

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

December 4, 2020, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
Virtual Meeting: Microsoft Teams platform

**Present:** Chandragupta Acharya, Hoa Dinh, Sharon Dow, Ayesha Ghazi Edwin, David Han, Grace Lee, Amina Iqbal, Kavy Lenon, Leena Mangrulkar, Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish, Reginald Pacis, Kumar Palepu, Ryan Rosario, Aditya Sathi, Soma Sekhar Suryadevara, Joe Tasma and Angela Wang-Beasinger

**Unable to attend:** Mehruba Akhtar and Anthony Chang

**MAPAAC Alumni:** Connie Dang, Lisa Gray, Jamie Hsu, and Roland Hwang

**Staff:** Denise Yee Grim, Outreach Coordinator

**Guests:** Sean Egan, LEO Deputy Director, Fayrouz Saad, Director of Office of Global Michigan, State Senator Stephanie Chang, State Representative Padma Kuppa, and Emily Nguyen, Legislative Aide to Senator Chang

**I. Call to Order and Introduction of Agenda:**

Interim Chair Grace Lee called the regular meeting of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to order at 9:02 AM on December 4, 2020. Denise informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

**II. Approval of June 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes:**

Interim Chair Grace Lee submitted the September 11, 2020 draft meeting minutes for approval. Soma Sekhar Suryadevara motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Sharon Dow seconded. The motion passed.

**III. Approval of MAPAAC 2020 Annual Report:**

Interim Chair Grace Lee submitted the draft 2020 annual report for approval. Chandragupta Acharya motioned to approve the annual report and Aditya Sathi seconded. The motion passed.

**IV. Budget Update:**

Joe Tasma, MAPAAC Trustee, provided the FY20 budget and we ended with a balance of \$56,573.00 due to the lack of activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. LEO finance informed Denise that they would like to use some of the remaining funds, and they will share how the funds will be used. Denise mentioned the sub account balance of \$11,352.88, which is not part of the general fund. This fund was raised by MAPAAC when the commission was formed when MAPAAC did not receive any funding from the state.

Fayrouz Saad informed the commission that the HLCOM had a discrepancy in their FY20 budget and LEO finance allowed them to borrow funds, \$4000.00, from MAPAAC's budget. Fayrouz is checking to see if the funds need not to be paid back since MAPAAC had funds left over and it would have been deposited to the general fund. She asked if MAPAAC to get back with her if it was okay that HLCOM does not to pay it back

Joe announced that the FY21 budget remained the same as FY20 with the amount of \$137,400.00. The fiscal year starts on October 1, 2020 and ends September 30, 2021. He asked the SIGs to submit their plans of expenditures for their initiatives and share it with Denise, so she can add it to the budget.

## V. Office of Global Michigan and LEO Report:

Fayrouz Saad introduced Sean Egan, LEO Deputy Director and oversees MIOSHA. He shared a PowerPoint presentation of COVID 19 Workplace Safety Emergency Rules, State Emphasis Programs and Consultation Service. He shared data of workplace outbreaks, MIOSHA rules and epidemic order, state emphasis program, and COVID coordinators for businesses. They launched a MIOSHA Ambassador Program offers one-on-one guidance to help businesses understand regulations, and executive orders on workplace safety.

Fayrouz asked the commission if there are places with high concentration of Asian communities to let her know, so that they can provide translators for the ambassadors. Grace commented that she and Denise will work on this request and for LEO to each out to MAPAAC for translations. Sean will email the presentation to Denise to distribute to the commissioners.

State Rep. Padma Kuppa joined our commission meeting and shared her activities. She shared the governor announcement of a program for older adults to feel safe and provide resources. She announced two Asian legislators joined the APA caucus.

## VI. SIG's Report:

**SIG 1:** David Han, SIG 1 co-leader, gave a recap of the Career Training and Up-skilling online session with LEO representative and MEDC on September 30<sup>th</sup>. For 2021 initiatives, SIG 1 will continue their work of the APA engagement coalition to further refinement of issues and topics that they will emphasize with our legislators and with the executive branch. Do additional outreach programs, like the career training and up-skilling event especially relevant to our present times. Strengthen their relationship with the other SIGs, so that we can and multiple our effectiveness to the APAs and the state of Michigan.

**SIG 2:** Angela Wang Beasinger, SIG 2 leader, invited more people to the SIG, shared her term will end in November 2021 and she welcomed any interest to become a SIG 2 leader. They are planning a Leaders' Forum in January and to update the MAPAAC resource guide. Regarding the 2020 census, MAPAAC is a member of the MNA complete count committee and with MAPAAC hosting seminars and educational forums, we achieved a higher participation of APAs of the census. Overall, Michigan 2020 census outachieved the 2010 census.

**SIG 3:** Reginald Pacis, SIG 3 leader, gave an overview of the 2020 activities, which included co-hosting two Fred Korematsu events with Dr. Karen Korematsu, on January 30<sup>th</sup>; Co-hosted an Asian American Community Virtual Townhall of Know Your Rights – Hate Crimes and Discrimination with Senator Stephanie Chang and Representative Padma Kuppa on April 29<sup>th</sup>; Co-hosted the Empowering Communities in Responding to the Challenges with COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall with Eastern Michigan University Center of Health Disparities Innovation and Studies on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The four initiatives for 2021. MAPAAC will be a co-sponsor of two Fred Korematsu events again and Roland Hwang, MAPAAC Alumnus, is coordinating the virtual events for Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. One event will be virtual zoom event and will be broadcast to all the Dearborn public schools at noon, and the second event will be with APALSA, University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor with a panel discussion on zoom at 4 PM. Another event is the Asian American Experiences virtual event in March. A historical aspect of the Asian Americans' racial equity issues and struggles that in the U.S. and the uptick of COVID-19 pandemic related attacks of Asian Americans. In third quarter, there are plans for a Community Policing collaborative virtual town hall. The last event of the year will be an Immigration General Information Education Seminar in August or September.

**SIG 4:** Su McKeithen-Polish and Sharon Dow are the SIG 4 co-leaders. Sharon shared that SIG 4 celebrates the achievements of APAs and coordinate MAPAAC's signature events. On September 24th, APA Leaders Appreciation Forum, Courage! Virtually Recognizing APA Contributions during the COVID-19. There were remarks from the governor, legislators, state, and municipalities public officials. The event concluded a video highlighting the APA organizations, businesses, and coalition contributions in response of COVID-19.

Su continued by sharing the 2021 plan; SIG 4 will host two events, which include a virtual APA Day at the Capitol in partnership with SIG 1 and APIA Vote-Michigan in May and a virtual Leader's Appreciation Forum in September. She asked the commissioners to recommend keynote speakers for the APA Day at the Capitol.

Grace commented that when she seen recognitions and achievement awards and there are no Asians listed. She recommended that SIG 4 take the tasks of making recommendations when organizations, publications, etc. are seeking for nominations. Denise mentioned that we have the Who's Who list of APAs to use as a reference when there is a request of nominations.

**VII. Administrator Update:**

Denise informed the commission that she is working on the MAPAAC annual newsletter, which highlights the activities and hopes to have it published by the end of December. She shared that she is retiring on January 31, 2021 and it was an honor to serve MAPAAC.

**VIII. Determine 2021 Commission Meetings Dates and Times:**

Denise presented dates and times options for the 2021 quarterly meetings. It was decided that the meetings will be on Fridays from 4 PM – 6 PM except for Saturday meeting, which would be from 9 AM – 11 AM. The executive committee will determine the dates. The commission meetings will be virtual until further notice from the state of Michigan.

Senator Stephanie Chang joined our meeting and thanked Denise for all her work for MAPAAC and the state of Michigan. She is issuing a state tribute for Denise's leadership.

**XI. New Business:**

Grace commented that we only used 60 percent of the 2020 budget. Since the pandemic is continuing, restrictions still apply for in-person gathering, which MAPAAC will not use most of the budget money again. The executive committee determined that the funds should be used as a grant offered to the APA community organization with a different type of purpose, so we can continue advocate, support, and deliver our mission. The executive committee proposed to create a grant committee to determine the types of grants, criteria, and oversight the grants for 2021 only.

Jamie Hsu, MAPAAC Alumnus, stated that MAPAAC is not a funding organization and recommended that we ask the organization of sponsoring specific events and carefully think of how we would approach this idea and not call it grant. David commented that MAPAAC outreach activities are with APA organizations. We partner with them and work collaboratively, so we can call it contributions. Sharon commented that we should review the existing sponsorship form and expand the criteria and purpose. Angela committed that we should call it 2021 special sponsorship, to help clarify this initiative. The executive committee, David, Sharon and Su has agreed to be on the subcommittee.

Grace thanked Denise for her dedication to the APA community and appreciation. Since the state has a hiring freeze. She asked the commissioners to reach out to their contacts and suggest candidates to the executive committee.

Jamie commented that everything is changing in our state and APA organizations and community. He asked the questions for consideration - What MAPAAC is all about? Why do we still need MAPAAC? He suggested to have a sit-down discussion with Denise before she leaves.

Sharon suggested an annual retreat. Grace commented that the SIGs initiatives may need revising. Jamie commented ask two questions. If the organization disappear, who will cry? If the organization disappear, who will cheer? How we look at ourselves and it put things in perspective. Angela shared that we could ask the community leaders to provide feedback on the existence and importance of MAPAAC to their community at the Leaders' Forum.

**X. No Public Comments:**

**XI. Announcements.**

Su shared that the Thai American Association with Eastern University is hosting a mobile flu vaccination on Sun., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 10 AM - 3 PM. The forms will be in Thai, Hmong, Laos, Bangla,

Angela announced the MNA 2020 Census wrap – up on December 16<sup>th</sup>. 8:30 AM – 10 AM.

Lisa Gray announced APIA Voice program, highlighting APA organizations and persons in the program. Bring awareness of the contributions of the APA community and to share information to the community. She asked if the commissioners have recommended individuals and/or organizations for the program.

Connie Dang recognized Denise and a central pillar of the community and thank her for contributions.

Ryan Rosario recognized Denise for her contribution and announced CAPA year-end celebration on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Denise announced that Grace has recorded two greeting for a Filipino organization and CAPA.

**XII. Adjournment:**

Angela Wang Beasinger motioned to adjourn the meeting; Chandragupta Acharya seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting concluded at 10:59 AM

Minutes prepared by Denise Yee Grim, February 16, 2021

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Chandragupta Acharya, Secretary