



The State of Washington
COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting

Wing Luke Asian Museum
719 South King Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3035
Saturday, December 12, 2009

REGULAR BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and introductions were given. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Bee Cha, Debadutta Dash, Doug Heyamoto, Frieda Takamura, Jeannie Lee, Jagdish Sharma, Lua Pritchard, Rey Pascua, Sofia Aragon, and Tanya Tran

Commissioner Absent: Albert Shen

Staff Present: Executive Director: Kendee Yamaguchi
Executive Assistant: Phillip Sit

APPROVAL OF January 10, 2009 MINUTES

Amendments to the January board meeting minutes:

- Insert Tanya Tran as present in the roll call.
- Modify Executive Director to Executive Assistant under Phillip Sit in the roll call.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pritchard, seconded by Commissioner Sharma to approve the minutes with amendments.

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

Commissioner Cha

- Currently working on a Hmong community exhibit for the Wing Luke Asian Museum.
- Delegation to visit Thailand regarding the Hmong graves desecration and meet with the cultural minister on relocation back to the gravesite.

Commissioner Pritchard

- Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Day will be scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2010 in Olympia, WA.

Agency Overview

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

- Asian Counseling and Referral Service Center (ACRS) will serve as the fiscal agent and Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) will conduct outreach and coordinate buses.
- The Asian Pacific Cultural Center (APCC) 12th annual New Year celebration has been scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2010 at the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall and will also be working on various programs and events to highlight Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May.
- Currently serving on the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities and would like to acknowledge the contribution that Commissioner Takamura has been making as a member of the Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee.

Commissioner Pascua

- Working on the revitalization of the Filipino-American Community of Yakima Valley Hall (FACYV) with Senator Prentice and Representative Honeyford to ensure that capital funding will be recommitted in the upcoming supplemental budget.
- Would like to invite the Governor for a tour of the community hall upon completion.
- To assist the Filipino community, FACYV were conducting a senior meals program in partnership with the Yakima County, serving about 600,000 during a one year span. New regulations require that any meal programs for seniors to be funded by the Yakima Indian tribes. Have not succeeded in working out a new arrangement for the senior meal program.
- Would like to invite representatives from the Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprise (OMWBE) to engage with the agriculture community in the Yakima Valley.
- The Wapato School District eliminated all of its dual-language classes in October despite the high percentage of bilingual students in the region.
- General discussion on immigration and human trafficking issues within the Yakima Valley, particular the exploitation of Asian Pacific Islander women from overseas.

Commissioner Aragon

- Issues of advancement into higher levels of the health care profession for API's.
- Nurses should reflect the diversity of the general population.
- Health care reform at the federal level, grants to address health and workforce development.
- Brief report on the Governor's proposed budget.

Commissioner Sharma

- Attended and read the Governor's greeting at the Chinese Institute of Engineers Annual Convention and the Sidhu Farm & Sports Club's Cultural Sports Tournament.
- Served as guest speaker at the International Peace Day Celebration.
- Attended a community roundtable discussion with the General Counsel of the Department of Homeland Security, Ivan Fong regarding the issue of immigration.
- Traveled to Washington D.C. with the Prime Minister of India during his visit with President Obama.

Commissioner Takamura

- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration Day has been scheduled for May 2, 2010 at the Seattle Center House; CAPAA should obtain proclamation from the Governor's Office.
- Request that the Commission identify and forward any contacts to any cultural and community organizations that would like to perform at the event.
- Currently serving as the Asian American representative on the Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability committee, Fiasili Savusa is serving as the Pacific Islander representative.
- The Achievement Gap Committee is basing their recommendations in closing the achievement gap from the reports conducted by each of the ethnic commissions.
- Report on South Seattle Community College being designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Asian American Native American Pacific American Serving Institution (AANAPISI).
- Office of the Education Ombudsman is offering professional development workshops in December and January.
- Report on Race to the Top, potential monies for school conducting work with communities of color. Dr. David Takeuchi from the University of Washington is willing to assist with organizations in the grant writing process.

Commissioner Dash

- Washington is the 4th biggest export to India
- Organizing a delegation with the Washington State India Trade Relations Action Committee for a trade mission to Bombay in November 2010.
- Serving on the Equity and Pluralism Advisory Board for the Bellevue College, preparing outreach programs on campus.
- Importance of Census2010, the Southeast Asian communities has increased 400 percent in East King County.

Commissioner Tran

- Read the Governor's greeting regarding the 34th commencement of the fall of Saigon in Vancouver and Olympia.
- Will be involved in the community planning the Vietnamese Tet New Year.

Commissioner Heyamoto

- Discussion on bringing CAPAA to Washington State University for a public meeting, as a follow up with the Department of Diversity to an altercation that involved an API student being accosted on campus in 2008.
- Annual Japanese American community celebration in Spokane during the month of April.
- Liaison to the Consul General of Japan of the Seattle Office.

Commissioner Jeannie Lee

- Importance of Census2010 in light of the growing Korean American population in the state of Washington.
- Reported that there are 935 Korean American grocers, generating 2 billion dollars in annual revenue.
- Discussion with the Pierce County Police Department on the issue of public safety.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. FINANCIAL REPORT

The agency's operating budget for the 2009-2011 biennium year is \$236,000 for FY10 and \$224,000 for FY11. As of September 2009, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs ended the first quarter of the fiscal year with a savings of \$14,845

On July 1, 2009, the Governor requested a 2% reduction for all agencies for the 2009-2011 Biennium. This \$8,000 reduction will go into effect at the conclusion of the 2010 legislative session.

CAPAA will undergo a standard audit by the State Audit's Office for the period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009. The executive director recommends that the board consider adopting or acting on: a policy and process on fixed assets, a policy on risk assessment, and a submission of all open public meetings to the Code Reviser's Office.

2. OUTSIDE FUNDING SOURCES

In conjunction with the Commission on Hispanic and African American affairs, a grant for the amount of \$150,000 has been awarded from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to expand the ethnic commissions work on the education achievement gap issue.

3. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

During the first 30 days, the new executive director focused on developing out the management and infrastructure components of the Commission. The next 60 to 80 days will focus on the commission priorities of education, economic development, and education and outreach to the community.

Infrastructure Assessment: The executive director will work with the incoming chair to develop and finalize an administrative policy manual document for 2010.

Web site: The executive director reported on the interagency agreement with the Washington State Department of Information Services (DIS) to redesign and update the functionalities of the CAPAA web site. The new web site has been scheduled for a launch in January, 2010.

Date base: The executive director reported on the needs of an operational database and new media tools.

CAPAA BOARD ELECTION:

Commissioner Heyamoto will facilitate the election for the following board positions: 2nd Vice Chair, 1st Vice Chair, and Chair. Election protocol requires calls for open nomination and seconded by a board member.

2nd Vice Chair:

- Commissioner Sharma nominates Commissioner Takamura, seconded by Commissioner Pritchard.
- The board accepted and approved the nomination of Commissioner Takamura to the CAPAA Board 2nd Vice Chair position.

1st Vice Chair:

- Commissioner Pritchard nominates Commissioner Dash
- Commissioner Sharma nominates Commissioner Pascua, seconded by Commissioner Takamura.
- The board accepted and approved the nomination of Commissioner Pascua to the CAPAA Board 1st Vice Chair position.

Chair: Commissioner Dash nominates Commissioner Pritchard, seconded by Commissioner Tran

- Commissioner Cha nominates Commissioner Sharma, seconded by Commissioner Pascua.
- The board conducted a closed ballot vote, and Commissioner Sharma is elected by the board. to the Chair position

Presentation by Alexis Oliver – Governor’s Office

- Provided a state budget update, noted that the majority of the \$31 billion dollar budget is protected under the state constitutional or federal requirements.
- Overview of the immediate action for reductions by the Governor and the Governor’s strategy to close the budget deficit.
- The Governor’s Office is seeking feedback from communities to identify both priorities and innovations to support the Governor during these difficult economic times.

Commissioner Takamura asked how does the budget situation impact CAPAA?

Alexis responded with the following:

- The Governor’s Office has not discussed the elimination of the ethnic commissions.
- Values the strong alliance in gaining the communication piece from the various ethnic communities in Washington State.
- The ethnic commissions will assist the Governor in identifying the highest priorities of state government.

Commissioner Pritchard asked if the Governor looking at new revenue?

Alexis responded with that the Governor is not ready to raise taxes and will look first at closing tax loops to generate revenue.

Commissioner Aragon asked what would be the best role for the Commission to play in informing the Governor on the budget process.

Alexis responded that the Commission should keep the Governor’s Office involved with the conversation and priorities of the community during the budget and priority setting process.

Alexis shared the following:

- Many citizens are unaware of the severity of the budget situation; the commission can assist in putting real faces to the social service funding provided to the community.
- Critical that the ethnic commissions educate people about the budget situation.

Commissioner Takamura asked for the release date of the second book budget from the Governor.

Alexis responded that there has not been a set date but will be around the first few weeks of January 2010.

- The first budget is the statutory mandated budget and the second budget will be the Governor's budget.
- The Governor wants to ensure that there is the least impact on the safety nets for Washingtonians, and understands that with the economic reality, social services in the community will take a significant reduction.
- Provide feedback to the director if you hear about concerns and questions regarding the budget in the community and the director will provide the information to the Governor's Office and to the community stakeholders.

CAPAA 2010 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Commissioner Sharma moved to approve the legislative priorities with amendments, seconded by Commissioner Pascua. The board adopted the 2010 legislative priorities with the following changes.

- Insert "Given the current economic climate, the Commission supports the Governor's effort to increase revenue to support vital state programs" in the heading.
- Change "encourage" to "promote" in the document.
- Insert "Support the community outreach efforts to explore and promote the trade opportunities to benefit minority owned businesses" under economic development.

UPDATE ON UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

Joint Ethnic Commissions Legislative Reception:

The ethnic commission legislative reception is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010 at the Legislative Building – Columbia Room and will be hosted by the Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Day:

API legislative day is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2010 in Olympia, WA. CAPAA has confirmed the attendance of the Governor for the event and will coordinate a meeting with Asian Pacific American legislators with the commission and community leaders in the afternoon.

BOARD COMMITTEES:

The director discussed reactivating the committees on Education, Economic Development, and Health and to identify community members to serve on these committees. In addition, the board should nominate commissioners to chair the committees, as well as identify liaisons in the following areas; legislative, community outreach, Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Day, and Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Education Committee: Commissioner Sharma nominates Commissioner Takamura, seconded by Commissioner Cha.

- The board accepted and approved the nomination of Commissioner Takamura as Chair of the CAPAA Education Committee.

Health Committee: Commissioner Sharma nominates Commissioner Pritchard, seconded by Commissioner Tran.

- The board accepted and approved the nomination of Commissioner Pritchard as Chair of the CAPAA Health Committee.

Economic Development Committee: Commissioner Sharma nominates Commissioner Dash, seconded by Commissioner Pritchard.

- The board accepted and approved the nomination of Commissioner Dash as Chair of the CAPAA Economic Development Committee.

Commission Liaisons:

- Outreach Liaison - Commissioner Dash
- Legislative Liaison - Commissioner Aragon
- APA Heritage Month - Commissioner Takamura
- API Legislative Day - Commissioner Pritchard

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lori Matsukawa – Board President, Japanese Cultural and Community Center

- Provided overview on the community center.
- Center is currently attempting to secure half of the capital campaign funding as required by the Department of Commerce.
- Requested that the Commission make individuals aware of the center and programs available.

Nate Caminos – Board President, Japanese American Citizen League (Seattle Chapter)

- Would like to invite the Commission to attend the 88th annual installation dinner for the Seattle Chapter of JACL on February 20, 2010.
- Commissioner Takamura being awarded for community service outreach by the chapter.

Mark Mitsu – Vice President of Student Services, South Seattle Community College, Asian American Pacific Islander Higher Ed Resource Center

- South Seattle Community College is one of six institutions in the United States designated as Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander Serving Institution.
- The resource center has been provided with 2.4 million in federal dollars from the Department of Education to assist low income minority students transfer into four year universities.
- “Family College Success” pilot program and student success videos have been developed to educate families and students on the college application process.
- South Seattle Community College is also offering a degree in Asian Pacific American studies and will be providing webinars other colleges and universities.

JoJo Tran – Community Member

- Left Vietnam to apply for political asylum here in the U.S.
- Facing deportation after being detained by immigration officials while traveling through Montana in 2004.
- Motion to reopen asylum will be heard on March 11, 2010 before the Board of Immigration Appeals.
- Currently being assisted by pro-bono attorneys and would like to solicit the community’s support.

THE CAPAA BOARD MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:25 PM

MEETING MINUTES BY PHILLIP SIT