**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, June 10, 2023 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom

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

Quorum reached at 9:55 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nguyen at 10:02 AM.

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

*Absent:* 1st Vice Chair Lydia Faitalia (excused)

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

1. **Welcoming Remarks**

Welcoming remarks were made by **Rep. Marcus** **Riccelli**, from the 3rd LD, and newly appointed Chair of the Healthcare Committee. One of his main foci is around social determinants of health. He is endeavoring to help create a robust healthcare system that addresses all voices in his community and is accessible to all, especially since Covid has highlighted the disparities that exist.

In the last session, the people of Washington made it clear that they want to see progress on housing, behavioral health, workforce development, and community safety. While they were able to deliver on a number of those issues, there is still a lot of work left to do.

The bill he sponsored on dental therapy was passed, after working on it for a decade. We need to work on integration and providing access to oral health. He has also made food security priority. Providing free lunches to students has been something he has been working on for the last four years.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Cho

Seconded by: Cmmr. Sisavatdy

*Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Huie

Seconded by: 2nd Vice Chair Diaz

*Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion to amend the minutes to include Cmmrs. Ping and Abbott as present in the meeting made by Cmmr. Ping.

*Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. Administrative Policy Update**

An action item was presented to the Commission pertaining to our Administrative Policies Manual. Chapter 10, page 60, 10.10.30 re: Commissioner travel reimbursement was reviewed and it was noted that the eleven-hour rule may need to be updated to reflect five hours to mirror OFM travel regulations.

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Cho

Seconded by: Cmmr. Ping

*Motion carried unanimously*

**VI. Commissioner Community Updates**

**Cmmr. Abbott** reported that members of the Korean Grocers Association continue to experience high crime rates. Vapes are popular items to shoplift ($2K to $3K worth), and a high number of break-ins plague small business owners, causing repairs to doors and windows that cost much more than what was stolen. Replacements for damaged items can take six weeks or longer, and reimbursement claims can also take some time to process.

There are over 500 Korean grocers in the state supporting 2-3K employees, but they can’t afford to pay for health insurance of those employees. It’s a disparity issue that needs to be addressed. Koreans are being diagnosed with stomach cancer at five times the rate of others, but when they get sick, they wait to go to Korea to receive treatment. Even with airfare and travel expenses, it is still cheaper to get treated there than in the US.

Korean American doctors have been trying to educate insurance companies on the need to differentiate Asian communities from Caucasians. They are unwilling to adopt anything outside of their cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all approach, however. In Korea, they provide both colonoscopies and endoscopies every five years to the US’s 10 years.

Cmmr. Abbott was able to meet with Lt. Gov. Heck to alert him to this issue. He took notes and she is hoping that he will be able to make some changes in the future.

**Cmmr. Cho** shared that the Korean American Coalition was granted a $40K grant from King County and the Seattle Foundation to provide voter education. It is a two-year grant that provides $20K each year to mobilize civic engagement amongst the Korean American community.

The Olympus Spa, a Korean all-women’s spa in Lynnwood, recently received a complaint, after a trans-identified male tried to obtain membership, but was denied because she had yet to finish the gender reassignment surgeries needed to complete her transition. The individual then filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission, which mandated that Olympus change their policies.

The case is now in the courts, and while Cmmr. Cho hasn’t spoken directly with the owners, he has learned that they intend to take it all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary. This issue is complicated by the fact that the Korean culture does not make any distinctions between gender and sex. Cmmr. Cho had a long discussion with a parent about it, and afterwards she seemed to understand the distinction better, but it highlights the need to educate the Korean community regarding this issue.

**ED Hasegawa** provided further details surrounding the case. The LGBTQ Commission has been following this along with CAPAA for over a year. There is concern that the decision here could set precedent across the nation for other businesses to exclude on the basis of gender identity. She will reach out to the LGBTQ Commission to see if there is anything we should collaborate on to raise awareness and to prevent our community from being used as a wedge.

**Cmmr. Diaz** attended the 117th anniversary of [Neighborhood House](https://nhwa.org/about-us/history/) on April 27th. Director Janice Deguchi showcased the important work they’ve engaged in since its inception. He encouraged the Commission to check out their website and learn about the ways they have impacted Seattle.

He has also been a speaker at several UW events, where he has been able to engage with students of Filipino and API descent. His aim has been to encourage them to seek and create leadership opportunities.

**Cmmr. Huie** had the opportunity to induct the new Board of Directors for the Filipino American Community of Yakima and to provide some training for them. She also helped cook for the sukiyaki dinner commemorating the community’s 60th anniversary there.

Next, Cmmr. Huie took part in a number of Memorial Day observances, including one in Yakima where peonies were placed on the gravesites of Japanese Americans. The Health and Human Services Committee was presented with a draft composed by the Health Disparities Council. Cmmr. Faitalia has been working with the council and asked the committee to review it to provide feedback by July 12th. The full draft can be accessed below.



Lastly, the Luke Wing Museum has been in collaboration with Cmmr. Huie to document some of the history of the Filipino American community in Eastern Washington. Along those lines, she has also been working with a student pertaining to Chinese American history, particularly the Chinese Exclusion Act.

**Cmmr. Kosai** had the opportunity to meet with Sen. Patty Murray along with the APCC Board of Directors and Councilmember Bushnell in Tacoma. They discussed the rise of Anti-Asian hate, as well as the funding APCC was recently granted to build their new facility.

Last weekend, the Asian Jewish Initiative met at the Wing Luke Museum. Forty members of Jewish and Asian communities were provided a walking tour of the Chinese International District, where a history of redlining and an overview of their shared community histories were given. Another event will be held in September at the Holocaust Museum. All commissioners are invited to attend.

In May, Cmmr. Kosai was in DC for WHIAANHPI’s annual forum, which was a wonderful networking opportunity. He was also able to attend the sukiyaki dinner event mentioned by Cmmr. Huie. It was wonderful to see the Japanese and Filipino communities there come together in celebration.

Finally, a chapter of the Filipino American National Historical Society has started in the greater Puget Sound area. He has been attending some of the meetings and invites anyone in the Filipino community to join if interested.

**Cmmr. Ping** conveyed that Spokane held several events centering around Asian American experiences and heritage in May. One of the highlights was the unveiling of historical markers for Chinatown and Japantown.

NPR recently featured Washington’s Chapter of Make Us Visible on their program on June 8th. Cmmr. Ping was invited to be a part of its steering committee in 2022, and the experience was invaluable. She is grateful for the common goal of helping Asians be more visible by both Make Us Visible and CAPAA.

This quarter, Cmmr. Ping required her students at Spokane Falls Community College to watch the launch event. Many students shared that they did not have knowledge of ANHPI history or discovered it was either presented incorrectly or taught in a negative light.

APIC Spokane held a month-long series centering ANHPI community stories. There were film screenings and art exhibits. United We Stand also visited 70 community events from March to June 5th informing families about the Working Families Tax Credit. Lastly, discussions were held with Asian community leaders about health needs and concerns. Afghan refugees are interested in healing from trauma, and others would like to see acupuncture and herbology be included in preventative healthcare.

**Cmmr. Sisavatdy** sent a big thank you to PM Yodkerepauprai for coordinating the Governor’s proclamation recognizing the SE Asian Heritage Month in May. He recently sat in on APIC’s listening session providing feedback and joined Cmmr. Ping serving on the steering committee for Make Us Visible.

He joined the Board for the senior Lao outreach he mentioned in a previous meeting. The outreach has been able to obtain its 501(c)(3) status. He also served over 50 hours as a panelist to review grant applications for Heritage 4Culture. Thirty-eight applications were received from throughout King County.

**Cmmr. Uppala** has been participating in comprehensive plan updates for several East King County cities, making public comments, and addressing issues like affordable housing. She has also been heavily involved in holding community health fairs. Currently, there is a severe shortage of the shingles vaccine for seniors.

In Sammamish, there is a planning commission member who has made disparaging remarks towards the LGBTQ community, and Cmmr. Uppala was involved in requests calling for their resignation, which ultimately resulted in that taking place. Now a conversation with the City Council must occur to determine how to move forward with deeper understanding around equitable inclusion of the LGBTQ community.

The Economic Development Committee has been coordinating an upcoming listening forum for small business owners, who continue to reel from the impacts in the post-Covid era. It will be hosted by CAPAA and Commerce. Lastly, Cmmr. Uppala has been involved with ongoing efforts to host focus groups and technical sessions for small businesses.

**Cmmr. Valu** reported that the Kingdom of Tonga has just opened its US Embassy. UTOPIA has officially opened its free gender-affirming clinic ([Mapu Maia)](https://utopiawa.org/mapu-maia-clinic/) in Kent, as well. It’s a beautiful space and Cmmr. Valu may possibly be creating a mural to help make it as inviting as possible.

On a personal level, Cmmr. Valu has been engaging in more art work as he steps away from other commitments. At some point, he hopes to be involved with advocacy efforts to uplift Pasifika and NHPI art within the public realm. He has been thankful to land some opportunities mainly on the waterfront, but as he has gotten more involved he has noticed how alone he is in representing his community.

This is the last meeting for Cmmr. Valu and he has valued his time with the Commission. He has learned so much from everyone and will remain a partner and supporter of CAPAA, even though his term is ending.

**VII. Staff Report**

ED Hasegawa gave a verbal overview of the Staff Report at 11:01 AM. Full report can be accessed below.



**VIII. AANHPI History in Public Schools**

**ED Angelie Chong,** of [Make Us Visible](https://makeusvisible.org/), gave a presentation regarding AANHPI history in public schools. The organization was found two years ago by a student, parent and teacher who believed there was a need for education as a long-term solution to the rising of anti-Asian hate, bullying, and harassment since the pandemic. There has been a tremendous amount of community building in this state as they reached out to teachers, students, parents, and lawmakers to hear their voices about the need for history inclusion.

Make Us Visible is centered on localized curriculum and making sure that all the histories of ANHPI are included. It doesn’t only focus on the trauma, but of all the ways ANHPI’s have contributed to the building of this country. We are a diverse population with huge health and economic disparities that many people are not aware of.

In just a little over a year, Make Us Visible has been able to have six bills passed in four states (RI, CT, NJ, and FL) requiring the inclusion of ANHPI history. Nationwide there are 13 different chapters, and it is continuing to grow. Teachers do want to include our history. They just don’t know how.

**IX. Good of the Order**

ED Hasegawa would like to establish an ad hoc committee to plan the 50th Anniversary of CAPAA. We can’t have more than a quorum, or five commissioners serve on the committee, but she will reach out to see if Cmmr. Emeritus Rey Pascua, Lua Pritchard, and if any of the new commissioners would like to join as well. After the earlier discussion on where the location should be, Seattle will most likely be our option.

Please make sure to fill out your nominations for the awards that will be given at the celebration. It’s sad we were not able to meet in person to say our goodbyes to departing Cmmrs. Diaz and Valu, but Chair Nguyen and ED Hasegawa will be conducting exit interviews over lunch with them soon.

Cmmr. Diaz reciprocated his thanks to the Commission for his time here. He has learned so much in his 37 months with CAPAA and will miss every single person he has had the privilege of serving with.

ED Hasegawa closed with a reminder that the September Board meeting will include elections for new chairs and memberships to committees. She thanked everyone for contributing to the updated Strategic Plan. It was a monster, but what a success it turned out to be. She is extremely proud of everyone and is looking forward to what is coming next. Change is hard, but it is also an opportunity.

**X. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.