

Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes -Final

December 1, 2017, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Novi Public Library, 45255 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI

Present: Asim Alavi, Scott T. Ayotte, Anthony Chang, Connie Dang, Sharon Dow, Lisa Gray, Jamie Hsu, Roland Hwang, Grace Lee, Toshiki Masaki, Mahima Mahadevan, Joe Tasma, Jenny Wang, and Bing Goei, Ex-officio

By phone: Ryan Rosario

Staff: Denise Yee Grim, Outreach Coordinator

Guests: Kanako Morishita and Kate Simon, Japan Center for Michigan Universities and Mohammed Rahman, APIAVote-MI

Unable to attend: Nasim Ansari, Scott T. Ayotte, Soraya Kim, Jin-Kyu Koh, David Long, and Kaushik Nag

I. Call to Order and Introduction of Agenda:

Chair Jamie Hsu called the regular meeting of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to order at 9:39 AM on December 1, 2017. Jamie announced the new executive committee members, who were the SIG leaders in 2017. They are: Mahima Mahadevan – Vice-chair, Grace Lee – Secretary and Joe Tasma – Trustee. The executive committee will meet in person or by conference call once a month to discuss MAPAAC’s activities and to make decisions regarding sponsorships between the quarterly commission meetings. He acknowledged and thanked the previous executive committee.

He shared the status of the appointments of new commissioners were being determined and ask the departing commissioners to serve until further notice. After the new appointments, the departing commissioners are welcome to join the alumnus to remain involved and share their expertise with MAPAAC. He proceeded to acknowledged and thanked the retiring commissioners.

II. Approval of September 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Grace Lee, MAPAAC’s Secretary, and submitted the draft June 10, 2017 meeting minutes for approval. Anthony Chang commented of an amendment needed to the minutes of the discussion on DACA and that MAPAAC should monitor and follow up on DECA and how it may impact people and inform the APA community. Roland Hwang motioned to approve the meeting minutes with the amendment of DACA notation and Joe Tasma seconded. Motion passed.

III. Approval of 2017 Annual Report Draft:

Mahima Mahadevan gave an overview of the annual report draft. The annual report is done every calendar year (January – December). The distribution is to the governor, LARA director, state departments and legislators.

Jamie commented and asked the commissioners to share their thoughts: The annual report is excellent, but we only sent it to the state of Michigan and wondered if we should share this information to publish it on our Web site or to our key strategic partners, so they know what we are doing. How do we let the community know what is involved with MAPAAC’s activities and how we serve the community?

Bing commented that HLCOM does quarterly newsletter and an annual report to the governor. The newsletter is distributed to all the legislators to inform them what they are doing. Connie receives an e-newsletter from the HLCOM and is a great way to keep the commission visible in the community and to tell their story by continually update the community of programs and activities.

HLCOM has a staff to produce and coordinate the newsletters and e-newsletters. Bing suggested if MAPAAC consider that this is important communication tool, to allocate funds to hire someone to do the writing on our behalf.

Jamie current thinking is to create an annual newsletter with the possibly of doing e-newsletters in the future. Since the annual report has been approved by the commission and will be formerly submitted to the governor. Jamie encouraged the commissioners to share our annual report to the respective communities. Denise will email an electronic version to the commissioners.

Anthony suggested that we should format the annual report to more appealing appearance document for distribution. The executive committee will discuss the annual newsletter look for distribution. Add to the annual report a contact information line.

Roland motion to approve the annual report and Scott seconded.

IV. Budget Update:

Joe Tasma, Trustee, reviewed the 2017 year-end spending and reported on the allocations for the 2018 budget. Jamie informed the commissioners that the executive committee and LARA has approved of a pay increase of \$55.00 an hour for the outreach coordinator contract to reflect the quality and dedication of her services to MAPAAC. Funding of the budget may be allocated to hire an intern to help assist Denise in the communication of MAPAAC's activities to the public and APA communities and to train further APA leaders.

Denise informed the commissioners about the new SOM payment system, SIGMA VSS, and ask them to update their account in SIGMA VSS to allow their reimbursement payments to be processed. She shared the 2018 travel expense voucher (TEV) form and process of filling out the form. To receive full reimbursements of hotel stays, the rooms must be booked by Conlin Travel, SOM travel agency. If commissioners book their own hotel rooms, they will only be reimbursed \$75.00, the state rate of hotel stays. In addition, all expenses for MAPAAC activities must be preapproved by LARA.

V. 2017 SIG's Initiatives Report:

SIG 1: Mahima Mahadevan informed that there is no new information or changes to report on the legislative bills, HB4105, HB4334, and HB4619, that was shared at the last meeting minutes. She shared her thoughts on the discussion of creating a vehicle of communication to the APA community and how SIG 1 can engage them in the legislation issues; to share legislative information and make them aware of the bills that are going through that may have an important impact to them. With this communication, we may have the legislators engaged with us too.

She attended the APA Caucus meeting by phone with Roland. It was an informative and compelling meeting of representatives from refugee centers and they shared their perspective of what is like to be a refugee in Michigan. She commented that MAPAAC and SIG 1 should consider joining the APA Caucus on their platform of issues and we should support them or take a platform alongside with the APA Caucus. In addition, we can share the information to the APA community, which the refugee information is a very important piece to share. Another concern is the DACA platform and how we can respond and be more aware of the concerns and issues.

Jamie commented that SIG 1 has been attending the APA Legislative Caucus meetings and he invited the other commissioners to attend the caucus meeting to have a better understanding of what they do and meet the representatives and community organizations who are attending the meetings.

Bing encouraged MAPAAC to look at mentoring and supporting potential APA candidates and/or leadership to run for office to continue the work that Sen. Hopgood, Rep. Singh and Rep. Chang has laid out for the APAs. It's important to have a voice at the table when there is a discussion of funding for the commission and the APA communities. Jamie commented that SIG 2 should discuss the possibilities of creating an event on leadership/running for office.

SIG 2:

Grace Lee talked about SIG 2's action plan and goals, which included providing programming of how to navigate the American system, 2. Continue their open forums on family needs: elderly, health care, bullying; 3. Addressing the financial challenges for community centers and fundraising/grants.

On November 18, they hosted a Vietnamese open forum with 25 attendees and four State of Michigan dept. representatives to educate the Vietnamese community about their services. The two highlights of the concerns are elderly care and bullying. Grace was impressed have receptive and supported the state agency representatives were to the concerns of the Vietnamese community.

SIG 3:

Roland Hwang gave a recap of the International Student Families Cross Generation Communication seminar on Sept. 20 at the Ann Arbor Westgate public library and it was a good opportunity to work with MAI Family Services, U-M CAPS and the Sexual Assault Prevention & Awareness Center. SIG 3 is looking at hosting another seminar in West MI and Kaushik and Asim to take the lead of coordinating the event in 2018.

Korematsu remembrance events are scheduled on Jan. 30, 8:00 AM at Salem H.S. in Plymouth and Feb. 2 at Edsel Ford H.S in Dearborn. Dr. Arbulu, MDCR director, has been confirmed as a panelist. The third event will be at the U-M Law school at noon on Jan. 30 where law professors will talk about the Muslim ban and travel issues and the intersection with the Korematsu case.

SIG 4:

Joe Tasma spoke on the second Leaders' Forum & Appreciation Dinner success. Speakers include: Dr. Arbulu as the keynote speaker, welcome video by the Lt. Governor, Jamie will give the State of APAs in Michigan. Representatives from municipalities include mayors and city officials and counties and the APA community organizations. Good feedback of the dinner and attendees got to know about MAPAAC; the round robin at each tables of the county and local public officials was very good.

Joe concluded by inviting the commissioners to mark their calendars for our APA Day at the Capitol on May 2nd tentatively. Jamie commented that our APA Heritage Day in Lansing is to bring awareness and visibility of APAs to the legislators and state depts. During the lunch break, he asked the question if MAPAAC should do a Heritage Day Celebration in SE Michigan in collaboration with other organizations for the APA community; include schools and municipalities. This is a way to reach out to the community, so they have a better understanding of APAs.

VI. Recap of Joint Commission meeting and Ethnic Commission Reception, Sept. 14th:

The September 14 gathering was a great way to break the ice. Jamie shared his idea and asked from comments on how the three commissions should work together. We should have a joint meeting to talk about one or two issues that is similar and common with all three commissions. Be an agenda driven meeting and followed by networking.

Connie commented that it is a great idea to find commonalities and look at the issues that impact the three communities, there will be intersectional work between the three commissions. Example: DACA and elderly care. Jamie will bring this idea to Bing for consideration.

VII. Recap of New Americans Appreciation Gala – October 12

Bing shared his thoughts on the inaugural gala and they had an overwhelming response from the attendees of the gala. He recognized MAPAAC support and Denise's contribution to the success of the event. The governor shared his appreciation and is looking forward to the next gala. Jamie thanked Bing for his leadership and the commissioners and, SIG 4 for the hard work.

VIII. Administrator's Update:

Denise informed that the executive committee has made a rule that all events posting on MAPAAC's FB page must be strictly MAPAAC sponsored event and activities. Events that are not related to MAPAAC, cannot be posted. Jamie stated that MAPAAC's official emails are sent by Denise. If an email needs a quick response. She will state "Please Read" or "Please Respond" on the subject line of the email.

IX. December Commission Meeting Date:

- Friday, March 9
- Friday, June 8 or Saturday, June 9 – Grand Rapids or Lansing
- Friday, September 14
- Friday, November 30 or December 14

Discussion:

Having the joint ethnic commissions meeting and MAPAAC commission meeting in March. Asim suggested that the Executive Committee meeting of the joint ethnic executive committee meeting to discuss the topics for joint commissions can work on together.

- Mar. 9: location to be determined
 - June 9: meeting in Grand Rapids in GVSU campus.
 - Sept. 14: location to be determined
 - Nov. 30 or Dec. 14: – date and location to be determined by the executive committee
- Jamie asked the commissioners to mark these dates on their calendar

X. New Business:

Bing shared what the Governor is working on achieving is goals during his last term in office. One of his goals is to deal with immigrant integration and he asked MONA to lead this effort. MONA is to be looking at legislative workforce development and welcoming goals; occupational licensing, physician assistant, agricultural issues and other issues that make impact the immigrant communities. MONA is also looking for a cultural event calendar, so when MONA decides on event dates, they don't conflict with other organizations' event dates. Reskilling efforts of new Americans coming to Michigan is being reviewed to ensure their degrees and working experience will be acknowledged and they will be integrated into our economy.

Regarding the DACA issue, the governor has signed a bi-partisan national coalition letter that will be sent to DC asking for the passage of the repack. The Dreamer Coalition is looking for other public officials to join their efforts to protect dreamers. Bing ask the commissioners to contact their county and city official to sign up with the dreamer coalition.

He announced the West Michigan Asian American Assoc. gala is on May 15th in Grand Rapids next year and he invited the commissioners to attend the event. The Grand Rapids' Asian Festival was a great success this year and they are hosting another festival next year.

He encouraged MAPAAC to look at the westside of the state as part of MAPAAC's focus in the coming year. There is a strong need of health care services in APAs population in West Michigan. WMAAA have met with Spectrum Health and two other health institutes to address this issue and they have accepted their request to help WMAAA on providing health care services to the APAs in need. Mental health is a big issue and Bing is working on getting seed money. The problem is that the APAs are not getting the services, because they are invisible, and the healthcare services do not even know that the APAs have health issues. In addition, there is a great fear of this population to reach out to healthcare services and there is a language barriers and cultural issue in receiving health services. The problem is that they have not build the infrastructure to build a network for health care services into West Michigan. Bing asked for MAPAAC's support to provide some seed money to help in building the infrastructure. Jamie commented that we will investigate this issue.

Toshiki Masaki introduced Ms. Kate E. Simon, Director of the Japan Center of Michigan Universities and the speaker was Ms. Kanako Morishita, JOI Coordinator, who shared her story to the commissioners.

XI. No Public Comments.

XII. No Announcements.

XIII. Adjournment.

Roland Hwang motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Anthony Chang.
Motion passed.

The meeting concluded at 11:45 AM

Minutes prepared by: Denise Yee Grim, June 4, 2018, Approved on June 9, 2018.

Grace Lee, Secretary