



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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**ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) WORKGROUP
APPROVED MINUTES¹
Thursday, July 14, 2022**

Final Meeting occurred in person at 9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, RM 211, Columbia, MD 20146.
Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Work Group Members Present: Richard Li, Pravin Ponnuri, Kim Eggborn, Cpl. Kyu Lee, Mabrooka Chaudhry, Michael Zhao, Soo Park, Sue Song, Young Smith, Devang Shah, Will Lee, and Anwer Hasan

Elected Officials: County Executive Calvin Ball and Senator Clarence Lam (Honorary Chair)

Staff Present: Angela Cabellon, Safa Hira, Joanna Chen and Wanda Cao

Additional Attendees: Vikki Garcia (Congressman John Sarbanes Office)

I. Welcome by Co-Chair: Richard Li

- Richard greeted everyone and welcomed everyone. Richard stated that it was nice to finally see everyone in person.

II. Approval of the April 14, 2022 Minutes

- Devang motioned to approve the minutes and Pravin 2nd. The April 14, 2022 Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Honorary Chair Remarks – Senator Clarence Lam

- Senator Lam welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated it was good to see everyone in person. He stated that this workgroup has done a lot work in challenging circumstances, such as with the pandemic, virtual meetings, and not having to meet with each other directly, that makes it very tough. But this workgroup still came to a consensus on a lot of issues. Senator Lam stated that he had a chance to review the report and thought it was great work with great recommendations. He believes that the issues that touches everyone is reflected in this report. He states the recommendations are strong and believes it'll leave a legacy regarding the work that started here with the AAPI Workgroup, such as the Ambassadors Program. Senator

¹ The minutes were approved by email vote on July 29, 2022.

Lam explained that the recognition of additional resources for our community are important and how the pandemic made it especially difficult for the AAPI community because of the animosity towards the Asian community.

- Funding is always an issue but there is support from the County as well as other organizations. Senator Lam shares that there was a meeting a few weeks ago to facilitate a discussion about the AAPI Cultural Center. The meeting was to start the process to provide and receive information, feedback and the desired location. This serves as the starting block and works towards finding a cultural center that is reflective of our values. Senator Lam reiterates that there was a lot going on with just a little over a year, and that the credit goes to the whole AAPI Workgroup. He states this serves as a launching point. He thanks the co-chairs, Richard and Jodie, Yolanda, with OHRE, Angela, Wanda and Safa.

IV. Executive Liaison Report – Angela Cabellon

- Angela thanked everyone for the 18 months of service and for having to meeting virtually. She expressed how happy she was that everyone was meeting in person and wanted to thank Vikki Garcia, from Congressman Sarbanes office, for coming to this meeting. Angela also introduced the new staff, Joanna Chen.
- Angela discussed the preliminary survey regarding the AAPI Cultural Center’s location and stated approximately 50 attendees came to the engagement meeting. The following are some of the results from the survey:
 - Most of the participants were from Ellicott City.
 - 67% want the AAPI Cultural Center in Ellicott City.
 - 33% want the AAPI Cultural Center in Columbia.
 - 82% want Programming at the AAPI Cultural Center
 - ❖ 73% want Education Programs
 - ❖ 42% want Children Programs
 - ❖ 33% want Food Programs
 - Half of respondents have access to programs
 - 33% feel programming is limited and wants AAPI Center.

- 67% stated they were not using any of the 50+ Centers, and if they were used, it was for fitness purposes. Despite this, they would still use AAPI Cultural Center.
- Angela stated that once they get a geographic location, they will have discussions regarding operations and management of the center.
- Angela thanked Pravin and Mabrooka for the survey on empowering community members. 100% of the survey will refer others to become Ambassadors. The second wave of surveys will be around September.
- Angela reminded everyone to nominate for the Rise to the Challenge Awards. We want to ensure that the recognition gets to the community.

V. Final Report and Recommendations Discussion – Richard

- Richard stated that the AAPI Cultural Center is becoming a headliner in the community. He then thanked Wanda for assisting with the AAPI Final Report.
- Pravin stated that the AAPI Final Report is also applicable to other communities.
- Richard stated that the report has 4 recommendations and hope that the executive office takes it into consideration.
- Anwer added that he would like to add language in recommending a thorough process to verify that minority businesses are doing what they are supposed to be doing when receiving funds.
- Pravin stated that he does not want a quota system. Anwer clarified that he wanted a way of certifying the set goals, not necessarily a quota system but a measurement in the system.
- Anwer confirmed that he will provide language that will be redefining Recommendation 2.

VI. Vote on Final Report and Recommendations

- Anwer put forth a motion regarding having a thorough process to verify minority businesses, and Young 2nd. The motion unanimously passed.
- Kim motioned to approve the AAPI Final Report Draft language and to later finalize it, and Sue 2nd.

VII. New Business and Announcements

- Mabrooka asked if any of the workgroup members would like to be a mentor to high school seniors. It would be year long mentorship. If anyone is interested, please email her.

VIII. Remarks and Presentation of Certificates – County Executive Calvin Ball

- County Executive Calvin Ball joined the meeting and stated how 18 months ago this workgroup was created. He thanked everyone for providing insight and reiterated how this workgroup made a lot of people in the AAPI community feel seen and reassured them that they were not lost. He stated that this year was the first AAPI Festival and approximately 4000 people came that day. Dr. Ball thanked Richard and Jodie for being co-chairs. He thanked Senator Lam, Howard County's first Asian Senator and also a doctor during COVID.
- Dr. Ball announced that he will be establishing a formal commission for the AAPI Workgroup. He stated that everyone's work is so phenomenal and demonstrates that more work should be done and that is why this workgroup should be permanent, for future generations so that every member can learn and grow together. Dr. Ball then thanked Angela Cabellon, the very first Deputy Chief Innovative Officer, and that she is one of the top people that runs the entire community. He also thanked Safa for always assisting them and getting the word out.
- Dr. Ball proceeded to present Certificates of Recognition to the AAPI Workgroup members.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 p.m.