



February Board Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2022 • 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Via ZOOM conference: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86909160163>

Phone Option: 1-669-90-06833 • Meeting ID: 869 0916 0163

Attendees: Robert Sakai, Mary Ishisaki, Kathy Nelsen, Emily Nichols, Daniel Byron

Absent: Dennis Kern, Kim Kolbe, David Dunham, Steve Ishii, Jerry Ono

Staff: Grace Horikiri, Brandon Quan, Melissa Bailey Nihei, Max Nihei

Guests: Joaquin Torres (City Assessor), Kenneth Chen (Aide to Assessor Torres), Sandy Mori (JTF), Alice Kawahatsu (JTF), Emily Murase (JTF), Susie Kagami (JTF), Dmitri Shimolin (AVS), Roland Tolosa (AVS),

1. **Call to order and roll call** **6:00**
2. **Action Item: Resolution Making Findings to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings Under California Government Code Section 54953(e)** **6:03**

There was no vote on this item since a quorum was not met this month.
3. **Action Item: Approval of January 2022 Minutes** **6:10**

There was no vote on this item since a quorum was not met this month.
4. **Action Item: Approval of January 2022 Financial Report** **6:13**

There was no vote on this item since a quorum was not met this month.
5. **Guest: City Assessor Recorder, Joaquin Torres** **6:15**

Assessor Torres was introduced by Grace. He was the former director of OEWD and instrumental in assisting Japantown small businesses during COVID. Assessor Torres introduced himself as the new elected Assessor Recorder and expressed his gratitude in having served Japantown in his previous roles and offered continued support in his new role. He detailed the role of the office and how it relates to stable, secure funding provided to nonprofits by the City. \$3.7 billion of the City budget is directed towards this support. He has been focusing on improving the systems and accessibility of the office for its constituencies. In addition to that work, administering the transfer tax, following through on Carmen Chu's audit program, and focusing on racial equity within communities of color and around racist and restrictive covenants. AB 1466 requires the work to remove these restrictions to begin, and he wants to use this as an opportunity to elevate the history of San Francisco and its impact on communities of color. A new estate planning program was begun recently focusing on providing free estate plans as a beginning of this work. Issues around going into probate without preparation will no longer disproportionately impact communities of color. Besides that, he is doing his best and making appearances on these issues, including the issues around Prop 19. If there are or is information within the community looking at the covenants and deeds and the language within, please reach out to the Assessor's office for help on this issue. Assessor Torres also provided information on the

Notices of Assessed Values normally received in July - August. Please look at these documents so you can find out if that value is correct or not. The office can help with understanding this information and how it is gathered and determined. The survey process done to determine the impact on COVID was mostly responded to by hotels, and the only major change that was able to be done was in condominiums. It was the only sector where dips in value were seen. They are currently working through a number of appeals on this process. The City is facing a \$108 million surplus for the first time in 20 years, which is something that the office has been proud to be a part of. Please reach out if there are any individual questions on supplemental assessments. Additional updates on any specific areas of the office can be provided in future as well.

6. Executive Director & Staff Reports

6:25

A. Mid Year Report for FY 21-22

The Mid Year Report was reviewed and approved by OEWD and shared with the Board. This will be shared with stakeholders and posted on the JCBD website with the Annual Report.

B. Applied Analysis Japantown Economic Impact Report

The letter from Katsura Apartments was shared with the Board. They will be donating the money to pay for the Economic Impact Report by Applied Analysis. This is an essential report to have in our purview and keep for reference if/when we may have to present this in future issues related to income impacts on Japantown merchants. This information will be shared with City departments, including the Mayor's office.

C. Office of the Controller & OEWD - Economic Recovery Dashboard

JCBD was contacted by the Controller's office to create a dashboard to measure San Francisco's economic recovery. JCBD was approached because it is felt that this would be useful for the work we do. An initial introductory meeting was held with Grace and Brandon. The objective is to measure the metrics of what happened during COVID and how merchant corridors are recovering. The Dashboard will be open to the public, and the information can be used to help form the Strategic Plan for JCBD.

D. 2022 CBD/BID Program Impact & Analysis Survey

JCBD Staff and Board were asked to complete this survey which will be used by the City to see how much work the CBDs and BIDs have done during COVID. This is a way to exemplify what was done, and can be a tool to use for grant and other reporting purposes. It will be shared once received.

E. Small Business Support

Max Nihei is part of the JCBD team focusing on small business support. He will be working with Natasha Weiss next week to film Marketing Reelz for several businesses including: Amiko Boutique, Kataichi, Jitlada, Jina Bakes, and Sakura Sakura.

F. Cleaning & Safety Highlights

JCBD is working on joining the 311 Connected Workers app. This is directly connected to the 311 app and the Community Ambassadors would respond to requests within the JCBD boundaries. There have been some technical difficulties getting the phones connected but this should be fixed by March. There is some work to be done around the double requests, and we are working with the East Cut CBD to see how they have worked through these issues in their area.

There were 5 video requests for this month: a fatal pedestrian crash on Geary and Laguna (2 request, one from SFPD and one from a PI working for the family), robbery (request from SFPD), and two car break in requests from the public. AI has also been reporting an increase in homeless individuals that are not familiar in the Japantown area.

G. SafeCity Camera Program Updates

Currently the license agreement for the Nakamoto Building is in the works and needs to be reviewed by Counsel Claudine Cheng. Further license agreement work will continue once the funding from the Nihonmachi Community Coalition comes in. There was also discussion around additional signage options to increase awareness of the program since car break ins are still a problem. SFSafe and the Sheriff's Office are potential funding sources. Finally, a presentation will be created to inform the public and stakeholders about the program, its importance, and potential expansion.

Dmitri Shimolin provided an update on a lawsuit brought against the City regarding SFPD's real time access to Union Square BID cameras. The City has a robust privacy ordinance, so the case is ongoing, but 2 weeks ago the judge rejected the claim that SFPD had violated the ordinance and effectively found that SFPD was working within the privacy ordinance. There was not a lot of coverage so wanted to report out on this since it gives a lot of clarity to the subject.

7. Update on Board Retreat/5 Year Strategic Plan

6:40

Melissa gave a presentation on the definition of a 5 Year Strategic Plan, the goals of creating one, and the process for drafting. Next steps include scheduling a Board Retreat, hiring a consultant, and beginning the work of creating the Strategic Planning committee.

8. JCBD Marketing & Communication Committee Updates

6:45

The Marketing Committee is working on the Press Trip scheduled for this Spring. LGPR will be reaching out to at least 5 editors of magazines in the Bay Area and nationally for a press trip to taste and experience Japantown. Their write ups will encourage visitors to come to Japantown. The Omakase JTown Mini Food Tour is in progress, several businesses have been engaged. The goal for launch is in June. The Marketing Reelz are also in progress. JCBD will be collaborating with several organizations including Nihonmachi Street Fair and Japantown Cultural District to activate the Peace Plaza throughout the year.

9. General public comment - 2 minute per person

6:50

10. Announcements and New Business

6:55

Alex Prouty will be resigning from the JCBD Board and moving on to new opportunities in Florida. His input and support was greatly appreciated.

Jerry Ono has retired from Union Bank and will also be resigning from the Board.

A. No. CA Cherry Blossom Festival

Rich Hashimoto gave an update stating the festival will be held on April 9-10 & 15-16, 2022. It will be a scaled down version and will span from Laguna to Webster only. Buchanan Mall will not be utilized due to the Shared Spaces. The Peace Plaza will be used for cultural performances and Post St. will host the booths and vendors. There will possibly be no tea ceremony this year at Hokka Nichi Bei Kai. There will be no parade this year. Recently, George Yamasaki passed away and planning for a memorial is in progress.

B. Buchanan Mall/Osaka Way Revitalization Project Update

Robert Sakai, Jon Osaki, Emily Murase, and Grace met with the Asawa Family and archivist/manager. The Asawa Family is excited about the revitalization and want to be involved. Things like the renaming of the Plaza also need to have a plan in place for the maintenance before this happens. This is the beginning of the process and there is no formal budget yet. DPW and the Planning Department are working with them to establish these figures. There will be many more updates to come.

11. Action Item: Adjournment**7:00**

Motion: Mary Ishisaki; Second: Kathy Nelsen
The motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM.

Next JCBD Board Meeting: The next scheduled JCBD Board meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 6pm. Due to the rise of the Delta variant of COVID, we will be continuing with our virtual meetings for the time being until we hear more from the City on guidance. After the roll call at the start of each meeting, the JCBD Board will take a vote to allow teleconference meetings under the CA Government Code Section 54953(e).

Login information is located at the top of the page. Agenda materials distributed to the JCBD Board members are available for inspection during regular office hours please contact Meliisa Bailey Nihei at melissa@jtowncbd.org to request materials.