**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, January 28, 2023 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Pierce County

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Quorum reached at 9:59 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nguyen at 10:02 AM.

*Present:* Chair Nam Nguyen, 1st Vice Chair Lydia Faitalia, 2nd Vice Chair Julio Diaz, Cmmr. Lalita Uppala, Cmmr. Carrie Huie-Pascua, Cmmr. Kendall Kosai, Cmmr. Va’eomatoka Valu, Cmmr. Ekkarath Sisavatdy, and Cmmr. Sam Cho

*Absent:* Cmmr. Chongsun Abbott (excused), Cmmr. Ping Ping (excused), and Cmmr. Satpal Singh (unexcused).

*Staff:* Executive Director Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, Project Manager K’gnausa Yodkerepauprai, and Project Coordinator Brenda O’Brien

1. **Welcome**

Welcoming remarks were made by Cmmr. Emeritus Lua Pritchard. APCC has secured $7.7 million in committed funds towards their new building! There is a groundbreaking planned for July, and the building is set to be demolished in August.

Since fundraising began, costs have gone up, so they will be going back to the state to request an additional $2 million. All in all, the project still needs $3 million to complete, but she is confident it can be obtained by July,

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Cho

Seconded by: Cmmr. Kosai

*Motion carried unanimously.*

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Valu

Seconded by: Cmmr. Huie-Pascua

*Motion carried unanimously.*

1. **Sponsorship Request**

A new request came in from the Filipino American Northwest Association in Spokane for $500. They will be hosting an ANHPI Heritage Month on May 7th.

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Diaz

Seconded by: 2nd Vice Chair Faitalia

*Motion carried unanimously.*

1. **Commissioner Community Updates**

Cmmr. Uppala has been helping community register for APIC Lobby Days, and has been helping to plan an opportunity in April for community to meet with elected representatives from the area. She has also been working to develop a coalition for small businesses that can advocate for them to area officials regarding their needs.

The Economic Development Committee has requested to have CAPAA host a listening forum in April for small businesses. Lastly, she was present for a meeting with Sen. Cantwell regarding gun violence and the need for the ANHPI voice on this issue. MH and affordable housing, especially around inclusive zoning, were also discussed during the meeting.

Cmmr. Cho reported the Korean American Coalition held their first convention and gala since the pandemic. He thanked Cmmr. Sisavatdy for attending both. The coalition was able to create an online voters guide for the Korean American community that can be accessed [here](https://kavotersguide.org/). He was also in Washington D.C. and had the opportunity to attend the first Lunar New Year Celebration at the White House. During his remarks, President Biden expressed his commitment to stopping anti-Asian hate and banning assault rifles.

Cmmr. Sisavatdy took part in a fundraising gala at the Lao Service Center over the holidays. He had a good conversation with community leaders who have a strong desire to provide support services. They don’t have the resources or the knowledge to know where to start, but they would like to learn. Another community member is also considering developing a nonprofit for elders in the Lao community, as they have been isolated and their mental health has been impacted due to the pandemic.

Cmmr. Faitalia reports that many in the community are voicing their concerns around sustainability. She has been listening to their perspectives and gathering as much information as she can to understand how to

best move our community forward in regards to education. This includes increasing accessibility and shifting from a model of deficits to a model of abundance. We can’t dance around the fact that the better education one receives, the more access to opportunities there are.

Cmmr. Diaz spent a lot of time helping small businesses in the last quarter. Two in particular needed assistance with obtaining permits, and he is happy to report that both JoyJoy Bakery and the Tilted Rock are up and running now.

He has also been assisting Erin Lopez at DFI with putting together a workshop next month. They would like to learn from CAPAA what barriers are making it difficult for small business owners from obtaining loans. If any of the commissioners have names of business owners that could provide testimonies on challenges being faced by them, he is happy to pass that on to them.

Lastly, he reported that he has been kept in the loop about the efforts of establishing a Filipino Consulate to our state.

Cmmr. Huie-Pascua attended the first in-person event in three years at the Filipino American Community Hall in Wapato over the holidays. There will also be the first Sukiyaki dinner, since the pandemic, to raise funds for the Japanese American community on Sunday.

She has been working closely with the local mental health agencies to discuss how to best ensure MH accessibility to communities of color, especially youth. Lastly, her goals for the Health & Human Service Committee is making sure they remain in alignment with the Strategic Plan aims. She hopes to learn what each commissioner’s priorities on the committee are as well.

Cmmr. Kosai has been working with staff on the bills that are in session this year. The bills of note include the implementation of Chinese American History Month and establishing an anti-hate hotline. The Asian Jew Initiative has also continued to meet. The next one will be held February 1st if anyone else would like to attend.

From July 12-17th, the OCA is having their 50th anniversary in Washington DC. He has been helping to plan the event, and there are plans to invite commissioners from around the country to participate in a roundtable discussion.

Cmmr. Valu reported that homelessness has been a real issue. There are up to 4 families sharing apartments, due to not being able to afford costs. There has also been an uptic of individuals opening up LLC’s. Support is needed to help them navigate these businesses.

It has already been one year since the eruption in Tonga. Things have been going well. There has been progress on cleanup efforts, and over 400 homes are being built. Lastly, he is still working to establish a Tongan Day in King County.

Cmmr. Emeritus Pritchard lauded Cmmr. Valu for his work with them. He has been instrumental in distributing food to families in Pierce County.

Cmmr. Nguyen shared that Olympia is planning an Asian American Culture celebration in May. He has also been involved with a workgroup that will advise the Legislature on poverty in the state. He would love to invite anyone at the Commission to join. Lastly, he received a call from Gov. Inslee, after the recent shootings. They had a discussion on policy and culturally relevant MH.

**VI**.  **Staff Report**

ED Hasegawa gave a verbal overview of the Staff Report at 10:58 AM. Full report can be accessed below.



1. **Public Comment**

**Perla Gamboa,** from the Dept. of Revenue, presented information about the Working Family Tax Credit. It will benefit 400k taxpayers, and applications will start being accepted next week. The credit will provide cash back to families of low to moderate income, and is also open to single individuals. CAPAA’s demography report has been important to DOR in determining where they need to focus translations. Paper applications are currently available in 13 languages, and limited info on their website is available in 20 languages. They have also been approaching specific employers to advertise informational materials in respective translations to their employees that are limited in their English proficiency. Applications can be completed at [workingfamiliescredit.wa.gov](https://workingfamiliescredit.wa.gov/). Fliers are also available for distribution there. They also welcome any opportunity to partner with us.

**Sen. Steve Conway** of the 27th LD welcomed the Commission to Tacoma. He has represented the state for over three decades, and serves on the Advisory Board of APCC. His current focus has been on vaccinations for Hepatitis B & C, and his priorities include housing, with special emphasis on low-income housing, and behavioral health. Covid is still alive and well, so please be careful.

**Rep. Sharlett Mena** of the 29th LD is sponsoring 11 bills! Voting Rights Act is in Rules. She is also sponsoring a bill on preventing utility shutoffs during heat waves, a bill on banning toxic chemicals in cosmetics, and a bill reducing plastics. A full list of the bills she is sponsoring can be found [here](https://app.leg.wa.gov/bi/report/billsbysponsor/?biennium=2023-24&houseSponsorId=27494&sponsorType=house&billsBySponsorReportType=primarybills&hasCompanionBills=false).

**Dr. Ann Ishimaru,** representing CAPAA on the Washington Family Engagement Framework under OSPI, reported back to the Commission on its status. The workgroup identified 8 key elements of its framework addressing injustice and inequalities. The framework was submitted to the Legislature in

2021, and a $5 million grant was awarded to establish a Family Engagement Center. Full presentation can be accessed below.

**Cmmr. Emeritus Rey Pascua** notified the Commission that Francisco Irigon is on life support after brain surgery. He is working with the Filipino American Community Hall in Wapato to have them established as historical landmark, and to have their district established as a historical district. His current focus includes developing a Filipino American curriculum for the state, asking for a proclamation to honor Larry Itliong, and trying to reestablish a Filipino American Consulate in Washington.

**City of Fife Councilmember Bryan** Yambe is the 2nd ANHPI elected in the city. Fife is a very appropriate model of how things should be run in Puget Sound, and the ANHPI community is the largest demographic in the city. Feel free to reach out if you want to see what they have implemented or are currently working on.

**Hakan Yilmaz**, the SCSEP Project Director at the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, shared a little of what their organization does to support the community. Their primary objective is to train the senior population to re-enter the workforce. They have a big presence amongst the Korean and Chinese communities, and is looking forward to connecting to the rest of the ANHPI communities. He is very appreciative of the demography report we released. One recommendation he has is for separating those that are 55 and older from other categories.

**Nadine Shiroma** touched on Sen. Conway’s comments regarding the change from the CDC on screening requirements for Hepatitis B. Previously, only those who were at risk were screened, so this an important development. She wanted to bring to our attention specifically that the Institute of Biotechnology published an article entitled “The Path Forward,” that provides some interesting insight on health disparities for communities of color.

**Rep. Jake Fey** of the 27th LD is the current Chair of the Transportation Committee. They are presently working on the Move Ahead package that addresses the impacts of transportation on overburdened communities. He is also the main sponsor of APCC’s $2 million capital budget request. ED Hasegawa praised Rep. Fey for creating one of the most equitable transportation packages benefitting communities of color, and thanked him for the thoughtful way it was put together.

**VIII. Lunch**

The Commission broke for lunch at 11:33 AM, and reconvened at noon.

**IX. Statewide Sexual Exploitation Relief Center for Adult Survivors**

Rep. Tina Orwall gave an overview of the work they have been engaging in to support adult survivors of human trafficking. A statewide exploitation center to provide a safe space for those survivors is being introduced in HB 1089. She has also sponsored HB 1134, which is implementing the 988 behavioral health and suicide prevention hotline.

**X. Environmental Policy Priorities – Transportation Sector**

Kelly Hall, Director of Climate Solutions, shared what their priorities for 2023 are. The Climate Commitment Act funds up to $1 billion a year to reduce target emissions. Amongst its aims, the act seeks to aid homeowners to transition from gas to heat pumps, which can be an expensive barrier for them to do so. It also seeks to target emissions from heavy duty trucks to 0 emissions. More information on the Act can be accessed below.



**XI. SB 5304 – Testing Individuals to Provide Language Access to State Services**

Maria Siguenza, ED of CHA, shared a bill they are tracking relating to language testing and certification. The program was created in the ‘90’s for DSHS for interpreters on staff and translators. However, due to Covid, the bill lost its foundation.

Universal Language Services has been referred to test interpreters for certification, but they are no longer testing for the elements that make effective translators due to funding. This is risky, and she believes we need to look at the issue more closely.

**XII. Legislative Preview**

PM Yodkerepauprai provided a preview of our legislative priorities. A full list tracking these bills can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q9NgEnowXlQxir4IeMb3oJNV2i7RBUOoHC_0SXKoukg/edit#gid=0).

Cmmr. Cho moved to support the APCC capital budget request. It was seconded by 2nd Vice Chair Diaz. Cmmr. Cho also moved to support CAPAA’s 2023 legislative priorities. It was seconded by Cmmr. Sisavatdy.

**XIII. CAPAA 50th Anniversary Planning**

Our 50th anniversary is on February 26, 2024. We can use our Needs Assessment allocation towards a professional production for the event. We want to include a brief history snapshot of CAPAA and the

following awards: Vanguard, Lifetime Achievement, and Unsung Hero (proposed by Chair Nguyen, and given to more than one recipient).

Full criteria of the awards will be distributed, and nominations will be accepted at the next Board meeting. A plated gala will be ruled out due to cost and the burden of finding creative ways to fund it. It also most like will be virtual, though we may consider hosting an event in the Columbia Room during Leg Session.

Cmmr. Sisavatdy would like to include a full list of all cmmrs. and ED’s that served at CAPAA. Cmmr. Cho would like to have us showcase our history since our origins. Cmmr. Diaz would like to include a synthesis of achievements and milestones. Cmmr. Uppala also encouraged allowing the community to step up and help fund/host an in-person event, as the consensus seems to be a preference for one.

Cmmr. Emeritus Pascua committed to $1K in support of this idea and suggested inviting Gov. Dan Evans.

**XIV. Good of the Order**

Cmmr. Emeritus Pritchard sits on Transportation Board and Environmental Justice Council, so please let her know if there’s anything she should look into.

Cmmr. Valu inquired on the status of the Monaghan statue in Spokane. There is a formal process taking place on the city council on how to best have it torn down.

**XV. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.