

Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Philippine American Community Center of Michigan, 17356 Northland Park Ct, Southfield, MI

Attendance

Present: Sook Wilkinson, Roland Hwang, Connie Dang, Hannah Feikema, Mumtaz Haque, Tack-Yong Kim, Tsu-Yin Wu, Nasim Ansari, Ehsan Taqbeen, Mamatha Chamarthi, Anand Kumar, Ramesh Verma, Ernestina S. Mac., Jeffrey Vang

Conference Call-In: Peter Wong, Guozhen Lu

Also Present: Mary McLellan (MDCR), Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Dan Krichbaum, Henry Tanaka, Yvonne Poindexter, Cynthia Baker, Deanna Wooten (EEOC)

I. Call to Order

Chairperson H. Sook Wilkinson called the regular meeting of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to order at 9:03 a.m. on December 7, 2012.

II. Welcome & Introductions

Participants introduced themselves. Henry Tanaka was approved as commission member. Introductions included: Yvonne Poindexter, HUD, Director of Office of Fair Housing (She is here to gather information and extend services to MAPAAC), and Cynthia Baker, EEOC - Federal investigator.

A. Approval of Agenda

H. Sook Wilkinson moved to approve the agenda, Willie Dechavez seconded. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Minutes

H. Sook Wilkinson moved for approval of minutes. Mumtaz seconded. Motion passed.

III. Global Michigan Initiative (GMI) - Cultural Ambassadors, Mary McLellan, Commissions Liaison, MDCR

A. Cultural Ambassador Program associated with Global Michigan with 5 initiatives. CAP (initiative) – CAP is asking for support from the community. It is established to sustain and generate economic growth from immigration. Emphasizing the international university students within the State of Michigan and their talents to generate growth. CAP is to welcome these students with accommodations that include addressing language barriers. Transportation and living explanations and site locating. Goal is to ensure a smooth transition into the new community.

B. Global Michigan also looks for a direct foreign investment, including exports. This is done by contacts through individuals that have ties to others in foreign countries.

Generic welcoming to all individuals associated with the idea of Michigan investment.

C. Accommodate and get involved with the interested individual.

- i. How to become a cultural ambassador: Website and application/questionnaire, requesting interest and skills. Statewide program that connects individuals within the area. Once named an ambassador, the person will be placed on the mailing list of Global Michigan.

Wilkinson poses a question: How as a commission can we contribute to Global Michigan and the CAP?

Answer: To generate resources to aid the mission of the organization. Holds MAPAAC as a rock, well grounded, contribute to missing/incorrect information held by Global Michigan.

Link to be sent to the commission members to generate services and resources to aid CAP.

Question: Problems with Immigration - how does Global Michigan plan to aid those in need?

Answer: Not entirely sure, will seek answer

Question: How was Governor's trip to China?

Answer: Mary McLellan has not heard any feedback, however there has been a successful trip.

Problem: As a community, there is an expectation for the process and follow up of the program development and outreach attempts. Communication is needed that should include if resources and services are unavailable, there should be notice of that.

We do not want to invest time and resources without any feedback. Contact Maria.

Issue (Roland): The ability to get a driver's license issue.

Answer: Yet to be determined. Looking for positive changes as of right now.

IV. Director of MDCR, Dan Krichbaum: Fred Korematsu Certificate of Recognition

A. Agrees to establish follow up with the governor's office with issue listed above.

B. Recognition Day: January 30, 2013 – Governor invited.

If the governor is not able to attend, the lieutenant governor will most likely fill in.

Henry Tanaka requests involvement.

C. Mentioned to keep an active eye on the budget for the commission. Lobby agrees to get involved.

V. 2013 Executive Committee Election - Ramesh Verma

i. Bylaws: Elections need to be nominated by 2013.

ii. Nominated and passed: Connie: Vice Chair, Roland Hwang Secretary,

VI. May AAPI Heritage Month Capitol Celebration - Willie DeChavez

i. Proposal: Planning time for the next APA Heritage Month celebration. Suggested dates - May 14, 2013 or May 21, 2013. Open to the commission for vote.

- ii. Schedule is based on last year's schedule due to success. Vote between a keynote speaker, workshop, or Town Hall Meeting.
- iii. Luncheon: 12:00pm-1:00pm
- iv. Sam Sing suggested for keynote speaker. Need guest speaker, and Senator Hopgood. Suggestions are welcomed.
- v. The same venue as last year, suggestion: to pay in advanced for the facility. Planned to work with one caterer to simplify the process.
- vi. Support from organizations.
- vii. Questions and all interested to work on the event to contact Willie.

Questions:

- Legislative members: to issue any problems/concerns.
- Allocate duties to one individual instead of the committee (suggestion)
- Keep in mind the schedule, must realize the schedules of guests and speakers
- Leftover food from last year, perhaps change the time to ensure no leftovers.
- Limitations do not allow for the schedule to be changed (Rotunda can be rented for a specific amount time – only 1hr.

VII. Update on MAPAAC Coordinator Opening.

- i. Budget allows for contracted coordinator.

VIII. Sub-groups Discussions and Updates 10:20-10:50

- i. First group: Policy
- ii. Second Groups: Community needs
- iii. Third Groups Equality and access

Group One - Policy

Particular goal: Support MDCR to make Michigan a welcoming state to APIAs
 Timeline: Support program, look at different transportation systems in Michigan, make Detroit Metro Airport more welcoming: information group, liaison, etc., provide cell phone services for immigrants, adopt resource guide.

Group Two - Community Needs

Particular goal: Strengthen the working with the APIA communities
 Timeline: Support and work with Kellogg's racial equality initiative (five groups) and identify themes, collaborate with existing programs to promote the health of APIA's, work with Asian Community to implement annual health fairs. Outreach to other communities.

Action Plans: Play as advisory roles and collaborate with existing programs. Committee will plan in the fall of next year. Implementation from spring to 2014.

Group Three - Equality and Access

Particular goal: Outreach to the several communities that fall under the APIA population (regarding inequality in the workforce and education).

Timeline: Identify and locate Asian American communities and organizations, then offer outreach resources about the inequality they experience. Have them get involved instead of remaining passive with these issues.

Action Plan: Retrieve data through surveying and focus groups. Perhaps use the data from the Census, regarding the salaries of Asian Americans compared to general population.

IX. Old Business

i. MAPAAC Non-profit Fiscal Agent: Two organizations that have offered their services as fiscal services: Council of Asian Pacific Americans and National Filipino American Association.

Willie Dechavez shared the report of NFAA regarding their current policy as a fiscal agent for MAPAAC. Received \$1,000 donation from DTE.

Anand offered role of fiscal agent with his organization, for the time being, time is not a limitation, the volume is the main concern.

Scholarships available regarding fiscal agency and operations.

Friends of MAPAAC Committee (Henry, Mumtaz, Roland) to send a report - brainstorm

ii. MAPAAC Recognition Gala: Recognize the impact and efforts of Asian American individuals in the community.

Willie - To honor the contributions of the APIAs, focus on Asian organizations. The event will be a dinner and dance layout. To be held at a hotel, to maximize community involvement. Date is yet to be determined, refer to the schedules community and the organization. Not be associated with a specific celebration/cultural holiday. Main goal to recognize efforts, side goal is to raise funds.

Proposal: Suggest separate event during Asian Pacific American Heritage month. May be difficult due to lack of time, resources, and locations.

Create a sponsorship/partnership as a trial event. Planning event for May.

Vote on the Recognition Event: To be held in the month of May, during the Heritage Month. Continue the exploration of the event.

X. New Business

i. Networking events with the APA Community - Tsu Yin Wu. This is to impact the community and increase the visibility. Invite the community, legislators, staff, etc. to get to know each other on different levels and create relations.

Invitations to go out to many regions of Michigan.

Add a presentation that reflects an issue conflicting with the APIA community.

ii. Town Hall Meetings - already established

iii. Fred Korematsu Celebration, January 30, 2013. Cooperation with Troy public schools and other organizations. Social studies to raise awareness and add to public education.

iv. March Strategic Planning Retreat - Thoughts and agenda items are welcomed. To contact with Jamie Hsu and Michael, to see if they would be willing to facilitate the strategic planning. Time 9am-2pm and need to find a venue, Jackson and Kalamazoo institutes are some location ideas.

XI. Public Comments

i. Mumtaz – identified an Individual in need of an attorney- she has been abused and harassed at work and in her domestic life, fears that her daughter will be taken away. She is asked to pay for child support.

ii. Yvonne Poindexter offers her services/office up to the committee in regards to equal employment services. Also, internship is available to enrolled full-time students, submit an online application at usajobs.gov, no age limitations.

XII. Announcements

1. Willie Dechavez - Saturday, December 15, there is a Filipino Gala hosted by NFAA.
2. Philippines have been hit by a tsunami, where 500 have died, look for contributions/donations to help those in need.
3. Mathama - Families without insurance SAY - 313-869-8569
4. Miindia.com Operation Kid Equip - Helps kids in need to assist in school expenses.
5. Mumtaz - Citizenship services on January 9, 2013 at Hamtramck Library.

XIII. Adjournment

Willie Dechavez moved to adjourn. Seconded. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Mitchell Diep

Minutes submitted by:

H. Sook Wilkinson, Chair

Tack-Yong Kim, Secretary

Roland Hwang, Asst. Secretary