

**Minutes from Commission on Asian and Pacific American Community Development
Wednesday, February 25, 2010**

Present: David Chung, Chair; Matt Finucane, Commissioner; Martha Wantanabe, Commissioner; John Tinpe, Commissioner; Wylie Chen, Commissioner; Richard Chiang, Commissioner; Ngoc Trinh, OAPIA; Julie Koo, OAPIA, Tejpal Chawla, Commissioner

Meeting minutes for January approved with small language change in the minutes in the last paragraph, November minutes will be edited and sent around.

Old Business

Last meeting discussed questionnaire, trying to make it more comprehensive about crime, will send around again for comments for final approval
OAPIA follow up with more representation by DCPD

David asked about our term ending as Commissioners, and Julie responded by explaining that the new Director of Boards and Commissions will be calling everyone to ask if they want to serve again, and she will be interviewing those who express interest. Julie let everyone know whose term was ending in April, and whose term will not end until 2011.

Tej asked how much funding for OAPIA was going to be cut, and Julie explained that the office will be operating with a 10% reduction. DC gov also has a hiring freeze for all departments. Julie decided to cut one FT in order to increase grants to community groups.

David will be preparing the end of the year report, and Martha will be compiling minutes for the Commission for the year and send them to David to compile.

Tej suggested avoiding putting quotes in the minutes, and the Commission agreed.

Julie - 8 public witnesses came to provide testimony for the budget oversight and hearing for OAPIA, didn't have many questions, wanted to make sure that OAPIA does work for Census and asked about Chinatown and merchant outreach. Councilmember Alexander asked about working on teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS and to participate in a workshop for parents regarding this sensitive issue. Ngoc – explained the details of the workshop.

David – what was the goal of the DCRA database? Julie - Goal was to have the most up to date API business owners and most up to date API business owners in case we need to contact them. Hopefully to get license information for them. David – also is it to find out whether or not they need language access? May be able to be good to use numbers of API merchants to show the influence of API business/merchants in DC. 150 out of 600 merchants...600 licenses are for API merchants, but not all of them are active. Maybe foil the entire file for merchants who filed with DC gov; get the information from DCRA so we can reach out to API businesses; public information when merchants file with DC gov so it's public.

Budget hearing is on May 6, really important for the CBO's to come out and ask for more money and hopefully we can get more money. Martha – have you submitted budget? Julie – yes we've already submitted it, but not finalized. Tej - How much is for salaries? Julie – we'll get back to you on that and

give more information. David – are you allowed to see the budget? Julie – not final version so we cannot share.

Census update – main thing right now is that we want to increase awareness with the community and it's something we want to address, but we don't have a good solution, but it's reaching out to the emerging populations, but we don't know how to do it. Indian is the largest population, and orgs like SAALT know where to go, but need to find a way to get the emerging populations like Pakistani, Mongolian, and Burmese to locate them for the Census. Some of the embassies give list of individuals, so that's good to track down individuals that we know...but that's the biggest challenge.

Tej – when will they do the census? Julie – In March, and due by April 1, but if you don't respond, they will come try to get you to fill it out. John – will they do target advertising? Julie – yes, they'll be and have been doing commercials, and other efforts to reach out. One of the strategies is to go to temples or places of worship to do workshops and reach out. Tej - Another population is to find the student populations. Julie – yes, we are doing that too to do a workshop for these groups. We have census packets here, but workshops are done by census workers. Once they are done, we have a packet of info to give to people. You can download it. Tej – is there a box kit? Julie – yes there is a packet. Tej - if you can put one together, I'll be able to distribute it. If you can give me 20, 20, 20 Hindi, Punjabi and English and Urdu. Julie – yes, we can do that. Tej – I'll give you the numbers...how long will it take to put together. Julie – a couple of days. We'll let you know. Wylie – can we help with outreach to make sure that the API groups that are not targeted? It's important for us as a commission to take this on. Martha – I was working with Neel on this and we are already on it. We've put a calendar together and you'll be hearing from us. Ngoc – some groups who are Asian do not identify as being Asian, such as South Asians who check "other" on the form. Julie – some groups are not given the box in terms of checking, so they select other as well. Matt – there is no long form this year, which would have picked up some ethnicities. I called the APJC...what they will need to do is get the American survey to capture all of the API ethnic communities. Some data to supplement the form to capture. American survey will need to get a few years for smaller groups to get enough large samples, such as Vietnamese.

Julie - Met with Chancellor Rhee, and David and John attended with OAPIA, AALEAD, VACAC, and others. Wanted to meet with her to provide feedback regarding the API community and education.

The Vending meeting discussing the moratorium for providing licenses for vendors, been lifted. But new vendors can't enter business. They were going to make more vending spots available for DC, but still in the planning stage.

Korean vendors are souvenirs and Vietnamese are food vendors and don't want to lose their vending space, and there is detailed info about what they want so OAPIA is meeting with DCRA and community to discuss details and the needs. Vendors have to enter lottery every month, and get the spot for one month. Vending spot is assigned for street vendors. This applies to street/roadway vendors, with lottery every month.

David – why would you have a lottery for roadway? Julie - Fairness because there are some areas better than others so it rotates. Only \$500 per year for the vendors...used to make a lot of money, but now it's more difficult to make money. Why? Ngoc – more competition. John – more businesses that sell souvenirs around. More food, more restaurants, more variety. Julie – very complicated situation, hopefully they will explain what they need in the meeting. They will talk about the issue, and perhaps we can give you background so you know what they are talking about. Even among vendors, they have

different opinions, and even the same vendors have different opinions....such as last year didn't want police enforcement, and this year they do. So it's one OAPIA will be working on.

Tej – what does it mean when they did not meet their targeted goals? Julie – one group had too high of goals and couldn't reach it, and by the time we submitted report, it was too late to change. Another one, they only missed by one or two people, and giving them extension to meet their goal. Tej – are we withholding funds until they meet goal or giving them? Julie – already given, but may withhold final check. Tej – may not give final report if no funding. Julie – they all give final report, so it's been working well. Richard – what happens if they meet almost all of the goal, but not entire goal? They have to reimburse, or they get extension, so they have time to meet the goal. But must meet the goal that they set.

David – what is the paperless going green? Julie – we want to go green, so I would like to see if you would like to use the monitor instead of printing out paper. Matt – I like getting the report on paper. Commissioner – agenda can go on the screen. David – and the minutes we can email.

Matt announces Folklife Festival, Phil Nash is Curating, many API organizations involved. June 24-28, July 2-5. After Asian Heritage month there is another event.