

Minutes from Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development Meeting  
August 26, 2009

Present:

Tejpal Chawla; Richard Chiang; David Chung (chair); Wylie Chen (via teleconference); Matt Finucane; Dhaval Patel; John Tinpe; Martha Watanabe

Absent: Tina Ang; Richard Tagle

Staff: Soohyun Koo, Mable Kong

Minutes were approved from the past meeting. Rotating secretary was Tejpal Chawla for this meeting. It was further agreed that secretary should continue to rotate between commissioners alphabetically by last name.

Committee formation: It was discussed that the bylaws permit the Commission to create specific committees, and allow the chair to select the committee members. It was agreed to delay formal creation of the committees for 2 meetings, but encouraged for specific commissioners to consider joining specific committees. Possible committees included Business, Health and Human Services, and Public Safety.

Commissioner Tinpe expressed an interest in educating the APA community about the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu). Specific information that was requested was translated material for vaccine information, Emergency preparedness, and additional outreach efforts. Ms. Koo indicated that she would continue outreach efforts, and it was agreed to use upcoming Commissioner Happy Hour as base to raise awareness among the community.

Recap of Washington Liquor Retailers Association Meeting and follow-up with ABRA Director Fred Mossally: Chairperson Chung reported on this meeting with ABRA following the Retailers Associations issues of concern. Ms. Koo and Chairperson Chung attended the meeting and indicated follow-up would be occurring shortly on issues of a searchable database; having voluntary agreements placed on the internet; and further outreach to the South Asian community including hiring south Asian investigators and employees by ABRA. Ms. Koo also agreed to follow-up with ABRA on training, translation of materials, revamped website and database of owners.

Commissioners reviewed and discussed issues relating to upcoming 2010 Census. Neel Saxena is heading up OAPIA outreach, and Commissioner Watanabee express interest in assisting in a strategy to ensure that APAs are properly measured by the survey.

Commissioners again discussed the Merchant Survey Questionnaire focused on safety. Efforts will be made to make the questionnaire anonymous but understood that the office and MPD may be following up with them. Efforts will also be made to spread questionnaire by email. This form will be separate from the case assistance forms that OAPIA uses.

Ms. Koo advised the Commission of efforts to streamline case assistance efforts by the office and to create office days and mobile outreach in specific communities. She also indicated additional efforts to streamline interaction with DCRA on case assistance matters.

Ms. Koo also presented her Director's Report. The Chinatown Cultural Development Strategy was discussed, as was feedback and process involved in creating it. A council meeting and hearing is scheduled this fall, and Ms. Koo indicated she would alert the commission when it is scheduled. She further indicated that the next Bimonthly Meeting for Community members is 9/22/09, and asked commissioners to attend if possible. Ms. Koo also announced that community grants in excess of \$275,000 were awarded by OAPIA. The formal list would be sent to commissioners, but list included: AALEAD, CTSC, CTCS, SAALT, VRCC, NC, ASE, HSS, and DVRP.

Happy Hour –next date was scheduled for Judge Florence Pan to come and appear at the next APIA Happy Hour which was co-hosted by the Commission at the K Street Lounge on 8/24/09. It was further agreed to attempt to get a speaker to talk about H1N1 virus preparedness.