project and are hoping to set a meeting with their representatives and the representatives from Naked, Inc. in Japan, dependent on availability due to time difference. Avenue Greenlight is a project in conjunction with Rich Hashimoto and JMA to fund street lamp banners. We are also finalizing the Japantown postcard designs for distribution to tourist locations in San Francisco (Japanese Tea Garden, Asian Art Museum, DeYoung Museum, MOMA who have Ruth Asawa pieces in their permanent collections).

8. Community Updates

6:45

A. Japantown Task Force

Sandy Mori: Steve Nakajo has informed me he will no longer be able to attend these meetings going forward due to a conflict with another meeting for the Fire Commission. He has submitted a written report and I will be attending to report out going forward. A couple updates- our partnership with Consul General Toru Maeda's office has been helpful in getting the input of the next generation (25-45) in terms of what they'd like to see in the Future of Japantown. 3 focus groups of 10 were held. It was interesting to hear their perspectives since they are a very diverse group of individuals who have participated in a variety of community activities. The facilitator is Susie Kagami, who is on staff at JTF. JTF has an AdHoc Committee to look at the Japan Center Mall strategy for the future. 10 people with expertise in real estate, development, urban planning were invited due to their experience and professionalism on the subject matter. Information gathering with the property owners of the various mall parcels is currently taking place (Union Bank, 3D, Flanagan family, Mar family, Kinokuniya, etc). Our goal is to understand where they are at this moment in time during the pandemic as things are rapidly changing. The intent of the group is to look at the future of development of the mall between Laguna, Fillmore, Post, Geary.

9. General public comment*

6:50

10. Announcements and New Business

6:55

Grace Horikiri will be taking part in a webinar tomorrow to leverage social media for small businesses between 4-5PM. This is hosted by NextSF, which is a social media company that has been conducting webinars for small businesses.

The Golden State Warriors asked Grace to take part in a Stop Asian Hate PSA that will be aired on TV.

Emily Glick: I wanted to raise some possibilities and discussion for next month around the Block by Block increases and what possible options there are budget-wise in order to best support our mission and businesses coming out of the pandemic. Marketing should be the priority to get people back into Japantown and in our businesses.

Rich Hashimoto: The JMA is hosting a customer appreciation month between June-July for

its participating merchants. If a customer spends at least \$100, they will be entered into a drawing with a number of prizes available. We will purchase items from the JMA merchants as well to support this program. The program will be staffed in Suite 320 7 days a week for the month.

11. Action Item: Adjournment

7:00

Motion: Dennis Kern; Second: Mary Ishisaki

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40PM.

Next JCBD Board Meeting: The next scheduled JCBD Board meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 6pm. Due to Shelter in Place Order the board meeting will be conducted on ZOOM. Login information is located at the top of the page

***General Public Comment:** Members of the public may address the Board for up to two minutes with respect to each item on the agenda, and may speak up to two minutes regarding matters not on the agenda during general public comment.

Agenda materials distributed to the JCBD Board members are available for inspection during regular office hours please contact melissa@jtowncbd.org to request materials.