**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, November 19, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

King 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, 2nd Vice Chair Julio Diaz, Cmmr. Chongsun Abbott, Cmmr. Kendall Kosai, Cmmr. Satpal Singh Sidhu, Cmmr. Carrie Huie-Pascua, Cmmr. Lalita Uppala, Cmmr. Ping Ping, and Cmmr. Ekkarath Sisavatdy

*Absent:* 1st Vice Chair Lydia Faitalia and Cmmr. Sam Cho

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

1. **Welcome**

Welcoming remarks were made by Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, and Sen. Rebecca Saldana, both of the 37th LD. Hirabayashi Place is dedicated to the spirt and legacy of Gordon Hirabayashi, who took a stand against the treatment of Japanese Americans during WWII. The Donnie Chin Community Room we are meeting in today is dedicated to safety in the community. Chin was assassinated in trying to protect the elders, youth, and merchants in the CID community.

Amongst Rep. Santos’s priorities are disaggregated data and immigration reform. She is also involved in helping to implement Asian American Studies in schools. Next month, she will be moderating a forum discussing the structural barriers facing this issue.

Regarding the bill for Chinese American History Month, she is leading the effort in the House to get the bill passed. They are trying to be thoughtful and thorough in what the bill entails. It needs to be bipartisan, and it needs to be in cooperation with the leading scholars and the community before it can be moved forward. What month it will be designated is yet to be determined. The next legislative session starts on January 9th, and it will be fully hybrid.

Sen. Saldana acknowledged the important work that CAPAA has been engaged in, and thanked the leadership for continuing to show up in really powerful ways throughout the state.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Sidhu

Seconded by: Cmmr. Ping

*Motion carried unanimously.*

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Sidhu

Seconded by: Cmmr. Kosai

*Motion carried unanimously.*

1. **Sponsorship Requests**

One request was submitted by UTOPIA for $500. The event is for the Meli I Ka Lani tropical holiday musical festival, taking place on December 3 at the Auburn Riverside Theater.

Cmmr. Ping motioned to approve the sponsorship. Cmmr. Abbott seconded. *Motion carried unanimously*.

1. **Commissioner Community Updates**

Cmmr. Uppala reported that there has been a rise in domestic violence in the Indian American community. This could be due to increased awareness of the issue and more calls actually being made to report it.

A Kent Safety Summit, that was recently held, has highlighted challenges faced by small businesses in the form of vandalism, insufficient lighting, and security in the strip malls that are primarily occupied by immigrant refugee businesses. The hope is this will lead to a larger conversation across South King County as this impacting small businesses all across the area.

Lastly, it is her desire for the Economic Development Committee to host a virtual event to benefit small businesses. OMBWE could be brought in to help outline the process of applying for relief opportunities.

Cmmr. Sisavatdy participated in a Reconciliation Walk against racism that was held in Tacoma. He has also taken part in the SE Asian Pacific Islander Health Summit, where health disparities were discussed, and many collaborations took place to provide vaccinations, transit cards for youth, and health screenings. He also attended the Korean American Coalition event, which had many valuable workshops, and KWA’s 50th Anniversary celebration.

Cmmr. Sidhu shared that the Whatcom County and Bellingham City Councils approved a judicial equity commission and $100K was given towards its development. It took two years to implement and there was noted opposition. Despite this, 350 people showed up in support of the task force.

Due to the high presence of ICE and border patrol in Whatcom County, the community has expressed a desire for an Immigrant Resource Center. A nonprofit organization has been working on making this a reality, and it should be established soon.

Lastly, after almost three years, the Chinese community hosted a lunch that he and where he was able to make connections. Similarly, the Sikh community has been trying to educate the public about who they are and to bridge the Muslim and Christian communities in building a connection.

Cmmr. Valu conveyed that it has been a busy time for the Tongan community. The Prime Minister from Tonga recently came to Seattle, and he was able to help plan an agenda for the meeting. The UW Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity is also evaluating if an exchange program or Peace Corps program can be established.

Cmmr. Valu has also been able to meet with Mayor Bruce Harrell to discuss implementation of a National Tongan Day. Lastly, he became a US citizen at the end of October and Baby Valu is set to arrive at the end of December!

Cmmr. Ping shared that the Filipino American NW Association was recently established in the Spokane area. On October 22nd, United We Stand hosted a “Happy Diwali Day.” It attracted 7,000 people, and there were members of the Nepali community in attendance!

Spokane will have two Lunar New Year celebrations. One will be hosted by United We Stand and is being planned with the Chinese American community. The other one will be hosted the Spokane Chinese Association.

Charity Bagatsing, a local Asian community leader, has been working with a Hispanic business professional leadership association to apply for grants that will help establish a community center for both the Hispanic and ANHPI communities.

Cmmr. Ping has been involved with a statewide workgroup to advocate for implementing Asian American studies into the K-12 curriculum. This effort is being led by Lin Crowley, APIC- South Puget Sound Chapter. Cmmr. Ping will be meeting with school district 81’s curriculum development officer in December to discuss how local Asian American parents can be involved with curriculum development.

Finally, Washington State has an active chapter of [Make Us Visible](https://makeusvisible.org/) (MUV), which has been instrumental in pushing through legislation that promoted AAPI history inclusion in K-12 education in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. It is a bipartisan movement centered on community, education, and inclusion. They are currently working on introducing a bill in our state for AAPI history inclusion for K-12.

On a personal level, Cmmr. Ping has been researching Spokane’s Chinese American history and origins. She was also able to attend the “Save CID” rally in Seattle, which was very inspiring and memorable.

Cmmr. Kosai reported that many in the community have received racist flyers, trying to pit groups against each other in the weeks leading up to the election. While no action item is needed now, it is something we

should be aware of and keep tabs on. The next legislative session is coming up soon and he is looking forward to it. If there is any legislation, CAPAA should be looking at please forward to him.

Other highlights this period include:

* A Hate crime bias hotline may be coming down the pipeline, staffed by Washington State.
* On December 3, the People of Color Legislative Summit (POCL) is taking place.
* He would like to follow up with Cmmr. Ping on the curriculum development project that is taking place. He feels this is an issue that is becoming increasingly popular and important.
* He also went to Tokyo recently with the US Japan Council to find ways to improve ties.

Cmmr. Huie-Pascua attended a number of celebrations this period. Amongst them were the 70th Anniversary of the Filipino American Community of Yakima Valley, the 87th Anniversary of the Filipino American Community in Seattle, the 50th Anniversary of the Korean Women’s Association, and the Reconciliation Walk in Tacoma that commemorated the 137th anniversary of when Chinese Americans were marched out of the area by gunpoint. In attending each of these events, she has been struck by how long our communities have been in Washington.

She has continued to be active with her work at NAMI, and in working with the Housing Authority and social service organizations to eliminate the screening out of communities of color in their application processes. Lastly, she was able to attend the Indigenous Peoples Day on October 10th on Bainbridge Island, which also included celebrating the Indipino (Indigenous & Filipino) people.

Second Vice Chair Diaz shared that on his way to the FACYV 70th Anniversary, he was able to meet with some farmers who had missed out on COVID relief. He has connected with Dept. of Commerce to determine if funds can be provided to help them acquire farm equipment.

He also met with UW Tacoma Co-Chancellor Patrick Paul to discuss ideas on how to develop a program around an AANAPISI grant they received to help students; namely, to help retain them beyond the first year. Next, he attended the Filipino American Heritage celebration held by the City of Lakewood. Tangent to that, he met with three small business owners to help them with their business license.

Lastly, he was invited to WSDOT’s Emissions Initiative Zoom panel. Discussion around EV strategies and freight mobility were the focus.

Cmmr. Abbott conveyed that KWA was able to raise $130K at their 50th Anniversary celebration, of which approximately 450 people attended. Thank you to all the commissioners who were able to participate, and to Chair Nguyen for providing a speech.

KWA will be a starting a groundbreaking of an ADA, affordable housing housing project next year. Fifteen percent of the building will be allocated for veterans, and Thurston County has asked if they could construct a similar project out there. KWA is currently recruiting for an Executive Director, HR Director, and Behavorial Health Director.

There is a mass shortage of housing and workers. Amongst them are senior/low-income housing, with the wait lists being 3-4 years long. For those suffering from dementia/Alzheimer’s there is no affordable housing at all. Private facilities can cost upwards of $15K per month. Lastly, it is difficult to find restaurant workers to staff.

In Pierce County, there is a high number of vandalism, crime, and homelessness. The KWA HQ is being broken into two to three times a week and theft is rampant. More police support is needed.

At a recent KAGRO meeting, the issue of police unavailability has come up as well. Many homeless are coming in and just taking food and alcohol. If businesses have lost less than $1K in theft or damages, however, they are unwilling to show up.

Finally, Cmmr. Abbott joined LMCC (Lakewood Multicultural Coalition) at her alma mater Lakes High School to attend a Students Day meeting. They discussed if any changes had taken place since a protest against racism was held a year ago. The superintendent, who is also an LMCC Board member, directed students to call him personally if they felt they were facing discrimination, and provided training on how students and teachers should conduct themselves. As a result, students reported that it had improved quite a bit.

On a personal note, Cmmr. Abbott lost her mother this period.

**VII.**  **CAPAA Appointee Report-Back**

Matt Chan, serving on the Washington State Creative Economy Strategic Plan workgroup, informed the Commission that there has been one meeting held so far. The question of what makes up the creative economy was addressed. Currently, electronics and bartending is included in that category. Video gaming, which is also included, brings in $200 billion, which skews what is being brought in for that economy. There has not been much diversity in the demographics being represented.

He has been pushing for a safety net to be available for artisans, and to have a panel filled with more POC. Applying for grants or relying on handouts should not be the way artists are able to support themselves.

The CID rally that took place in October was a great success. He thanked ED Hasegawa and Cmmr. Cho for drafting the letter, and Chair Nguyen, Cmmr. Ping, and Cmmr. Kosai for speaking at the rally. One key thing to note was that the experience showed that the narrative can be changed from what is being imposed by public officials.

Frieda Takamura, serving on the EOGOAC, stated that the proviso mandating that CAPAA work in collaboration with the other ethnic commissions and the Office of Equity to conduct a new study was vetoed. The EOGOAC is continuing to discuss what will work best. The first research study was rushed, but we now have an opportunity to be more judicious about the time researchers have and get community engagement.

Isa Whalen, who has been representing CAPAA on OSPI’s School Safety and Student Wellbeing Advisory Committee, has attended one meeting so far. This first year, they are addressing key issues, collecting data and research, and engaging community. In year two, they will create legislative policy recommendations in their 2024 Legislative Report.

The meetings are focused on strategies, policies to improve school safety and student wellbeing, and best practices for implementation. identifying emerging issues, and community engagement. In Spring 2023, a summit will be held to discuss high priority topics for 2023-2024.

So far, there has been dialog around policies on what constitutes safety, defining safety from a medical and safely protocol perspective, the Title IV Grant, meeting with the student advisory group to hear their priorities, and building the Stronger Connections grant. Isa has pushed to widen cultural awareness and responsivity by providing training to teachers, adding bystander to combat hate training, consider implementing play-based learning spaces for the Native community, and brainstorming ways to be more reflective of their student demographics in their curriculum.

Caryn Park, from the Social & Emotional Learning Indicators Workgroup (SEL), was morphed from the workgroup to an advisory committee on creating strategies to coordinate early learning education to K-12 education and implementing best practices. The guiding principles are equity, cultural responsiveness, universal design, and trauma-informed practice.

Currently, there are three subcommittees. They are geared towards educator preparation, specialty endorsements around SEL, and equity and SEL. A fourth subcommittee they’d like to create is towards assessing that the SEL is helping and not harming students. If anyone is interested in being a part of that subcommittee, please let her know.

**VIII. Break**

The Commission took a short break at 12:20 PM and re-convened at 12:32 PM.

**IX. Race and Ethnicity Data – Education Research and Data Center (ERDC) in Office of Financial Matter**

Katie Randall Weaver presented her report via PowerPoint. Full report can be accessed below.



**IX. Grant Equity Review Update – Office of Recreation and Conservation**

Director Megan Duffy gave her update to the Commission. Full presentation can be accessed below.



**X. Public Comment**

Chi Nguyen, from APCC, asked Director Duffy how long it takes for approved grants to get back to the organizations that applied for them. Most of the funding they have is acquired through private sources, so the RCO can turn it around fairly quickly. Applications can be submitted monthly, and in some cases advancements may be permissible.

Kan Qiu, from WA Asian for Equality, returned to ask for continue support of SB 5264, which establishes January for Chinese American History Month. Full statement can be accessed below.



Aminta Spenser, from the Dept. of Revenue, relayed information about the Working Family Tax Credit. More information about the tax credit can be accessed below.



Maricres Castro, Outreach Coordinator for APCC, was here as a voice for the Filipino American Community, who is gaining momentum to re-open the Filipino American Consulate in Seattle. They had a surprise meeting with Assistant Secretary Vince Suarto recently, and they would like our support in helping to navigate how to make this happen for their community.

The Filipino American outreach group serves about one to two thousand of their countrymen not only in Seattle, but also throughout OR, MT, and ID. It is difficult for them to travel to San Francisco to get assistance with applications or to be reunited with family. Having a physical consulate here is very necessary and would make getting assistance so much more accessible.

**XI. Staff Report**

ED Hasegawa gave the overview of the Staff Report at 1:37 PM. Full report can be accessed below.



**XII. Legislative Tracking Preview**

PM Yodkerepauprai reported that our communications are going well. Facebook is growing, as well as our newly created Instagram and LinkedIn pages We’ve been using a new [tool](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q9NgEnowXlQxir4IeMb3oJNV2i7RBUOoHC_0SXKoukg/edit#gid=0) to track our Legislative priorities. It will provide important dates, and is interactive, so you can watch video sessions or provide comment on the bills.

**XIII. Good of the Order**

Second Vice Chair Diaz expressed how nice it was to finally be here in Seattle.

**XIV. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:59 PM.