



The State of Washington  
**COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS**  
*Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans*

**Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Board Meeting**  
Together Center  
16225 NE 87th St, Redmond, WA 98052  
January 20, 2018  
10:00 AM to 2 PM

**Regular Business**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Ty Tufono, Tam Dinh, Mohan Gurung, Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Lynette Finau, Nam Nguyen, Roslyn Leon Guerrero, Lakshmi Gaur, Ka'imi Sinclair, Lori Wada

Commissioners Absent: Lisa Dickinson

Staff: Executive Director, Michael Itti, Project Coordinator, Sam Le

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made at 10:02 AM by 2nd Vice Chair Dinh to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Guerrero. With no further changes, the agenda was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made at 10:05 AM by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Dinh to approve the November 18, 2017 meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Gaur. With no further changes, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**2018 MEETINGS DISCUSSION – Agendas/Purpose**

Introduction and facilitation by Char Tufono on the 2018 Meetings Discussion

- Purpose of public board meetings, prioritizing agenda items, structuring time within public board meetings, outcomes/action items set at public board meetings, and thoughts about committee/commissioner responsibilities.

Commissioner Gaur comments on the need to connect with the community in order to engage and understand what issues/priorities are present. Explained that in person outreach is optimal as it has raised her awareness on the need to talk about LGBTQ+ concerns within the Indian community. Further commented on the need for public board meetings to dedicate at least 10 minutes for commissioners to present the various issues/concerns they receive from working with their communities to the board or the

committees. Staff should also be aware of these issues and provide time for the commissioner to share in the agenda.

- Chair Tufono comments that there have been commissioner presentations in the past, where two commissioners were assigned 10 minutes to present at board meetings. Expressed the possibility to re-implement the presentations, though had concerns on the logistical aspects of the presentations.
- Commissioner Gaur adds that in order to have genuine discussion, there needs to be commissioner initiative.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Dinh suggested that board meetings are used to promote a more proactive approach on issues instead of being reactive. With only four hours per public board meeting, the time needs to be utilized on outcomes and goals. Concern pointed out that agendas include lots of time listening to presentations but limited time to develop concrete outcomes.

Commissioner Guerrero would like to see more inclusion of issues, concerns, and needs from counties outside the Puget Sound area and more on SW and Eastern Washington. There needs to be time to bring up different issues from counties/geographical areas. Would like to see more outreach/presentations about or from different counties.

Commissioner Wada expresses that there's no need to fix what's not broken. CAPAA is faced with unique challenges since our communities are so diverse. However, would like to see improvements to boost effectiveness such as time to follow up on issues or process for Commissioners to request presentation time. For example, the commissioner activity report needs to be utilized/analyzed more to identify and prioritize issues, especially similar issues impacting several communities. Also comments on a reminder that many commissioners still have other commitments such as day jobs.

- Commissioner Gaur comments that commissioners should take initiative to present the issues they feel most pressing.

Commissioner Gurung expresses that the community he's currently working with has been focused on education and health issues. Asks how as a Commissioner one could sustain the support to our communities and implement an action after the discussion. Expresses that the meetings should include time to discuss follow-ups and actions for each issue identified by commissioners and the community.

Commissioner Nguyen expresses concern about whether the current committees are able to meet effectively over the phone. Suggests to have committees meeting during the board meeting, in addition to a committee presentation. In addition, the Commission should meet with the governor and legislators once a year to present top issues in order to fulfill its advisory role. The ethnic receptions have been great events, but the format is not conducive to discuss issues.

Commissioner Sisavatdy supports the need to make sure that there is more time for committees to meet and discuss. Further expresses the need to make board meetings more accessible to the public through various means, such as social media and technology.

Chair Tufono supports the idea of increasing accessibility, however, further discussion needed on whether to broadcast live on social media. Would also like to see increased followers on social media.

Commissioner Guerrero expresses that the process of the Commission has been very organized and that there needs to be a focus on emphasizing the uniqueness of the cultures/communities and more broadly shared. Proposes that there needs to be time allocated during meetings for committees/commissioners to

share their updates. Also proposes that the updates need to be shared to communities and posted publically.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Dinh comments that the board meeting format is not optimal for community engagement due to language barriers, etc. Rather, a separate community forum or event would be a better way to engage with the community. Need for more resources to support our work.

Commissioner Gaur comments there needs to be an incentive or reason to come to the meeting such as food or cultural activity. As an example, a prior meeting in Vancouver with a Hawaiian cultural dance brought dozens of attendees to the meeting.

Commissioner Wada said each Commissioners role is to communicate to their own communities, since each community is unique and has varied knowledge in how to navigate government systems. As an example, Commissioner Wada utilizes ethnic media to communicate issues such as early childhood education opportunities. The Commission should ensure that its role of educating/engaging with community and state government agencies is well balanced.

Commissioner Nguyen comments that specific community events are better for community engagement. Board meetings aren't necessarily optimal for community participation because the dialogue is often between Commissioners and presenters. Would like to see the Commission have more influence by meeting more with the governor, state agencies, and legislators.

Chair Tufono would like to ensure more members of the public know about CAPAA so they know that we can provide assistance when needed. Commissioners should reach out to local leaders such as city mayors to be a resource. Also, meetings in smaller communities tend to increase turnout since large cities have more support and infrastructure.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Dinh raised several questions about how to measure success, whether we do too much during the board meeting, and how to make board meetings more inviting to the public.

Commissioner Wada also emphasizes that working with the local government is key. The commissioners need to work with the local government/local community to increase the reach of the Commission.

Commissioner Guerrero made a motion at 10:55 AM to include on every agenda time for committee updates, commissioner presentations/updates, and strategic goal updates. The motion was tabled for further discussion.

Commissioner Sinclair suggests that staff needs to reevaluate the role of the committees and commissioners.

## **INDIA ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN WASHINGTON**

**Presenter:** Lalita Uppala, Vice President

Presentation available on CAPAA website: <https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/IAWW-CAPPA-2018.pdf>

IAWW – “community is like a ship, everyone has to be prepared to take the helm”, emphasis on everyone.

Serving the community since 1984. Aim is to connect immigrant/American communities.

Multiple languages spoken by South Asian community and multiple religions. Only secular nonprofit that serves as umbrella of the diverse Indian community. Provide resources and navigation for different communities. Giving individuals the opportunity to connect with the community.

IAWW serves adults, seniors, and youths through different programs, such as pop up Community Center (IAWW Community Program). Mentoring, enrichment, conversations, civic engagement and political advocacy are the activities done at these community meetings that are volunteer run. The emphasis on providing a community based narrative in civic engagement is key.

List of workshops/forums available on presentation. Emphasis on individual work and mentoring, through different channels and mediums. Issue based advocacy by researching what is on the mind of the community.

Cross-generational work is emphasized such as developing youth leadership and project management skills.

Commissioner Sinclair: What's the age range of who is served by IAWW?

- Indo-American demographic includes a significant senior population (10-20% age 60+, 60% age 35-55, rest is youth/young adult)

Commissioner Wada asks if participants are usually from King County?

- Majority from Eastside, but also Bothell, Seattle, Federal Way, Renton.

Commissioner Guerrero asks if there are plans to extend to other counties and open other chapters?

- Capacity building is a constraint. Everyone is a volunteer and most live east of Seattle. Need collaboration with other community organizations.

Lalita asks the Commission to help advocate for organizational support and capacity building.

## **COMMUNITY FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT**

Maria Batayola: Beacon Hill Seattle Air & Noise Pollution Health Issue

Presentation available on CAPAA website: <https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/18-EC-EPA-CAPAA-Presentation-1-20.pdf>

- Beacon Hill Seattle Air & Noise Pollution Health Issue
- Received a grant due to the air and noise pollution and impacts on health.
- This issue impacts other surrounding areas near the airport.
- Southeast Seattle has been identified as especially vulnerable to air and noise pollution related impacts.
- Overview of El Centro & EPA Problem Solving Collaboration.
  - o Study & Implementation.
  - o Emphasized the ethnic outreach team, 26 languages covered.
  - o Now planning to implement in 2018. ACRS, ICHS, Puget Sound Sage, SE Seattle Quieter Skies in partnership.
- Who lives in beacon hill overview:
  - o Diverse community, including significant API population.

- Sources of air/noise pollution
  - o Roads/highways
  - o Planes every 3 minutes with majority going over beacon hill.
- How CAPAA can help:
  - o Advocate with Governor Inslee and requests to FAA.
  - o Support convening a regional task force to study the rapidly increasing regional air travel and cargo demand.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Due to time constraints, Director Itti provided a brief overview of the Director's Report, which includes an update on the Commission's financial report, legislative session, agency outreach, community events, and issue areas.

View the full report on the CAPAA website: <https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/01.20.2018ExecDirReportFINAL.pdf>

Key update: COFA health care legislation is moving forward through the committee process.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Dinh inquired about the proposed changes to the Healthy Youth Survey that were not approved.

- Suggested Asian/Pacific Islander options and expanding to other forms of the survey. The proposal was not approved due to various concerns such as sample size and adding to the survey length.

## **NEEDS ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION**

Presentation available on CAPAA website: <https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Needs-Assessment-Discussion-2018-1-20-ver2.pdf>

Director Itti and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Dinh presents an outline and overview of the CAPAA Needs Assessment and facilitates discussion on the goal, scope, and focus of the Needs Assessment.

Chair Tufono raises question on how the funding will be spent.

- Research support, translation/interpreters, travel, etc.

Director Itti mentions a potential use for the results may be to collaborate with other state agencies and policy makers to address the unique needs of AAPIs. Dependent on what the focus is, actions and follow up can be adjusted.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Dinh walks through potential plan and steps for the next 6 months, which includes launching the assessment, developing the scope/methodology, process of data collection, and reporting out.

Commissioner Gaur requests background information about the Needs Assessment.

- This information was previously sent out via email and at a prior board meeting.

Commissioner Sinclair raises questions of what data already exists and how to identify the gaps to determine focus and goal of conducting the needs assessment. This will help determine the baseline to decide on what are priority issues.

Chair Tufono suggests using the resources to identify the grassroots efforts throughout the communities.

Director Itti presents brainstorming questions and requests that Commissioners provide feedback to staff and Executive Committee.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Dinh comments that the initial groups will serve as the pilot. Adjustments may be made to improve the process.

Commissioner Sinclair states that there will be a need to thoroughly develop the questions and methodology.

Commissioner Guerrero asks how different communities will be represented and whether their priorities will overshadow those of other communities.

Chair Tufono proposes that each committee develop different ideas to research on for the Needs Assessment.

### **RULE MAKING SESSION: WAC 34-04-080 COPYING**

Chair Tufono begins the Rule Making Session on WAC 34-04-080 Copying at 1:01 PM.

Director Itti provides background on the Rule Making Session and context for RCW 42.56.120 (Charges for copying).

Final call for public comment/testimony at 1:16 PM

No public comment/testimony.

Closed Rule Making Session at 1:16 PM on January 20, 2018.

Resumed Regular Board Meeting.

### **2018 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & PRIORITIES**

Director Itti and Project Coordinator Le presents updates on the current legislative session and bills the Commission has been tracking.

Presentation of the 2018 Legislative Update is available on the CAPAA website:  
<https://capaa.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CAPAA-legislative-update-2018-1-20.pdf>

Commissioner Gurung raises concern on the economic development bills that small businesses cannot qualify for the bonds/contracts as their revenue is not large enough.

Chair Tufono highlights SB 5020 as it opens the ability of the Commission to increase influence and advisory role and suggests commissioners to be actively tracking the progress of the Senate bill.

The Asian Pacific Islander Collation's (APIC) Asian Pacific American Legislative Day is on Jan. 23, 2018.

### **SPONSORSHIP REQUEST**

The Cambodian American Community Council of Washington has requested sponsorship for their Art of Survival program, which is the second in an annual Cambodian American event series called *Remembering the Past, Welcoming the Future*, which was the title of the inaugural event held in 2015 to reflect on the 40-year anniversary of the Cambodian Genocide.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Dinh presented the Executive Committee's recommendations and reviewed the sponsorship request.

Motion to approve \$250 for sponsorship of event by Commissioner Gaur at 1:49 PM. Seconded by Commissioner Sinclair. The motion was unanimously approval.

#### **Commissioner Announcements/Updates**

Chair Tufono requests to have a commissioner follow up with the Sikh community in Federal Way regarding recent incidents. Commissioner Sisavatdy volunteered to reach out.

Commissioner Wada states that the Emergency Management Division (EMD) at the Department of Health (DOH) will be having six community engagement events to address pandemics/endemics. The meetings will occur in Bellingham, Yakima, Wenatchee, Vancouver, Olympia, and Grays Harbor. More details are available online.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Guerrero at 1:58 PM to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Sinclair. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM.

Minutes prepared by Sam Le.