



Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, January 18th, 2020 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Asia Pacific Cultural Center | 4851 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM, quorum reached at 10:08 AM.

Present: Chair Lisa Dickinson, 1st Vice Chair Nam Nguyen, 2nd Vice Chair Lori Wada, Commissioner Carrie Huie-Pascua, Commissioner Tam Dinh, Commissioner Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Commissioner Lydia Faitalia, Commissioner Sina Sam, Commissioner Lalita Uppala, Commissioner Helen Christensen, Commissioner Mohan Gurung

Absent: Sam Cho

Staff: Executive Director Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, Project Manager Rosa Mai

II. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion to approve made at 10:12 AM by Cmmr. Wada.

Commr. Faitalia 2nd.

Motion passed unanimously.

III. Welcome, Introductions

CAPAA Commissioner Emeritus Lua Pritchard is not present for welcoming remarks at 10:13, and is instead pushed back until later in the agenda, and gives her remarks at 11:23. She gives a short history of Asia Pacific Cultural Center summarizes an annual report on the work they have done in the last year. APCC has served 269,005 people statewide, including many children and seniors. Without APCC's graduation assistance, for instance, many kids would not have graduated.

APCC moved from its original location in Ruston because the land there was toxic. APCC is almost done with negotiations to own the land the APCC is currently on. The building will go up 6 floors, and include an Asian garden. Partnering with Tacoma Housing Authority for this project to provide housing for members of the local API community.

APCC's New Year celebration is coming, featuring Vietnam. APCC will also be holding events later in the year for Samoa Cultural Day and Thai New Year.

Chair Dickinson presents Lua Pritchard with her CAPAA Commissioner Emeritus name badge.



IV. Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve made at 10:13 AM by Commr. Dinh.

Commr. Sam 2nd.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. E.D. Report

E.D. Hasegawa provides verbal overview of her written report at 10:13 AM.

Commissioner Comments:

Commr. Dinh: I want to thank you and applaud you for your work in getting this done. I know we've been pushing for this for a while, and it's great to see it to fruition.

Chair Dickinson: I just want to comment on the Ruth Woo Fellowship. I don't think we've ever had to pay for it before, otherwise it would be a line item in our budget. It's not due to the fault of our staff, but if we've done that before, then it should've been a line item. But because of the time crunch, we approved that because we do want a Ruth Woo Fellow in time for the applications, but we want to get clarification on that. As for the AAG, we wanted to get consulting—and you know Nam and I are attorneys—but we needed some clarifications for how some of these things worked. We didn't expect the costs to be that high. It was very necessary, but we needed clarification as to what that amounts to and why that wasn't made clear in advance for us.

Commr. Dinh makes a motion for CAPAA to make a statement expressing concerns about the lack of outreach by the CJTC to APA and immigrant communities to participate in the CJTC's Ad Hoc Committee on the Annual Community Police Summit.

Commr. Uppala 2nd.

Motion passes unanimously.

ACTION: CAPAA staff will draft letter to CJTC E.D. Sue Rahr in collaboration with CAPAA Civil Rights & Immigration Committee. Will send as soon as possible.

Chair Dickinson: Inquired as to what Equity Office legislation looks like.

E.D. Hasegawa replied that it will look a lot like the previous proposed legislation but with a few changes based on what the task force does. Governor Inslee allocated \$1 million for the Office of Equity in his budget.

Commr. Dinh: For some of the newer commissioners, I wanted to give some context for how this legislation will affect the ethnic commissions like CAPAA. We want to keep an eye out, because there's points of partnership and overlap, but we don't want that to replace the specific work the ethnic commissions do for their specific communities.



Commr. Uppala: Mentions she will be meeting with Sen. Dhingra soon (prime sponsor of the legislation) and offers to talk about the E.O. with her.

Commr. Huie-Pascua: Mentions that accountability measures are always at the front of her mind. He also wants to ensure there won't be an erasure of the ethnic commissions.

VI. POC Legislative Summit Report Back

Jenny Chang, Legislative Assistant to Sen. Hasegawa (11th LD – D) gives a report back on the People of Color Legislative Summit that took place in October. Two years ago, the senator had an idea of having a community legislative summit for POC communities across the state. This would be a chance for communities that are geographically far or historically limited from access to the legislature to have the opportunity to have their priorities heard.

This past Oct. 12th was the 2nd POC Legislative Summit. The original intention was for it to be community-led. There were roughly 30 people in the steering committee. Coordination was not great, so most of the work fell on Jenny Chang. She solicits feedback from CAPAA, as people who've done this work before in terms of large-scale grassroots organizing, which often doesn't go the way you expect it. This POCLS involved heavy use of technology for remote locations to be able to coordinate directly with Olympia on that day.

The POCLS had three main goals: to have a space for our communities to catalyze conversations and build relationships; build a POC-driven community legislative agenda; and create a list of who's working on what issues in what region. These goals would allow for collaboration between different organizations and allow for coalition building.

Chair Dickinson: Can you tell us a little about the structure of how it went?

E.D. Hasegawa: And can you tell us a little about the priorities that came up?

Jenny Chang: There was a one-hour opening plenary session as an introduction and explanation of technological logistics; then, each location divided into breakout groups, where organizations would speak on legislative priorities and make a list; each location had a poll to choose their top priorities, which were then sent to the master location and shared with the whole POCLS. We had technical difficulties with Zoom at every site but Olympia. Moreover, facilitators didn't understand polling, which led to some confusion. Seattle had about 50 people and was against the idea of ranking priorities, because they thought it would create hierarchy.

Jenny Chang has an internal draft of the legislative priorities from the POCLS, totaling 13 pages, which she will provide electronically.



1st VC Nguyen: Video conferencing just isn't a great option. Meeting one on one always better.

Commr. Sam: I was able to attend the POCLS last year, and technological issues were generally not a problem then. The follow-through was muddled, though, and next steps unclear. My main feedback is to get everyone on the same page.

2nd VC Wada: I think there needs to be a reality check among attendees. We needed follow up, so it doesn't just feel like we're venting our feelings.

E.D. Hasegawa: I think the POCLS itself went great—the three goals you laid out earlier were clear, and they were met—but we needed the information after. A rough draft of the priorities would have been fine, but it would've been great to have that in hand in the lead-up to legislative session.

Cmmr. Uppala requests that South Asian community be included in future POCLS outreach efforts.

VII. Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz

At 11:29 AM, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz greets the Commission, and mentions that she grew up not too far from the current board meeting location.

She gives a general overview of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and their priorities this session. It oversees the coastline in a management and proprietary role; public access to waterways; salmon restoration; wind and solar energy leases; and much more. The DNR generates \$300 million of revenue per year for the state. It manages the edgewater on behalf of the people of WA state. \$125 million of the money generated by DNR funds schools. \$200 million funds county budgets, accounting for up to 40% of some county's operating budgets. DNR's urban forestry program helps cities that struggle to keep up with forest upkeep.

The DNR is well-tuned to Washington State's geography and any natural disasters that may occur—the state has five live volcanoes, and are at risk of earthquake, tsunami, etc. Washington forests are dying on a large scale, which has been leading to catastrophic wildfires. Salmon are dying off, which is affecting the whole food chain and ecosystem.

The DNR has several major priorities. First, get on top of the wildfires. Three communities here in Washington State are at worst risk than Paradise, CA. DNR developed a 10-year wildfire plan for how to handle this issue, both in the proactive and the defensive. They've also developed a 20-year forest health plan to make them more resilient to fire. There is a revenue bill being pushed for DNR to have the resources for the equipment, personnel, and training



necessary to tackle the scale of the problem. Currently, they only have eight helicopters, and they're all from the Vietnam War.

Second, they are launching a salmon strategy called Trees to Seas to address the massive decline. They are linking up lands in Snohomish, Puyallup, and Nisqually to bring state authority, innovative tools, tribes, and the private sector to do that work. She cites work on Ruston, addressing the issue of the toxicity that CAPAA Commr. Emeritus Pritchard mentioned earlier.

Third, DNR has a climate resiliency plan. It is the first climate resiliency plan in the state of WA, and would be investing into the community.

Commr. of Public Lands Franz also mentions DNR's work on economic development and housing. She explains their Rural Economic and Housing Initiative: "How can we bring our resources to areas that don't have urban infrastructure and support?" She also mentions their work towards getting broadband access to areas that don't have it, building on CAPAA's earlier conversations about the geographic diversity of APIs across Washington State. The DNR is working with cities and state agencies partners to see how to develop some communities for the economic and social wellbeing to meet the needs of those communities.

She also addresses the lack of diversity within the DNR. They've been in talks with UW about their program to diversify their staff, citing that as a good example of transforming a nearly all-white department into something much more diverse, and is hoping to draw from some of their strategies and replicate their success.

Chair Dickinson: Thank you for coming and meeting with us. About the decline of shellfish and salmon—many of our communities rely on seafood, and we're glad to see that this is on your priority list. For the involvement of private development of the land in the state, what has been the holdup?

DNR Commr. Franz: That's what I was asking! I'm on my third year now, and we had so much unleased land, and we weren't collecting any revenue from it.

Commr. Dinh: Thank you for presentation. I learned a lot as well. I know a lot of community members who are interested in building cultural centers, senior homes, etc. Who should they talk to?

DNR Commr. Franz: I'll follow up and send that information over.

2nd Vice Chair Wada: Thank you for your work in diversifying the Department—you've already done so much in making that happen! I used to work with your predecessor, and there wasn't much there, so this is a big improvement. I think there would be more if you could have translated materials to reach different communities, especially for emergency services.



Hilary: Absolutely. Most of our stuff is just English, “Evacuate! Evacuate! Evacuate!” and we realize just how unhelpful that is. Last year, the legislature proposed the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act, which directs agencies to use an environmental justice lens on all environmental project in the state and to address disparities that exist on racial lines.

Commr. Faitalia: How do you acquire land?

DNR Commr. Franz: We inherited land from the feds for schools first. We also acquired land from the county when people couldn’t pay their taxes, primarily during the Great Depression; the counties had all this land they didn’t know what to do with. From there, we can buy, sell, or lease the land. We’re not limited to our current portfolio.

Commr. Gurung mentions that the Nepali community is looking a community space to gather, as they have a growing population but no dedicated space for them. Chair Dickinson acknowledges his comment, and mentions that they should link offline to clarify his ask.

Chair Dickinson: Thank you again so much for coming to speak to us. We have an Economic Development Committee for CAPAA, and we’d love to link up with you to discuss some of these things further.

DNR Commr. Franz: Absolutely! I’ll be in contact with E.D. Hasegawa, and I’d be happy to follow up with your committee.

VIII. WSDOT Active Transportation Division Director Barb Chamberlain

WSDOT Active Transportation Division Director Barb Chamberlain gives a presentation to the Commission. Due to technical difficulties, she was unable to show her slideshow, but gives a verbal presentation instead. Washington is currently the only state to have active transportation division like this, which is a topic that is usually deprioritized in other states. However, walking and biking are modes of transportation, and are nearly universal. Even people who mostly drive will eventually need crosswalks and sidewalks.

Improving active transportation in the state involves culture change and understanding our systems, which are outdated and byzantine. It is necessary to do this work through an equity framework—many Washingtonians don’t have a drivers’ license, and the state needs to be cognizant of that. It also must be done in the context of the history of transportation. Highways are placed where they are for very deliberate reasons, including redlining and splitting communities. The WSDOT Active Transportation Division is looking to heal those injustices.

Director Chamberlain mentions that the Division state plan listing their priorities in March, during which time they will solicit community input and feedback. Prior to her work in this division, she had attempted to find this information before, but it was very inaccessible. She



hopes to create tools for people to make better decisions—both WSDOT and other agencies and partners. Small decisions can make a big difference to bikers and pedestrians.

Shifting practices helps everyone. Our current system is engineered to put people into cars, so there needs to be a shift to give everyone more options—biking, walking, driving, taking transit, etc.

WSDOT Active Transportation Division has an E-News link that details their work and public forums.

ACTION: CAPAA staff will send out E-News link to Commissioners.

Commr. Dinh: I love your plan, especially about how, if we make walking and biking more accessible to some people, it makes things easier for people who need to drive. I'm glad to hear that, because in my community, there's a cultural relevance element to it. There are times when community engagement doesn't feel authentic.

Director Chamberlain: Absolutely, and as someone who started off in advocacy, I understand how that whole "I know what's best for you" mentality is unhelpful. And in areas where we don't need new infrastructure, sometimes it's something like lowering the speed limit that makes it safer for pedestrians. Every year, we look at fatalities and serious injuries. There are many factors, but sometimes it's something like their age—young and springy is more likely to survive a traffic accident, but older people and people in wheelchairs are at increased risk. Car fatalities are down, but pedestrian injuries and deaths have been increasing, and hit an all-time high in 2018.

1st VC Nguyen: Transportation is civil rights and health disparities issue. What's the plan for suburbs? Many AAPI and people of color were gentrified out of Seattle and now live in suburban areas.

Director Chamberlain: We work with cities and counties, whose plans roll into a regional plan to create coordination. There is an active transportation commission that Harold [Taniguchi] and I are on that would address pedestrian safety, and I want to thank him for the work he's doing on this.

IX. Public Forum

Lelei Masina is a member of the City of Kent's Cultural Community Board. This is her first CAPAA meeting. The Cultural Community Board has representatives from different ethnic group to advise on policy issues, much like CAPAA does. Because the members of the board are unpaid volunteers, they have the leeway to be very candid in voicing their thoughts to the City. She also does a lot of community work in regards to youth. She mentions that the PI



youth she works with have been trying to follow legislation through this session, and were interested in the Office of Equity.

Fred Thomas from Not This Time describes that the updated standards for an independent investigation into police use of force is not what the community asked for. In 2013, his 30 year-old son disobeyed police and they shot him dead while holding his son in his arms. They ruled it a justified homicide. The Thomas family ended up winning a civil suit, and today they want to hold police accountable for when they kill people. The CJTC has only invited a handful of people to the public forum to plan its first ever annual summit. The Puyallup tribe has representation, but not the Skykomish tribe. There are more people out there than just these 9 groups on the committee, and they need a voice. This group that I formed, Next Steps, should have been started months ago. I'm stepping up now. It's opening up the forum and the format to people who have been excluded from this.

Luisa Laulile has attended several CAPAA meetings in the past and on March 8, the United Indians of All Tribes will have their takeover event. She invites everyone from CAPAA to attend. She updates the Commission that a previous event mentioned at the November Board Meeting has been pushed back a year to August 2021. She points out that CAPAA only has a single PI Commissioner, and the youth must be able to see themselves in CAPAA and other institutions.

Steve Romano introduces himself and comments on the Office of Equity Task Force that E.D. Hasegawa touched on briefly in her report. "Why doesn't Equity Office use Robert's Rules? Shouldn't that be mandated, since they're working on the Governor?" Says it feels like public input is useless, from the meeting he went to.

The owners of Kathy Barnette Sewing, custom sewing business in Tacoma, introduce themselves. Their business does custom sewing of cultural wear for the PI community.

Commr. Fatialia thanks Fred Thomas for his earlier comments on the criminalization of black and brown bodies, and emphasizes that it's important for the Commission to address PI representation, who are often victims of police violence. Moreover, she adds, it's important for the Commission at large to do more for the PI community.

X. Caryn Park, SEL Workgroup

Caryn Park, CAPAA's representative on the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Advisory Committee, introduces herself at 1:07 PM. She teaches SEL and a critique of SEL. SEL is a de facto cultural cognizant approach, since there is no "neutral" way to approach SEL. The work of the Committee spans from K-12 and the Committee itself was originally much less diverse until they invited the ethnic commissions.



Caryn Park was met with resistance by OSPI when she first joined the SEL Work Group. The staff to the current Committee were very goal-driven, so her critiques were not given due consideration. When she approached E.D. Hasegawa about this, the E.D. was very supportive, and connected Caryn to Commr. Dinh and the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. At the following SEL Work Group meeting, they took a more cognizant approach to cultural relevance and cultural sustainability pedagogy. A lot of progress was made.

Commr. Dinh: We're so lucky to have someone with the compassion and skills like you to do this work. Your situation made us realize that we need more coordination between the committees and those representing CAPAA, so they have the institutional support and are aware of that. I'm also glad that the SEL approach is not trying to push our kids into a single orthodoxy but instead being much more cognizant of the cultural needs of the students.

XI. Census Updates

Project Manager Mai gives a brief update on CAPAA's Census work in Whitman, Thurston, and Clark Counties. KAYA Strategik has given report-backs to Whitman and Clark County, and Thurston County is aiming for a February report-back, determined largely by APIC-SPS.

XII. Committee Breakout Sessions

Chair Dickinson asks that, due to time constraints, Committees meet during the interim before the next board meeting.

XIII. Strategic Plan

Chair Dickinson has signed the strategic plan, which will be CAPAA's plan until 2022.

Motion to approve by 2nd Vice Chair Wada. Motion seconded by Commr. Sisavatdy. *Motion passes unanimously.*

XIV. Committee Report Back

Commr. Sisavatdy, Chair of the Education Committee, reports that his Committee met yesterday to approve strategic plan remotely, and plan to convene monthly. Their goal is to support the work of folks like Caryn Park, especially since CAPAA has so many work groups relating to education. This motivated them to create a more solid structure in this next year. Their focus is on retention and bridging the gap for AAPI students. The Committee has also been involved in the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, and will send Project Manager Mai flyers to send out. The Committee is also involved in the Southeast Asian Health Education Summit, and will talk to E.D. Hasegawa for help in finding folks to table.



Commr. Dinh reports for the Health & Human Services Committee. Commr. Dinh met with BloodWorks on behalf of the Committee and learned about need for ethnic specific blood. She emphasizes a need for long-term relationships, ongoing campaigns, and cultural approaches to body issues like blood donation. Commr. Huie-Pascua is now on the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Equity Committee. The Committee's is taking a similar approach to Education Committee in connecting with individuals who represent CAPAA on different groups, and seeing where there is support needed.

Commr. Sam, Chair of the Civil Rights and Immigration Committee, reports that the Committee did not convene since the last board meeting, and they agreed at the last meeting that their approach would be more issue based and done on an as-needed basis. They helped Iranian-Americans who were stopped at the border early in the New Year. Commr. Uppala gives a brief update about recent hate crimes in Bellevue, which have deeply hurt the Indian community, especially since it happened in front of a community cultural center. The family affected are very adamant about not coming public about it, because there is a shame surrounding it. East King County is holding an immigrant/refugee safety event in March.

1st Vice Chair Nguyen explains the processes for the Nominations Committee. CAPAA will have 4 openings this year, including Commissioners who need to reapply. Chair Dickinson will be cycling out and we will need at least one brand new commissioner. The committee will consist of members of the Executive Committee and one Commissioner, as detailed in CAPAA's rules. They will be interviewed, and then must be appointed by the Governor.

XV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made at 2:01 PM by Commr. Faitalia.
Commr. Sam 2nd.
Motion passed unanimously.