

**Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**

September 6, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – noon.

CMS Energy Building

1 Energy Plaza, Jackson, Michigan 49203

**Attendance**

**Present:** Asim Alavi, Nasim Ansari, Mamatha Chimarthy, Connie Dang, Jamie Hsu, Tack-Yong Kim, Anand Kumar, Toshiaki Masaki, Ehsan Taqbeen, Jeffery Vang, Ramesh Verma, Sook Wilkinson, Tsu-Yin Wu.

**Attended over Phone:** Hannah Feikema, Roland Hwang, Ernestina DeLos Santos-Mac, Peter Wong

**Excused Absence:** Willie Dechavez, Mumtaz Haque, Henry Tanaka, Guozhen Lu

**Staff:** Mitch Diep

**Guests:** Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Mary McLellan, Paul Neumeier

**I. Call to Order**

- a. Chairperson Jaime Hsu called the regular meeting of Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to order at 9:15 a.m. on September 6, 2013.

**II. Welcome and Introduction**

- a. Approval of Agenda
  - i. Motion for approval by Sook Wilkinson, seconded by Nasim Ansari. Motion to approve agenda passed.
- b. Approval of June 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes
  - i. Motion for approval by Nasim Ansari, seconded by Connie Dang. Motion for approval of June 14, 2013 meeting minutes passed.

**III. Introduction of New Chair**

- a. Remarks from outgoing Chair - Sook Wilkinson addresses the commission.
  - i. Sook Wilkinson recognized Senator Hopgood's role in MAPAAC.
- b. Jaime Hsu requests patience and communication for learning experiences as the new Chair.

**IV. Commissioner Status and Application of Renewal**

- a. Current Commissioner Status: Six commissioners will have to reapply to renew their commissioner status.
  - i. Term Expiration - November 30, 2013
  - ii. Roland Hwang asks if there is a list of members that have reappointment, for documentation of renewal.

1. Jamie Hsu will ask Mary McLellan and the appointment office for confirmation.
- iii. Commissioners are to inform Jamie Hsu about their decision of renewal.

**V. Strategic Initiative Groups (SIGS) Discussions and Reports**

- a. SIG I: Asim Alavi - Bullying and cultural insensitivity
  - i. Develop anti-bullying plans
    1. REI will work on cultural insensitivity.
  - ii. SIG I was not able to establish a plan with the school due to time restrictions.
  - iii. Goal is to model this program and replicate it with more school districts.
  - iv. Jamie asks if SIG I and REI should combine efforts to create one group, commissioners may be expanding their duties and roles over a great length of time with several active initiatives.
    1. Members from REI and SIG I agree to hold a discussion with SIG II to combine efforts (due to overlapping SIG members).
    2. Roland Hwang: Suggests that the REI is proceeding on its own path supported by other funding, structural change is uncertain.
    3. Sook Wilkinson: Suggests a more effective outcome with keeping the initiatives separate for the time being.
  - v. As with the majority, the initiatives will remain separate.
- b. SIG II: Tsu-Yin - APA Community and Advocacy
  - i. Tsu-Yin Wu: Primary focus - Health, Immigration and Education, connecting model groups with immigrant groups.
    1. Affordable Care Act presentations
      - a. Ehsan Taqbeem will be leading an ACA presentation in the Bangladeshi community in Hamtramck on September 25, 2013.
  - ii. Ehsan Taqbeem - Pilot model - Hamtramck ACA presentation to act as pilot model for future presentations.
    1. Targeted areas: Canton, Ann Arbor, and many other locations after the pilot model presentation.
    2. Program will get MAPAAC's name out into the community and will illustrate what MAPAAC does.
      - a. Jamie Hsu was asked to attend if possible.
    3. September 25, 2013 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm in Hamtramck
      - a. ACA Presentation
      - b. Q&A
    4. BAPAC to co-sponsor the event. Approved by the Executive Committee and the Commission.

5. Budget:
  - a. \$2000.00 for all expenses.
  - b. A vendor number and the invoice for accrued expenses will need to be provided to MAPAAC/MDCR from the hosting organization.
6. Tack-Yong Kim: Suggests printed out material in various languages to accommodate for different ethnicities
  - a. Tack-Yong Kim to address the Blue Cross to develop a program and provide materials, with possible sponsorship. .
  - b. Power Point slide - How do we accurately translate to different languages?
    - i. Sook Wilkinson suggests APIAHF.com, where translated material and services can be obtained.
- iii. The first event is approved by the Executive Committee. With success, there will be a second event for a different community.
  1. Evaluation process will have to be developed to determine the success of the event.
  2. The next area to receive a presentation is determined by the board.
  3. Media and Press presence/coverage will be available. Vicki Levengood will be responsible for all media and press services and resources.
- iv. Use of Navigators: Individuals to assist the APA community in Michigan with translating and guidance services.
  1. Jamie Hsu is to aid in directing individuals/organizations to navigators and other resources.
  2. Toshiki Masaki: Pending process of becoming a navigator through the state of Michigan.
  3. Jaime Hsu asks SIG II members to do some fact-finding and to report back to the commission.
- c. SIG III: Jeffery Vang - Equal Access
  - i. Continuation of data collection regarding college entrance/admissions within major Michigan universities and their acceptance/cap of Asian American students for each year.
    1. The colleges have been sending the data to the SIG II by commission request
    2. Develop a database for information gathered in which will be presented to the commission next meeting.
  - ii. Meeting with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding discrimination impacting the APA community in the work place.

- iii. Michigan College Access Network (MICAN) - drafted a letter to advocate/illustrate disparities of APA college students, colleges have responded with statistics regarding the Asian American community.
- iv. Roland Hwang - Data has been received from Oakland, GVSU, and Eastern Michigan University.
  - 1. Pending from Northern Michigan, MSU and Wayne State.
  - 2. Also taking into consideration the transfer rate of students from one institution to another.
    - a. Commission Clarification - Transfer/international student information is not the primary purpose of the initiative.
  - 3. Connie Dang suggests to go to the Michigan Department of Education to obtain data.
- v. Jamie Hsu requests SIG II to obtain information about the healthcare access for APA community regarding *Equal Access*.
- vi. Jamie Hsu asks: What if the data found illustrates low access/success rates with education/employment/health care?
  - 1. Roland Hwang - Invitation for SIG II to turn to the facility and request to have them address the issues and explain why it is so.
  - 2. Jeffery Vang - Focus on the communities with the lowest turnout.
    - a. Low employment may be explained through poor educational status.
  - 3. Peter Wong - Lack of access will create a reason to present the data to the governing administration offices (employment, education, etc.).
    - a. Ask for the solution/current plan of each problem.
  - 4. Senator Hopgood: Depends on the category of low equal access - create a different strategy for each topic.
    - a. Data would be presented to the community, then the community will react appropriately to the data.
- vii. Data from each college will need to be adjusted for each institution.
- viii. Sook Wilkinson asks how SIG III will analyze the data.
  - 1. Roland Hwang - An individual reports to Henry that will assist with analyzing data.
- d. Program evaluation for each SIG should be implemented to measure success rate of initiative efforts.

## **VI. Racial Equity Initiative Update - Ehsan Taqbeem**

- a. APIA Health Forum - Supported through various grants like Kellogg Foundation.
  - i. Ultimate goal to bring APA nonprofits together.

1. After the grant funding is depleted, their hopes are for these groups to still continue on their own.
  - ii. Interested in MAPAAC due to the experience with policymaking.
- b. MAPAAC and APIAVote-Michigan (lead organization) managing project
- c. Implementation - South Asian American Voice Impact, Bangladeshi American Affairs Committee, MI Family Services
- d. Funding is through December 2014
  - i. In the process of hiring two Project Coordinators.
    1. To establish relationships with the Hamtramck and Troy Public School Boards
    2. To aid in more cultural acceptance with different ethnicities.
      - a. City of Troy - Food Bullying
      - b. Hamtramck - Cultural insensitivity
- e. Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum - Provided grant to focus on South Asian Americans
- f. The 5 organizations received \$2,000 for operational expenses and reimbursement.
- g. MAPAAC's Role: As a member of the collaborative, MAPAAC will provide the stepping stone to translating the information/data to policy.

**VII. Co-hosting and Co-sponsorship Discussions and Opportunities**

- a. Four factors to consider before co-hosting/co-sponsoring
- b. Ehsan Taqbeem - suggests Jamie to draft a document of understanding
  - i. Jamie Hsu suggests that there is a standard form for co-sponsorship/co-hosting.
    1. Standard and criteria
  - ii. MAPAAC will support donating organizations with funding that will aid congruent events, purposes, initiatives.

**VIII. MAPAAC Budget Update**

- a. Jamie asks: We approve of an event, will the Commission need to address /request line-by-line items?
  - i. Mary McLellan answered that MAPAAC will not have to do line-by-line expenses.
  - ii. An invoice will necessary for events to the Commission. Then MDCR will submit and approve the invoice and will be used appropriately by MAPAAC.
  - iii. To become a vendor, an organization will have to fill out a W-9 Form.
    1. The vendor will be paid through funding received by request.
- b. Budget for next year should be completed and submitted before October 1, 2013.

- i. Henry moves to discuss strategic planning for fiscal year budget development and seconded.
    - 1. Strategic plan - March 2014
  - ii. Motion Passed - Adopted Budget Calibration to reflect fiscal year calendar
- c. 2013-2014, fiscal year ends at the end of September, with an operating budget of \$100,000. Projected that half of the budget has been utilized.
- d. Peter Wong: Suggests a monthly report of the budget to Mary McLellan/MDCR.
  - i. Mary suggests a quarterly report and requests an update to be emailed to her.
- e. Anand Kumar - The budget used for the Capitol Celebration and the sponsorship goes through fiduciary party.
  - i. Anand Kumar can report the current private budget this month to the commission and his understanding of what the budget is to be used for.
  - ii. The budget is supported by sponsors from the May Celebration.
  - iii. Is yet to be determined where funding will go to.
- f. Mary McLellan suggests that a commissioner tracks a ledger sheet, addresses an appreciation notice for donations.
  - i. Jamie Hsu and Mitch Diep to work on this development.

**IX. Old Business**

- a. Mary McLellan presents the Fred Korematsu recognition and Certificate of Proclamation - Heritage Month to Jaime Hsu.
- b. MAPAAC Pamphlet - Revisions
  - i. Mission/Vision/Value Statement to first page
  - ii. Ehsan Taqbeem suggests that we change to broad topics, not SIGs.
    - 1. Accomplishments from annual report
    - 2. Last page - Stephanie Ly bio to be removed.
    - 3. History - acknowledgment to Sook Wilkinson's words.
    - 4. Current Strategic initiatives

**X. New Business**

- a. January 30, 2014 - Fred Korematsu recognition. Ann Arbor Huron principal Dr. Arthur Williams working with the Commission on a program
- b. As MAPAAC is getting more settled, policy leaders, organizational leaders, specific groups, etc. should be invited to MAPAAC meetings, events, etc.
  - i. Place on agenda - Special Topics
- c. Case filed against Louis Bank - Case involving three executives for making derogatory statements via email about the Asian Indian American community.
- d. Case involving Indian mother regarding second degree child abuse - Oakland County prosecutors played an unfair role with the process.
  - i. Charges dropped.

e. Announcing the Nominations Chair to present the slate for the December's meeting.

i. Ramesh Verma to aid with working for the nominations of the EC.

**XI. Public Comments**

a. Tack-Yong Kim - November 6, 2013: Opera House Event, Downtown Detroit

**XII. Announcements**

a. None

**XIII. Adjournment**

a. Nasim Ansari moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ramesh Verma.

b. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Transcribed by:

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Mitch Diep

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Roland Hwang  
Secretary

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Jamie Hsu  
Chair