



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

SUSAN R. CORBIN
DIRECTOR

MAPAAC Commission Meeting June 11, 2021
4:00 p.m. – 6:06 p.m.

Virtual Meeting: Zoom Platform

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68M6d3hlu58>

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The regular meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairperson, Angela Wang Beasinger of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission at 4:05 PM on June 11, 2021. The Chair and Coordinator informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

Present:

Commissioner Angela Wang-Beasinger - Fenton, Oakland County
Commissioner David Han - Plymouth, Wayne County
Commissioner Reginald Pacis -
Commissioner Roland Sintos Coloma - Detroit, Wayne County
Commissioner Hoa Dinh
Commissioner Sharon Dow - Rochester Hills, Oakland County
Commissioner Grace Lee - Bloomfield Hills, Oakland County
Commissioner Joseph Tasma - Livonia, Oakland County
Commissioner Mika McAskill - Pinckney, Livingston County
Commissioner Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish - Sterling Heights, Macomb County
Commissioner Jenny Mualhlun - Battle Creek, Calhoun County
Commissioner Soma Sekhar Suryadevara - Novi, Oakland County

Absent:

Commissioner Mehruba Akhtar
Commissioner Leena Mangrulkar - Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County
Commissioner Laura Misumi - Hamtramck, Wayne County
Commissioner Kumar Palepu - Grosse Pointe, Wayne County
Commissioner Ryan Rosario - Sterling Heights, Macomb County

LEO is an equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
105 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 • www.michigan.gov/leo • (517) 241-6712

Excused:

Commissioner, Chair Ayesha Ghazi Edwin
Commissioner Chandragupta Acharya
Commissioner Amina Iqbal
Commissioner Aditya Sathi - Novi, Oakland County

Others in Attendance: Administrative Coordinator Mai Xiong, MAPAAC Alumni Roland Hwang, Lisa Gray, Anand Kumar, State Senator Stephanie Chang and Legislative Aide Emily Nguyen, State Representative Padma Kuppa, State Representative Ranjeev Puri, Executive Director of Office of Global Michigan Fayrouz Saad, Director of Office of Global Michigan Karen Phillippi,

COMMENTS:

Vice-Chairperson Beasinger announced that commissioners Chandru Acharya and Amina Iqbal both submitted their letter of resignation and recognized the alumni commissioners, elected officials attending the meeting

2. Approval of March 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes
 - **Motioned by:** Grace Lee
 - **Seconded by:** Sharon Dow
 - **Motion Passed.** Vote Summary: 12 - 0 - 0
 - **Aye:** Angela Wang-Beasinger, David Han, Reginald Pacis, Roland Sintos Coloma, Hoa Dinh, Sharon Dow, Grace Lee, Joseph Tasma, Mika McAskill, Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish, Jenny Muahlun, Soma Sekhar Suryadevara
 - **Nay:** None
 - **Abstain:** None
3. Approval of Budget Report
 - **Motioned by:** Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish
 - **Seconded by:** Hoa Dinh
 - **Motion Passed.** Vote Summary: 12 - 0 - 0
 - **Aye:** Angela Wang-Beasinger, David Han, Reginald Pacis, Roland Sintos Coloma, Hoa Dinh, Sharon Dow, Grace Lee, Joseph Tasma, Mika McAskill, Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish, Jenny Muahlun, Soma Sekhar Suryadevara
 - **Nay:** None
 - **Abstain:** None

COMMENTS:

- Reginald shared that we are over budget and the EC sent a letter to Todd Cook, Legislative Director for LEO to request an increase in the budget for the next fiscal year.
- Grace asked about the \$34,000 grant line on the budget report; but why \$50,000 was approved for Special Sponsorships.
- Mai shared that there was a miscommunication between the two amounts, but LEO is aware of the amount that MAPAAC has awarded. The \$18,000 budget line is what has been paid; MAPAAC is waiting for several organizations to submit their invoices. LEO finance refers to the Special Sponsorships term as Grants on the budget report. The funds were awarded on a first-come first-serve basis.
- Sharon suggested MAPAAC should give the organizations that did not receive awards an update on their application status.
- Roland asked what the implications for future MAPAAC activities are if we are over

budgeted.

- Grace shared there is a special fund that could be used if the commission goes over budget.

4. Office of Global Michigan Report

Fayrouz Saad shared that there will be more conversations about the budget process by July 1, but it does not look like the report will be ready by that date; the next meeting will be in September and will have a better update at that time.

Vaccine Update: Earlier this year there was a commission established to make sure vaccines reach those that need it; an APA working group was created; a few listening sessions and meetings took place in specific communities to learn about what the challenges are about getting individuals vaccinated. The Governor announced that Michigan got to the 60% mark of population that have been vaccinated; regarding the Asian, Native, Hawaiian community's state level data 48.3% have received their first dose; 41.6% have completed; the APA community percentage is higher compared to other groups.

Return to Office: The policy doesn't affect the ethnic commissions; the State has broadly talked about returning to work, starting July 12; with the goal of Labor Day having everyone back in the office; maybe different for agencies and employees and different versions including remote work policies.

5. Legislative Update

Senator Chang gave an update regarding when the Senate passed a version of the Senate budget last month; \$250,000 was provided to MDCR to do Know Your Rights outreach regarding Discrimination and Hate Crimes. Received the letter of MAPAAC's budget request and an APA Legislative Caucus meeting is planned for Monday; school board members will have discussion about APA curriculum; a few bills regarding Election Law, regarding absentee voting, ID, drop box timing; encouraged MAPAAC to look at the laws, regarding English Language learners or transportation barriers who are absentee voters.

Rep. Kuppia is gathering signatures to send to Legislative Director Todd Cook and plans to send the letter next week to support MAPAAC's budget request; introduced a Resolution in the House in May and organized an APIA toy and book drive in Troy; introduced a bill to recognize a few APIA holidays; working on expanding electrical vehicle infrastructure. Yesterday, Roland and several members of the Muslim community brought together police department from Troy and Canton and Michigan State Police, judges and members of the community to discuss issues around law enforcement and violence against minorities; to provide scholarships to departments that recruit people of color.

Rep. Puri shared this week, along with Rep. Kuppia, held Indian American Legislative Day, for the 2nd time; Governor appointed Rep. Puri to a childcare commission and will be rolling out a package of bills that will increase access and affordability to childcare in Michigan, which is a serious problem that affects communities of color and those in poverty, will make it easier to open childcare centers in communities where there are not enough centers. A press conference will be held on Tuesday with the Governor. Highlighted the redistricting happening this year, the independent commission is in the process of taking public comments; any member of the APA community to offer a public comment, non-partisan groups and individuals can submit a map on

how you think the districts should be drawn; the number one priority is communities of interest.

6. Special Guest David Hecker, AFT Michigan attended the commission meeting to share
 - AFT Michigan is a statewide union consisting of K12, teachers and support staff
 - Shared that the three legislators represent all of us so well; who are advocates for education and working families; embarrassed that AFT Michigan first reached out after the tragedy of the Atlanta shootings; interested in working together with MAPAAC to support one another; AFT Michigan's had four main strategic plan (collective bargaining, political organizing, etc.); but a fifth was added last year regarding fighting discrimination and oppression and have taken concrete action by doing trainings and integrating in everything that they do.

7. Special Guest Wes Nakagiri, Livingston County Board of Commissioners
 - Regarding the guidebook that is given to new Asian American immigrants; he suggested with respect to educating the citizens that it would be good considering the hate crimes to let immigrants know about their 2nd amendment rights.
 - Regarding education and policy, urges the commission to speak out on admissions policies; regarding Students for Fair Admissions; unfavorable to Asian Americans, discriminatory.
 - Regarding the statement on hate crimes on our website; he urges MAPAAC to avoid using the phrase "white supremacy."
 - Shared regarding Livingston County, over the last four years, had zero hate crimes against Asians.

8. SIG Reports
 - SIG 1 - David, SIG 1 Facilitator shared an update on the APA Day at the Capitol on May 11; legislative visit took place online; there were some technical challenges; previous years' participants were able to visit in-person; participants were divided into breakout rooms to speak to legislators; shared policy and recommendations including language and programs access; education & training; K12 programming
 - SIG 2 - Mika, SIG 2 leader shared that SIG 2 hosted an APA Leaders' Forum to share the Special Sponsorship opportunities to address needs of APA community; over 50 organization representatives attended the forum; hoping to host another forum in the Fall; an upcoming Sixty by 30 workshop is being planned.
 - SIG 3 - Reggie, SIG 3 Facilitator, shared the Anti-Asian Sentiment event was very well attended; many prosecutors and legislators were involved in the virtual town hall including the Governor; Wayne, Macomb and Oakland prosecutors. Roland shared the SIG is organizing an Education Town Hall; regarding issues of bullying, micro-aggressions and violence that families and students are dealing with; the town hall will include parents, students and teachers to share their experiences
 - SIG 4 - Su shared that the first part of APA Day was a success; Congresswoman Grace Meng was the keynote speaker; Sharon shared that this year there were five ethnic performances recorded and played during the virtual event to celebrate APA Heritage month.

Executive Committee Report - David shared that the commission has been extremely busy since March after the Atlanta shootings and rise in racism and discrimination. EC prepared a list of activities, engagements and contributions of the commission outside of the SIGs; including a joint statement with MDCR; attending rallies and Joori Jung's film premiere about overcoming a recent hate attack.

COMMENTS: Su shared that Richard Mui will be teaching APA history as part of the curriculum in Canton High School; Angela stated that with the right funding and resources we can continue to support the community

9. Administrative Update

- Business cards and brochure will be updated for our September commission meeting

10. Future Commission Meeting

- Vice-Chair Beasinger stated that the commission meeting in September will be in-person. Instead of hosting the meeting in West Michigan, the EC agreed to have it on the East side, due to the lack of time to plan and limit in budget. Jenny asked if the meeting could be held on Saturday or doing a future meeting at the Burma Center in Battle Creek; Sharon suggested to continue doing virtual meetings. David asked for a motion to change the date of the meeting to Friday September 17, 2021 instead of Saturday, September 18, 2021 and during business hours. Mai shared that due to the Open Meetings Act, virtual meetings are no longer an option after restrictions have been lifted.

Approval of Friday, September 17, 2021 Commission Meeting from 4pm-6pm in East Michigan

- **Motioned by:** David Han
- **Seconded by:** Angela Wang Beasinger
- **Motion Passed.** Vote Summary: 11 - 0 - 0
 - **Aye:** Angela Wang-Beasinger, David Han, Reginald Pacis, Roland Sintos Coloma, Hoa Dinh, Sharon Dow, Grace Lee, Joseph Tasma, Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish, Jenny Mualhlun, Soma Sekhar Suryadevara
 - **Nay:** None
 - **Abstain:** None

Approval of Friday, December 10, 2021 Commission Meeting from 4pm-6pm in East Michigan

- **Motioned by:** Reginald Pacis
- **Seconded by:** Soma Sekhar Suryadevara
- **Motion Passed.** Vote Summary: 11 - 0 - 0
 - **Aye:** Angela Wang-Beasinger, David Han, Reginald Pacis, Roland Sintos Coloma, Hoa Dinh, Sharon Dow, Grace Lee, Joseph Tasma, Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish, Jenny Mualhlun, Soma Sekhar Suryadevara
 - **Nay:** None
 - **Abstain:** None

11. New Business – None

12. Public Comments

- Lisa Gray asked a question about Special Sponsorship deadline.
- Sharon asked about who made the decisions for the special sponsorship, if it was the SIG and EC.
- Angela shared that the EC made the decision to provide awards.
- Reggie stated that the commission is not required to respond to applicants that did not receive an award.
- Roland Hwang reported that Korematsu Day for 2022 has been discussed with Karen Korematsu for January 27-28, 2022 to visit Grand Valley, visit to State Capitol, and U of M
- Jenny had a question regarding the meeting

13. Adjournment

- **Motioned by:** Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish
- **Seconded by:** Reginald Pacis
- **Motion Passed.** Vote Summary: 11 - 0 - 0
 - **Aye:** Angela Wang-Beasinger, David Han, Reginald Pacis, Roland Sintos Coloma, Hoa Dinh, Sharon Dow, Grace Lee, Joseph Tasma, Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish, Jenny Mualhlun, Soma Sekhar Suryadevara
 - **Nay:** None
 - **Abstain:** None

Submitted by Mai Xiong, August 12, 2021

Edited by Denise Yee Grim, September 12, 2021

_David K. Han
David Han, Secretary