



April 11, 2023

AAPIC Commission Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Mr. JC Chung, Dr. Yang Yu, Mr. Dhaval Shah, Ms. Young Kim (virtual), Ms. Kim Eggborn, Mr. Koko Aiolutepa, Mr. Sanjeev Gholap, Ms. Diane Li, Ms. Saffiyah Madraswala, Ms. Kui Zhao, Dr. Lanlan Xu, Ms. Misako Aoki, Ms. Lily Peng, Dr. Razia Kosi, Dr. Tomoko Hoogenboom, Ms. May-Fong Tsay, Mr. Naresh Das (virtual), Ms. Helen Won (virtual)

Howard County Staff: Dr. Denise Boston, Joanna Chen, Alex Na

Guest: Tina Chang, Vikki Garcia

Agenda:

Welcome

- Dr. Boston greeted and welcomed everyone. The Commissioners shared their names and a short bio for the new Commissioners.

Chair/Vice Chair/Corresponding Secretary:

- Candidates for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Corresponding Secretary displayed their gratitude to their peers who nominated them, shared their vision for the AAPIC Commission, and explained why they should serve in those positions.
- The Commissioners took time to vote after each position speeches.

Results:

- Chair: Dr. Lanlan Xu
- Vice Chair: Mr. Dhaval Shah
- Corresponding Secretary: Ms. Lily Peng.

Committee Assignments:

- The Commissioners were notified of their committee assignment, and it is as follows (chairs in bold):
 - Health, Wellness, and Safety
 - Misako Aoki, **Razia Kosi**, **Jodie Wang**, May-Fong Tsay
 - Business and Economic Development
 - **Sameer Ahirrao**, Lily Peng, JC Chung, Kui Zhao, Helen Won
 - Government Access
 - Dhaval Shah, Yang Yu, Young Kim, **Saffiyah Madraswala**, Sanjeev Gholap
 - Community Engagement
 - **Koko Aiolutepa**, Diane Li, Naresh Das, Kim Eggborn
 - Rules of Procedure
 - Lanlan Xu, **Tomoko Hoogenboom**
- Joanna will follow up with Commissioners who were not able to attend.

AAPI Festival Update:

- The Commissioners were updated on the timeline of the Festival registration, review process, and final decisions.
- The Commissioners decided that they want to have a more conscious effort towards a targeted outreach.
 - The Marketing Committee will meet to decide and work on that.
- The Commissioners wanted documents to be translated into different languages to promote accessibility.
- The Commissioners voted to have a table at the AAPI Festival and will have online sign-ups.
 - The Commissioners discussed how to draft a mission/leadership statement to maintain consistency.
 - The Commissioners also wanted an approachable and readable resource available at the table.
 - The Commissioners worked around an idea of having a virtual word cloud where the public can fill out what they want the Commission to work on.
- The Commissioners preferred having the AAPI Commission table near the OHRE table.
- The Commissioner wanted a clearer language between exhibitors and vendors.
- The Performance Committee shared that they want more time and discussed possibly having Razia, Lily, and Dhaval as the emcees.
 - Commissioners highlighted the importance of having audience engagement in the form of trivia, etc.

AAPI Heritage Month Update:

- The Commissioners compiled a list of events that their communities are hosting during May:
 - Pacific Islander Performance: May 20th from 6-8pm
 - Contact: Koko Aiolutepoa for more information
 - 2023 Maryland Multicultural Music Festival & AAPI Heritage Month Celebration, hosted by Howard County Chinese Culture Center (H4C): May 13th starting at 3:30pm
 - Contact: Dr. Lanlan Xu
 - Limited spaces available if you want to table.
 - Misako Ballet Studio is hosting a Japanese Children's Day Dance Party on May 20th from 3-4:30pm.
 - Contact: Misako Aoki
 - 2023 Holi at Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods from 12-4pm on April 30th
 - Contact: Dhaval Shah
 - Library is hosting a movie discussion on Asian American Civil Rights movement and activism on May 9th from 6:30-8pm. Kim Eggborn will be moderating the event.

Public Forum:

- Tina Chang shared her concern about the lack of language immersion schools in Howard County for her children. She stated that she received a lackluster response from the Board of Education.
- The Commissioners validated her concerns and offered advise on how to move forward.
 - Many Commissioners stated that she can start advocating with other parents, as having even two or three parents advocating for the same cause is powerful.
 - Another Commissioner echoed that policy changes take time and offered several resources for Chinese schools in the area.
 - Another Commissioner stated that she should reach out to state and federal levels to see if she can secure funding and grants for her cause.
 - Another Commissioner emphasized the importance of taking small steps by gathering support and testifying as a group. They stated that legislators love to hear from students.

Announcement:

- Alex shared that the Office of Human Rights and Equity is hosting an Earth Day event that requires volunteers.
- Joanna will create email chains for the AAPI Commission Committees.
 - Staff won't join but we can if asked.
 - The Committees can meet in-person.

Adjourned.