

**BIJAC Board Meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022
By Zoom**

Present: Carol Reitz: President, Vern Nakata, Karen Matsumoto, Katy Curtis, Lilly Kodama, Gary Sakuma, Ken Matsudaira, Carolyn Hart, Jason Moses.

Call to Order – 5:30 pm by Carol Reitz on Zoom

August Minutes sent to earlier to all: No corrections

Treasurer’s report – See Attached

Introductions & Reflections	<p>Jason Moses was introduced and each person reflected on how BIJAC was significant to them this year. Some reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best part of BIJAC is Mochi Tsuki, the March 30 ceremony, and our picnic. • The Mochi Tsuki brings the community together to celebrate our heritage. • The picnic brings legacy families together and opportunities for the community to join us and get involved.
Our Resources, Strengths and Assets	<p>Some shared thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIJAC maintains a strong JA identity. Our presence is integral to the island and our history is interwoven with the wider community. • We bring the story of injustice to people today and have garnered a sense of respect and power in the community. • We have great empathy for others (like farmers, Indipino community, etc.) • We have opportunities to connect with different groups with different missions. We need to nurture old partnerships and create new bridges. Our legacy of farming is an opportunity. • Mochi Tsuki annual event is a celebration of generations of islanders and brings the community and the broader region together. • Our annual picnic strengthens bonds with legacy families and connects with new and old friends
Mochi Tsuki 2023	<p>Carol has started to connect with some key players and all seems willing to have an in-person event. The group overwhelmingly approved going forward with plans, contingent on the COVID situation. Debra will reserve Woodward School for our site. Save the date: Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023</p>
Suyematsu Farm	<p>Akio Suyematsu sold his Day Rd. family farm to the City at a nominal price with the agreement that his property would remain a farm. There are several stakeholders that have different visions of how the property should be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stakeholders: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Friends of the Farm”, a nonprofit organization that the City charged to maintain and manage the property. 2. The farmers who worked with Akio for decades and continue to farm the land and maintain equipment. 3. Historical Preservation Commission whose mission is to preserve and protect the farm and historical buildings on the site. 4. BIJAC represents the JA and community at large and is in the process of listening to all perspectives to determine our vision of the legacy of Suyematsu Farm. • An engaged and lively discussion followed from members present, including those with historical family connections to the farm. • A committee was formed to determine our vision and goals. Committee members include: Carol Reitz, Katy Curtis, Vern Nakata, Jason Moses, Gary Sakuma, Ken Matsudaira, Carolyn Hart.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Garfunkel has offered to organize a meeting with BIJAC and farmers Friends of the Farm is doing a master plan presentation by zoom to anyone interested. Thursday, Sept. 22, at 1:00 pm. Zoom link below. • We will ask Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) to meet with us to get their perspective.
Memorial Visitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the absence of NPS ranger, Carol and Carolyn have been greeting and giving tours to groups that are visiting the Memorial on weekends. They have received wonderful feedback and stories, as well as data on visitors.
Lava Ridge Wind Turbine - Minidoka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Reitz, Mary Abo, Karen Matsumoto, Val Tollefson have been meeting with Friends of Minidoka over this issue. Mary's report and Bureau of Land Management news release are attached.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted

Joyce Nishimura, Secretary

Topic: Suyematsu Master Planning - BIJAC

Time: Sep 22, 2022 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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