**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, March 19, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom Conference Call

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

Quorum reached at 9:58 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nguyen at 10:01 AM.

*Present:* Chair Nam Nguyen, 1st Vice Lydia Faitalia, 2nd Vice Chair Carrie Huie-Pascua, Cmmr. Julio Diaz, Cmmr. Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Cmmr. Kendall Kosai, Cmmr. Lalita Uppala, Cmmr. Ping Ping, Cmmr. Chongsun Abbott, Cmmr. Toka Valu, Cmmr. Sam Cho, and Cmmr. Satpal Singh Sidhu

*Absent:* None

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

1. **Welcome**

Welcoming remarks were made by Lua Pritchard, Executive Director of Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC) in Tacoma. She shared the plans that APCC has envisioned for their new building to better serve the community. They are also planning to develop a mixed-use apartment facility in the Lincoln District, which is largely comprised of Vietnamese, Lao, and Filipino communities. To learn more about the building project, please go to:

<https://www.asiapacificculturalcenter.org/new-building>.

1. **Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Cmmr. Ping. Seconded by 2nd Vice Chair Huie-Pascua. No dissents, or abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the last meeting minutes was made by 2nd Vice Chair Huie-Pascua. Seconded by Cmmr. Cho. No dissents, or abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **Sponsorship Requests**

There have been four sponsorship requests in the last month. After review by the Executive Committee, one has been determined to not meet the requirement of commissioner participation opportunities, and was unfortunately denied. The event, celebrating the 37th anniversary of Kin On will take place virtually on April 2nd, and the Commission is welcome to attend. More details in the flyer below.

The other three sponsorship requests have not yet been reviewed by the Executive Committee and are being presented to the Commission to vote on. They are 1) ANHPI Heritage Month, 2) Race Dialog, and a 3) Samoan Fashion Show.

The ANHPI Heritage Month, taking place on May 1st, will be resuming this year’s celebration in person at the Seattle Center, after two years of being held virtually. The Asian Pacific Directors Coalition (APDC) is requesting $300 in exchange for logo displays, acknowledgement, display booth, and an opportunity for CAPAA to make remarks and present the Governor’s ANHPI proclamation. Staff recommended approval for the request, and Chair Nguyen opened the floor for further discussion or for a motion to approve funding.

A motion to approve the sponsorship request was made by 1st Vice Chair Faitalia. Seconded by Cmmr. Ping. There were no abstentions or dissents. Motion was passed unanimously.

APIC- South Puget Sound requested $500 sponsorship for their Race Dialog event taking place virtually on March 26th, in exchange for advertisement, acknowledgement, and one speaker to share their experience with the criminal justice system. Staff recommended approval for the request, and Chair Nguyen opened the floor for further discussion or for a motion to approve funding.

Cmmr. Ping motioned for an approval of the request. Seconded by 1st Vice Chair Faitalia. There were no abstentions or dissents. Motion was passed unanimously.

The last request was submitted by Oh Sew Islander/APCC for the 2nd Annual Samoan Fashion Show during Samoan Flag Week in July. Sponsorship amount is $500 in exchange for advertisement, acknowledgement, opportunity for Commissioner remarks, and logo display. Chair Nguyen opened the floor for further discussion or a motion to approve funding.

A motion to approve the request was made by Cmmr. Ping. Seconded by Cmmr. Cho. There were no abstensions or dissents. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **Public Comment**

There were no requests for public comment for this meeting.

1. **Commissioner Community Updates**

Cmmr. Abbott reported that the Korean Women’s Association (KWA) sponsored Pierce County’s third BIPOC accelerated business program that provided eight weeks of classes, and resulted in 21 graduates. Pierce County also gave a stipend for rental assistance for small business owners who have little or no voice, and it provided them an opportunity to network with others. The Commissioner was honored to be asked to speak at the graduation ceremony, which was also filmed by KOAM TV.

The recent Capital Grants listening forum held by Commerce was a discussion Cmmr. Abbott was also able to attend. As a result of the forum, she reached out to Beth Robinson, who was able to provide criteria and guidelines of the Capital Funding information. This info was passed onto KWA and the Tacoma Korean Business Association.

The president of Federal Way’s chapter of KWA has asked Cmmr. Abbott to assist in finding grants to build a multicultural park. The land was donated by the City of Federal Way, but KWA needs about $500K to build the park.

Finally, KWA is holding their 50th Year Jubilee celebration that Cmmr. Abbott is serving on the planning committee of. The event will be held in October and they are simultaneously working on a 500-page book to commemorate their 50 years in service.

Cmmr. Cho had the opportunity to work on a panel with the Asian Pacific American Civic Empowerment Association on civic engagement and leadership. He was also asked to speak at the Bothell Lunar New Year celebration, which was the first ever of its kind held in Bothell.

The Korean American Coalition, that Cmmr. Cho serves on the Board of, has been selected to host a national convention in the fall. They are currently looking for a venue, which will most likely be in King County. It will be a large gathering as chapters all across the country will be in attendance, and he would love to find opportunities for CAPAA to participate in and sponsor the event.

Cmmr. Faitalia has been focusing on the EOGOAC report and has been working with communities to review what the 2008 report looks like, as well as what we are planning to do as a Commission. A lot of time was spent on mentoring undergraduates and graduates in getting their applications prepared.

Though her main focus has been on education this quarter, the Commissioner has also been working on pivoting out of the pandemic and the trauma faced by communities of color, by shifting into a wellness lens.

Cmmr. Huie-Pascua shared that Senior Meal Program at the Filipino Community Hall was able to get continued funding through the end of the year. This allows seniors to stay in their homes and get meals consistent with their cultures.

Next, ED Hasegawa connected her to Jerry Price at the Office of the Superintendant of Public Instruction, which manages the Kip Tokuda Memorial Fund. They are looking at the broader parts of the state for Japanese Americans that can serve on a review panel. Cmmr. Huie-Pascua was able to provide the names of four qualified individuals from Central Washington, who all were very excited about the possibility of serving on the panel.

APIC-Yakima received some funding to provide basic computer classes at the Filipino Community Hall. To help support that work, the Group Health Foundation donated 12 laptops. Cmmr. Huie-

Pascua is also happy to report that the rate of COVID infections has finally started to decline in Yakima County.

Lastly, the Filipino American community, as conveyed before, are celebrating their 70th anniversary in Wapato. Though initially they had a March date to hold the celebration, they have pushed it out to October 15, and she will be submitting a sponsorship request to help with funding of the event.

Cmmr. Kosai had the opportunity to testify in support of SB 5264, which sought to establish January as Chinese American History Month. While it did pass in the Senate, it was never pulled to the House floor for a vote, so ended up not passing.

In addition to May being AAPI Heritage Month, it is also Jewish American Heritage Month. Michael Itti from CISC and Miri Cypers from ADL are currently working together to put a joint Asian and Jewish American collaborative initiative or meet and greet for AAPI and Jewish community leaders. More information to come. Cmmr. Kosai will send forth full details once it bcomes finalized.

Cmmr. Ping relayed that she has been involved in efforts to unite the A&NHPI communities through Spokane’s United We Stand. On February 5th, they held a Lunar New Year celebration, which was last held 89 years ago. Estimates indicated that there were between 10,000-12,000 people, including A&NHPI in attendance.

The event helped them realize that unity best comes from fostering a common understanding of social justice, and through respecting one another within the A&NHPI community, as well as standing up for each other. They are now preparing for Asian Heritage Month, and Cmmr. Ping is working on collecting the history of Chinese workers during the 1800’s to share then.

Cmmr. Sidhu conveyed that the Indian community in Whatcom County has wanted to build a community center for 20 years, and will be meeting with Commerce next month to get some guidance and discuss possible funding options that they may be able to take advantage of. They do have four acres of land that they would like to build the center on.

The Commissioner has also been on the Whatcom Community College Foundation Board and they are organizing an Indian community dialog to set up a couple of scholarships. This will take place in April as well.

Cmmr. Sisavatdy provided an update on the how-to videos for the FlowFlex antigen test kits. They have been able to translate videos in 17 languages including Hmong, Lao, and Thai. The Thai video has reached over 2600 views, which they are very proud of. He would like to give a special thanks to Cmmr. Faitalia for providing support to get videos translated into Samoan and Tongan languages.

Cmmr. Sisavatdy is also working with Project Manager Yodkerepauprai to get a letter signed by the Governor recognizing April being the New Year for Khmer, Lao and Thai communities.

Finally, with the mask mandates having been lifted, the Commissioner would like to raise an alert to prepare for the BA.2 variant. They are tracking the virus and anticipate that it will overtake Omicron in a few months. It is very possible that a new wave of cases will occur soon, so make sure to have contingency plans if that happens.

Cmmr. Valu shared that the Pacific Islander Community Association (PICA) continues to support the Chuukese and Marshallese families in the Federal Way and Auburn areas. The rental assistance through King County has stopped, so they are working to transition them to other housing resources.

The Commissioner also provided an update on the Tongan eruption that took place in January. The community town hall that met shortly thereafter commissioned a Tongan Seattle Relief Committee, which met two weeks later.

Their first item of action was to get something going on behalf of the community, and they were able to put together a 40 foot container. To fill them, they organized at least two 55-gallon barrels that contatained 160 barrels and 120 bins that families could fill to send back to their families. By February 26th, the container was on site, and families were scheduled to come out to fill their two drums with needed supplies. A heartfet thanks goes out to everyone who helped support this mission, and a special thanks to Cmmr. Faitalia who was able to connect them to funding that will help extend this support for the next month or so.

Cmmr. Uppala was able to attend a mental health conference in San Diego on the use of psychedelic mushrooms, as a result of Washington state passing Bill 5660, which approves the regimented use of  [psilocybin](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS909US910&q=psilocybin&spell=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiJicqt3Or2AhWkJDQIHTiABMYQkeECKAB6BAgCEDM). We are the 2nd state after Oregon to have passed the bill, and it opens up a huge array of resources for our communities that are struggling with mental and behavioral health issues.

She is also working with Commerce, East-side cities, and Kent to advocate for commercial rental assistance programs for small businesses that are still struggling. COVID is not done and its impact will be felt for years to come.

Finally, advocacy efforts to promote vaccination and boosters, particularly for young mothers, continues to be underway.

Cmmr. Diaz has been focusing on the Economic Development Committee this period, trying to get some traction, with an emphasis on sustaining and growing API businesses. The committee has been working with Cheryl Smith and her team at Commerce, and will likely be hosting another listening forum this year co-hosted by CAPAA.

Lastly, the Commissioner has been working with WSDOT in updating their transportation plan. As a former highway planner, they reached out to him to see how they might be able to better reach the API

community. They were unaware of the CBO’s that serve the API communities, and were glad to learn of them through Cmmr. Diaz.

1. **Staff Report**

ED Hasegawa gave a verbal overview of the Staff Report. Full report can be accessed below.



1. **EOGOAC Updates**

Our EOGOAC representatives were unable to attend, so ED Hasegawa provided an update overview. The Education Committee has been working closely with our two EOGOAC representatives associated with the Asian community (Frieda Takamura and Erin Okuno), and the two representatives associated with the NHPI community (Sili Savusa, and Vice Chair Faitalia).

They recently hit a milestone by publishing their 2022 EOGOAC Report, which identifies priority areas where disparities in education exist that need to be examined. The legislators that serve on the EOGOAC, including Rep. Santos, Sen. Wellman, and Sen. Hasegawa, had planned to look for funds for the ethnic commissions to conduct an education disparity study that mirrored one done in 2008.

Rep. Santos then wrote a proviso request that they took to the legislature. However, the verbiage ended up being changed to insert that the Office of Equity would be collaborating with the ethnic commissions to conduct the study. This was confusing, as this was not what was intended by the EOGOAC or the sponsoring legislator.

When Rep. Santos raised it with the Appropriations Committee, it was determined that one legislator changed it to include the Office of Equity, which was unprecedented. After meeting with the EOGOAC last week, there was uniform disapproval of what was being allocated in the budget, so they asked Rep. Santos to pursue a veto by the Governor.



1. **Hybrid Board Meetings**

Now that the mask mandate has been lifted, the Executive Committee recommends a hybrid Board Meeting for June in Whatcom County. The Commission indicated agreement and expressed their intent to be there.

1. **Good of the Order**

Cmmr. Abbott offered the new headquarters building for KWA as a future meeting location, when we have it in Pierce County again.

1. **Adjourn**

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.**

1. **Chat Box Transcript**

From Lalita Uppala to Me (Direct Message) 09:59 AM

Brenda , I am in a clinic

From Ekkarath Sisavatdy (he/him) to Everyone 09:59 AM

Good Morning from beautiful sunny Des Moines, WA!

From Ping Ping, she/her to Everyone 10:00 AM

Good morning, from Spokane. Here is with shade and sun.

From Carrie Huie-Pascua to Everyone 10:01 AM

Good morning all!

From Toka Valu to Everyone 10:12 AM

Sorry I'm late, team - technical difficulties got me this morning

From Toshiko Hasegawa to Everyone 10:13 AM

Welcome Commissioner!

Me to Lalita Uppala (Direct Message) 10:13 AM

Thanks for being here, Commissioner Uppala! I will let them know.

From Me to Everyone 10:16 AM

Good morning everyone! If you are guest today please let us know you are here by giving your name, email, and organization. Thank you!

From Lalita Uppala to Everyone 10:19 AM

Congratulations dear Lua - this is very heartwarming a news.

From Toshiko Hasegawa to Everyone 10:21 AM

All - I am connected on my phone but need to restart my computer. Experiencing significant technical difficulties! I'll be back asap

From Toka Valu to Everyone 10:22 AM

something in the tech air this morning!

From Ping Ping, she/her to Everyone 10:24 AM

Congratulations Aunt Lua! So wonderful! the center!

From Toshiko Hasegawa, CAPAA to Everyone 10:32 AM

Still struggling with connectivity issues. Going to restart my computer again

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 10:37 AM

Great work Commissioner Abbott

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 10:43 AM

Wow, incredible work Commissioner Cho and Pascua. Loving all the heartwork!

From Toshiko Grace Hasegawa to Everyone 10:44 AM

We almost did a play back of the testimony for the public meeting.., Cmmr Kosai did SO well!

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 10:45 AM

Wow, great job Commissioner Kosai

From Kendall Kosai to Everyone 10:46 AM

Ah, thank you! It was a team effort with the support of the CAPAA staff!

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 10:51 AM

Thank you, Commissioner Ping Ping. You are doing great.

Wow, great work Commissioner Sidhu and Commissioner Sisavatdy.

From Ekkarath Sisavatdy (he/him) to Everyone 10:52 AM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tE6Q8Gtgeo&list=PLvdmG8argQHnMa0ggQaphO9adLTzCfpWz

Playlist of how to video - Flowflex Antigen Test kits in 17 languages.

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 10:56 AM

So inspiring Commissioner Valu! Malo Aupito for your leadership.

From Ping Ping, she/her to Everyone 10:56 AM

Thank you Cmmr. Ekk, 17 languages!! It is huge effort. This saves many people's lives.

From Carrie Huie-Pascua to Everyone 10:57 AM

Commissioner Faitalia and Valu-- thank you for your leadership.

From Ping Ping, she/her to Everyone 10:57 AM

Thank you Cmmr. Valu it is inspiring to hear your update. Very touching and beautiful, and thank you Cmmr. Faitalia!

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 10:59 AM

You are always on point Commissioner Uppala. Thank you for being a force.

From Satpal Sidhu to Everyone 11:00 AM

Hi Everyone, I have another meeting at 11. Thanks for sharing all the great community work being done in different communities.

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 11:03 AM

Keep being amazing Commissioner Diaz!

Yay! Thank you for your hard work K’gnausa

From K'gnausa Yodkerepauprai (He/Him) to Everyone 11:04 AM

So happy to be here!

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 11:06 AM

Thank you ED Hasegawa for your leadership!

From Kendall Kosai to Everyone 11:17 AM

No competition, I was shown up

From Ekkarath Sisavatdy (he/him) to Everyone 11:27 AM

Commissioner Ping

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 11:32 AM

Thank you for lifting up our Aunties and their advocacy ED Hasegawa.

I’m sorry team. I have all my god children

From K'gnausa Yodkerepauprai (He/Him) to Everyone 11:34 AM

that's how its done!

From Kendall Kosai to Everyone 11:34 AM

LOL All business

From Lydia M.Faitalia, WA CAPAA to Everyone 11:34 AM

Love it

From Ping Ping, she/her to Everyone 11:35 AM

:))