

Fillmore Heritage Center - Meeting Notes
July 27, 2015; 6:30pm - 8:00pm
West Bay Conference Center
1290 Fillmore Street

Supervisor London Breed (District 5)
Christine Maher (OCII)
Joaquin Torres (OEWD)

Supervisor London Breed:

We have challenges in this community with housing and programs, but we are here to discuss Yoshi's. We have to figure out what to do. The last meeting yielded new ideas, and what is clear is that what the community wants is to maintain it (Fillmore Heritage Center) as an arts space. Clearly this is a challenging situation, and we all wanted to see it (Yoshi's) thrive. We're going to have to figure out what to do moving forward.

Reverend Brown (opening remarks):

Remarks on FD Haynes Garden Apts.

It is a sad day that we come to this point that the one gift that black folks gave to the world: jazz -- that gift has been taken over by folks that don't look like us. Shame on San Francisco. If this city has an ounce of a moral compass about it, it will not talk about, talk at, or talk under black folks, but it will sit down with the people and talk to them about how the people can stay in the community. Redevelopment Agency took millions of dollars out of this area. The voucher system wasn't worth the ink it was used to write with.

SFJazz on Franklin made it impossible for us to compete (in terms of booking acts, drawing in the jazz crowd). We need to come together and bring Jazz back to the "Harlem of the West."

Christine Maher (OCII)

Overview on Yoshi's:

- \$80 million project through a public/private partnership. All condos have been sold off. Includes 112 space parking garage constructed with public funds/support.
- Currently owned by Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure
- Former agency leased entire space to FDC
- November 2012: Yoshi's SF filed bankruptcy
- FDC began operating music venue in 2014 (The Addition)
- It shortly became apparent FDC would not be able to make payments

- City issued notice of default for HUD loan.
- OCII terminated lease
- Total amount due to OCIII and city is \$18 million.
- OCII is successor to former development agency - will address issues alongside community

Joaquin Torres:

Remarks:

Public comment is to ask additional questions we might not be able to answer tonight. It's our intention to come back in September with more details on where we are at.

Last community meeting showed concern over busts of Jim Jefferson and LeRoy King. We are moving forward with plan to move to safe place.

Piano, however, belongs to Yoshi's Oakland, and will be sold in deal.

I want to reiterate, no new tenant has been selected. There is going to be a public selection process moving forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sean O'Farrell (Bay Area Media Group):

Brief video: Showcasing prominent African American's from and in community -- "End economic tyranny. Economic Prosperity must begin"

Let's talk about reparations owed to African American community before we're addressing everything else.

Ace Washington:

We must evaluate where the deception started from. You can see, 10 years ago, where this all started. There might be a conflict of interest. My name is Ace, and I'm on this case. I have a moral obligation, and I don't need nobodies' permission because god put me on a mission.

We need community reform before we can move forward.

Reverend Townsend:

I haven't heard anything that encourages me about Yoshi's. The greatest problem beside the housing crisis is our economic crisis. We have no commercial district. We have no black people working for black people. Nobody gets paid from a black boss.

A city without a vibrant black community is a dead city. We were the life blood of the

city. Will the city do what it can to ensure there is African American in the ownership and operation of the facility moving forward? All I want from the city is a yes or no.

Barry Dowel (Access Advocates):

We have powerful people in our community. We're trying to make sure we can keep the remnants of our black history alive in SF. We should be worried about economic impacts for black community. Our community taken over by every other group except ours.

We want to collaborate with all other organizations to keep Yoshi's part of the community. Looking at exploring ideas for culinary training, and entertainment center. Let's preserve our heritage, not just for us, but for our youth.

Charles Melancon:

New elected official of Fillmore Neighborhood Association. Has catering business which has served community events. Lost money on 3 day reggae festival but is an entrepreneur and will get it back. Goal is to operate Yoshi's.

Sherry Taylor:

It would be advantageous if a few of us had a few minutes to talk about FD Haynes to get out some facts so we're not stuck at the eleventh hour. If time permits, if you could allow five minutes. Relocation, evictions, continue to permit us to talk about that?

Jackie Wright:

Get the Bay Area LASC (?) involved in process to regain Yoshi's.

1.) Their name came up as organization providing \$3 million in online credits to help the selling of FD Haynes.

2.) Same organization has underwritten report about Broad Street corridor saying that churches there are problem for commercial development. There's also 9 empty store fronts (on Broad Street) but they don't say anything about that, but do about churches.

Maggie:

We feel strong about property at 1300. We used to be able to shop, see shows, go ice skating, and never need to go downtown in our neighborhood.

It hurts me to see our last black property not being used. The city should write the check for us, they owe us that property.

Speaker:

I wanted to be hopeful and I wanted to believe. I want to trust you guys. I want fairness. I want people to have equal opportunity. You said nothing was going to be done until you got back. But lo' and behold the marquis is blazing.

Let's keep it blazing. Let's get transparency.

Ted Frasier:

It was confusing when we started out. There's a new movement starting here. We got some growing pains we got to go through. I'm a longshoremen, and our motto is "an injury to one is an injury to all."

We need to be able to focus. The main thing is unity. With unity we cannot fail. We got to be careful. It's not only other folks we got to be concerned about. It's some of our own folks who settle with crumbs on table instead of going for whole enchilada. The strategy is to divide and conquer to keep us apart. When we stay together we win.

Let's set up a committee with community, like they did at Yerba Buena, to avoid confusion. Let's stick together.

Christine Harris:

This became my home, and I've invested a lot of my own money in this community. The Citizen's Committee to Preserve the Heritage Center.

The committees' 4 principles:

- 1.) Stop the sale of the Oak and Market property
- 2.) Retain use of commercial property for restaurant or culturally relevant purpose
- 3.) Get the entertainment venue (Yoshi's) back up ASAP, even if temporary, just to support surrounding business
- 4.) Ensure African American ownership
- 5.) Get the vendor operating ASAP
- 6.) We should be at the table to decide ownership.

Speaker:

Would like to represent attorney Carl Williams. Letter to Mayor Ed Lee, RE: Task force.

- 1.) Transparency, we need it in all aspects of this process, and beyond in operations.
- 2.) Community oversight in operations and decisions
- 3.) Community capital and investment - what makes you a participant in day-to-day operations

The sale gives the city a chance to signal the support. Black entrepreneurship must be supported.

Daniel Landry:

Where there's no vision, people parish. But it's not just about people, it's about business. It's surprising in a city such as SF, something so simple could become so complicated. We got to come to grips with what we really want to represent. Heritage means birthright, but whose birthright?

Stop pushing yourself away from community, and come toward the community. We need to redefine the language. The neighborhood representative isn't being inclusive.

Speaker: Carlotta Jackson Foster Services Agency

Have been in SF since age 4.

The heritage center is about the input that was given to city in terms of black professionals. How could they sit there and tell us we don't have the right to that building.

When the LGBT community needed a new center, and they have now a fabulous center on Market Street, and didn't pay a dollar for it.

When redevelopment came over and gentrified neighborhood they promised black input. They lied. We need to be valued. It is a duty owed by San Francisco.

Trey Jordan:

This city in my opinion is described by two words: Richest, Racist. All you have to do is think about the chronology. 10 years ago fed raided SF as most predatory city. And we're the richest city. Richism + Racism the city is run by it. Loans rates are changing. It's a predatory city. Blacks arrested 10x more etc. We are the richest city. We have ten projections, development everywhere, we get nothing.

The richest city, 300 million come to the coiffeurs. Deals are constantly made. It's like being in the ocean and not having a drop of water. WE get nothing. We cannot give up this last vestige of our heritage.

Mars Breslow:

Reiterating proposal from last meeting on youth-based music center where tuition would be income based, ran by parks dept. or has some SFAC involvement. From NYC to SF, this issue has happened to not just blacks, but Jews and Italians. Music community center stipulation for 90-95% to go to low income kids. This affects all races. Justin Herman-Geary created a racial divide, not giving this back to the community would be a shame.

Rico:

What can we produce? What can we create to make this happen? This is a young community that is evolving. How can we make jazz as an anchor to this development?

Speaker:

1. Facility maintains its jazz quality
2. Crossed 11 million its first year. Jazz can survive in the right element.
3. That is a viable economic entity that can survive with the support of the city and county of SF.

Speaker:

Educational processes need to be supported. It can still be a great venue if you will give it support. Education for our students and the preservation of our African American heritage. We have to preserve our own heritage.

Speaker:

We got to look to be innovative with our ideas. What can we do to create...

Timothy Ellens:

Investor, 1st and 2nd round: It is my hope the facility maintains its Jazz core value. This is a facility that grossed \$11 million in one year. Jazz can survive in the right environment. Let's look upon art forms with reverence. We need to attract black people from other regions. Antioch, Richmond etc. We can do it with right resources.

David:

Representing educational and music processes. Developed Jazz studies at CCSF. Education for our students, and community togetherness are important.

Willie Brown:

A lot of money is going into this facility. Questions should be raised about what would happen to the community. There should be more Black people here. We don't seem to have the same level of support that they have in China Town. All matters that adversely affect us should be addressed. In the 60's all the churches took advantage of being able to be a non-profit. This town has a strong hold on affordable housing. Who is on

the board of these non-profits coming into 40-80 million dollars after mortgages are paid. Thursday is the day they're going to bid on these. We have to hold onto the building next door. The city should not walk away from this. Introduce on an emergency basis with the city board to step in. I don't know how it got this far. We ought to be about trying to orchestrate this process. You need to be in greater numbers. Tomorrow at the Board of Supervisors you need to be there. Under any circumstances should this building be taken away, you need to be militant enough to make your vote count. We need to give Ms. Breed all the resources she needs. The only way they're going to become committed is to see your heavy duty government involvement in maintaining that building. Our community is perceived not to have the numbers we need to do what we want to do. We have the political muscle. We have London. I'm certain Ed Lee will not allow this to happen to the people of the Fillmore if we present it in the right way.
FD Haynes remarks

NAACP:

Reduce the exodus of Blacks in SF. The artist community has failed us by never owning the venue. These elements are important: City owns real estate, credible property organization that represents the people of SF.

John Templeton:

California Freedom Trail-Tally up Community Benefit agreements and produce a report. Add that up, it hasn't been delivered. Proceeds from sales of redevelopment agency properties go to black community. City never did EPA on its actions on African Americans.

Michael Johnson Developer of Yoshi's Real Estate Developers:

There were more attorneys, contractors, real estate developers before. In SF we have very little economic development in the Black community. This is the new environment we're in. There were only 2 developers interested in this project. Private financing was so difficult. Amazement that a public/private partnership like this was successful. There is no other 40,000 square foot property where a Black group owned it. We were dictated that we had to do the jazz restaurant. We were committed to this. It was a bad decision. Because of the framework the redevelopment put on us, we had too much debt. The debt led to the inability of us to operate. The city needs to take a different approach to the financial structure. Taking that on comes with basic overhead is daunting. This will take concessions the communities will have to demand for the city to make.

Shaun Toomey (Student at CCSF, born and raised in community):

I haven't learned anything about black history. We need to include our youth. We want to learn about our history. We're not paying attention to where we came from. It's the

Harlem of the West. How did I not learn that in school? Growing up here? We want to know.

Speaker:

City needs to tally up community benefit agreements. Give report on that, and start from there when addressing new issues.

Bobby Webb:

I have been a part of multiple Juneteenth festivals, and the mural on Geary and Steiner was my project. The Fillmore is more than jazz

President New Community Foundation:

I'm a long time resident, I'm about the children. This wouldn't happen in China Town. Start talking to your children. Our children are dying every day. We're going to save Yoshi's.

Cheryl Sammon:

The Haynes Garden residents are upset. Bid is on Thursday people will lose their homes.

Speaker:

I read everything about Yoshi's. It did not have to close. We have to save it. Any community without Black capital we don't count. Our community does have the capacity to do this if we are transparent. We can control that asset. I submitted a proposal that makes sense. We can still save it, we have the capacity for a financial effort. Please take a look at the proposal. We can close the deal within 45 days.

Ken Johnson:

Everyone is interested in scripts. Let our group go back in there and do what we do. Can we operate it as we had done in the short term?

***Disclaimer: Since the order of speakers did not follow the order of the Speaker Sign-In sheet, we could not capture all the names of speakers, thus was left only as "speaker". We cannot guarantee the spelling of the speakers' names in our notes due to the pace of the meeting.**

Note: We will keep you informed with information about future meetings and/or RFQ opportunities through the suggested method of contact on the sign-in sheet. We will make an attempt to contact those who did not leave their emails and let them know that copies are available for pick-up at Room 160 in City Hall. Please help us spread the word.