**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, June 27, 2020 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom Conference Call

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. Quorum reached at 10:00 AM.

*Present:* Chair Lisa Dickinson, 1st Vice Chair Nam Nguyen, 2nd Vice Chair Lori Wada, Commissioners Carrie Huie-Pascua, Tam Dinh, Ekkarath Sisavatdy, Lydia Faitalia, Sina Sam, Lalita Uppala, Helen Christensen, Mohan Gurung, Sam Cho.

*Absent:* None

*Staff:* Executive Director Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, Project Manager Rosa Mai

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve made at 10:01 AM by Commr. Wada.

Commr. Cho seconds.

*Motion passed unanimously.*

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Motion to approve made at 10:02 AM by Commr. Wada.

Commr. Cho seconds.

*Motion passed unanimously.*

1. **E.D. Report**

E.D. Hasegawa provides verbal overview of her written report at 10:02 AM.

**Q&A**

Commr. Dinh: Thank you for your work and transparency in this presentation. What is the timeline for the 15% budget cuts so that the community can give input to the Governor’s office?

E.D. Hasegawa: I’ve already turned in our hypothetical scenarios, so at this point, it’s out of our hands. I don’t know what the timeline looks like from here.

Commr. Huie-Pascua: I do have one comment on Census. I just want to give a shout out to Yakima’s car caravan! They’ll be launching in 10 minutes. It’s a great tool for areas with low response rates, especially places that are using post offices. The car caravan will go through areas that have low response rates to encourage turnout.

1. **Committee Reports**

Commissioner Sina Sam gives a report-back regarding the work of the Civil Rights and Immigration Committee.

Commr. Sam: E.D. Hasegawa went over a lot of the issues we’re seeing already, as well as the work being done: COVID-19 mutual aid, Commissioners on the front lines serving the communities, the impact of anti-Asian hate crimes on community, and police accountability, especially in Eastern Washington. I’ll focus, then, on the immigration side. We’ve been helping folks through the pardon and clemency process virtually. We’re working on certificates of rehabilitation to help with this process. The biggest win is that we convened our very first virtual clemency board meeting a few weeks ago, and the individual who came before the board, Vietnamese community member, was approved unanimously, and the governor approved as well. That was a really big accomplishment and win during this time. In terms of deportations to Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam—Laos is facing further sanctions, which is worrying for us. ICE is not renewing referrals at the moment, so there isn’t a threat of community members being removed, but there’s a high chance that it will resume and be expedited, especially for Lao folks, once COVID-19 is over. We’re monitoring people who are eligible for relief and doing what we can to make sure that they receive assistance. A lot of people are also pursuing naturalization, which is also a great way to lead to relief for families. The very first Cambodian deportee, who was illegally removed, just got his citizenship in California, and we have someone in Washington who is on his way, as well.

Chair Dickinson begins the report back for the Economic Development Committee.

Chair Dickinson: We’re seeing a lot of members of our community apply for unemployment given the COVID-19 crisis. I’m actually an appellate judge for ESD. Ironically, our appeals have slowed down because ESD just is not processing them fast enough. That said, I want to say that if you think you’re wrongfully denied, you should appeal it, even if there’s a backlog in the cases right now.

Commr. Cho: When COVID-19 first hit, I put together a spreadsheet to get people crowdsourced resources. I added a few resources I was aware of, and I posted it in community groups who added their own resources until we were at over 80 resources. When we’re going into recovery, I’ll start a new one and circulate it to Commissioners.

2nd Vice Chair Wada: Our economic issues are twofold: individuals going through unemployment and small businesses going seeing loss of business. We’ve been providing spreadsheets of resources, like what Commissioner Cho did, but for many people we still need to walk them through these resources because they’re not accessible. It’s very sad to see just how much people and businesses are suffering. It’s not just simple employment issues—we don’t know when we will go through these emergencies, and we need to build resources to help individuals who are going through these struggles. Individuals are also being scammed and having their identity stolen, and ESD is telling them that they’re being overpaid. I wasn’t receiving anything just a few weeks ago, but now I’m hearing that we’re being overpaid! I’ve been pointing people nonprofit organizations who are distributing resources like food and masks, and we’re trying to couple it with encouraging people to fill out their Census.

Chair Dickinson: Yes, it’s a terrible situation all-around. For what it’s worth, I would also recommend people appeal overpayment notices if they think they’re incorrect. It’s not a great solution, but it is one tool for people to use.

Committee Reports are paused at 11:05 AM for Public Comment. Reports resume at 11:40 AM, with the Education Committee.

Commr. Sisavatdy: I want to give a shout out to the Education Committee for all the work they’ve been doing. I don’t want to repeat everything here—you can see it in the activity report—but our Education Committee members have been doing great work for the community. We’ve channeled the energy to our vulnerable students. I want to acknowledge Commissioner Dinh’s work, who had the foresight and push for us to address the effects of the situation on our marginalized students. We’ve been in conversation with PESB, OSPI, and other state agencies to make sure our students aren’t left behind. I want to thank to Executive Committee and staff for supporting our work. How do we be a part of all the conversations going on? We want to be in discussion, be in support, and provide advice for and on behalf of our community. I want to end on a better note—the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. We finally closed off the scholarship program. It’s been the work of over a year, and we distributed 66 scholarships to Southeast Asian students. Additionally, we funded another 4 Pacific Islander students as well, this year. In total, we awarded over $87,000 this year.

Staff plays [Message from the Greater Seattle Steering Committee](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6DYhVufEtM&feature=youtu.be) for the meeting attendees.

Commr. Dinh begins the report-back for the Health and Human Services Committee.

Commr. Dinh: There’s so much to report—I’d recommend everyone look at the Commissioner Activity report for a full look at everything going on and what we’re doing. At times of crisis, we can shirk away, or we can step up, which is what all our Commissioners did. Our Health and Human Services Commissioners really did our work as a liaison. We were there in the community doing a lot of listening and a lot of referrals to services. We were doing a lot of advocacy to push what we here from the community—we started knocking on doors of agencies and saying that this is what we’re doing, this is what we’re hearing. We started working with a lot of governmental partners, and we had many people reaching out to us for input as well. In the time of COVID-19 and anti-black racism, these things aren’t new but we’re really stepping up. I hope we find solace and support in each other. Even beyond the disease recovery phase, the recovery from racism will take longer than the recovery from COVID. Commissioners, thank you for being a great advocate for your community.

Commr. Huie-Pascua: I also want to make a quick comment on the behavioral health element of things. The pandemic has had a huge effect on our communities: isolating, dealing with grief and death, and the anti-Asian hate and discrimination. We’ve had incidents of harassment and vandalism against Asian people and businesses. We’re seeing the issues around racism elevated with the death of George Floyd. I recently attended a webinar about the effects of racial stress on people’s physical health, and I just want to comment about how I’m glad that people and resources are stepping up to support and provide resources, like telehealth resources to people.

1. **Public Comment**

At 11:05 AM, Chair Dickinson pauses the Committee Reports Back to begin public comment as scheduled.

Ping Ping: I’m Ping Ping, I live in Spokane. I want to thank you, Chair Dickinson and E.D. Hasegawa, for your letter on CAPAA’s solidarity with Black Lives Matter. I would like to share what happened here in Spokane. My observations of first gen Chinese Americans in Spokane. On May 31st, my family of four when to a peaceful protest downtown, and alongside around seven to ten first generation Chinese Americans. On WeChat, where we have 300 members, when we shared that we went to the protest, there was no positive responses—only negative feedback focusing on the rioting and looting. It made me realize how many first generation Chinese Americans see it as disruptive to their peaceful lives here. I also attended a webinar with Healing Racism, who spoke on the Model Minority Myth. If CAPAA can do something to bring these two communities together and to educate people about our histories and the history of racism in the U.S.—it’s not very accepted in the Chinese community, especially in Spokane. I also want to bring up a Vietnamese member in the community who called the virus “the Chinese Communist Party virus.” She was speaking against Inslee’s phased approach, and called it the CCP virus, which is a form of hate speech, so there’s internal racism that we need to work on as well. I also want to express my upset at how people treat the death of George Floyd, and I’ve been seeing many people speak against it. We shall condemn racism from all angles—black and white racism, but also internal racism. Thank you.

Chair Dickinson: Thank you for joining us, Ping Ping. I’m also from Spokane, and I’ve seen those issues, too. We’re a few levels behind in the conversation of addressing internal and external racism.

Commr. Dinh: thank you so much for coming on today and sharing your experience. You’re a role model for how we should move forward in the Asian community. You brought up a lot of deep-seated issues that we need to address, about internal work we need to address in all of our communities. I’m very interested in hearing more, and that’s something that CAPAA is interested in working on. If there’s something that we can do to assist, please let us know.

Commr. Christensen: Internal racism is a big problem we have to face, because people in positions of power are exhibiting racist behavior. A good example is our President, who is calling the virus the Kung Flu virus, and it impacts more conservative communities more—predominantly white communities. Ping Ping, I’m very grateful that you took this time to share this with us.

Chair Dickinson: It’s also because, where API communities are smaller, there’s more division. Ping Ping, thank you for sharing with us today. Moving onto the next public comment.

Fred Thomas: Thank you. My name is Fred Thomas, and I’m with Next Steps Washington. We’re keeping an eye on the police and how they’re conducting their independent investigations in the wake of Initiative 940. We’d love to have CAPAA as a regular presence at our meetings. We’re looking for different organizations that we can call on if/when there is a shooting. I’m asking for CAPAA to send someone to be consistently at the table with us.

E.D. Hasegawa: Thank you for joining us once again. Unfortunately, I personally have a conflict every Thursday, but this is in the wheelhouse of our Civil Rights Committee members. We’re actually nearing the end of term of two of our committee members, and we’ll look to see if anyone is available. Next Steps is the thought leader for a lot of police accountability work, and the Thomas family has a lot of history of advocacy on this.

Chair Dickinson: Thanks for coming again, and we’re always glad to see you. We want to continue meeting with you to discuss the great work you’re doing. We do have a lot of turnover in the next couple of months in terms of our commissioners, but we’re dedicated to supporting your work.

James Nguyen: Hello, my name is James Nguyen, and I’m here in my personal capacity as a Beacon Hill resident. I’m a 2020 graduate. I’m learning through osmosis and finding ways to connect with the community. I do a lot of community work with Partners in Change, specifically on anti-racism work, and I wanted to reach out and learn from CAPAA.

Chair Dickinson: Thanks for joining us, James. When you get the chance, you can also go to our website to connect with our committees.

Lin Crowley: My name is Lin Crowley, and I’m the co-chair of APIC South Puget Sound. We’ve been focusing on anti-racism work, and I want to say thank you to Ping Ping for her work in Spokane. You can always connect with APIC-Spokane for help and partnership. Anti-racism work takes a long time, and won’t be solved overnight.

Chair Dickinson: Thank you, Lin. I think Ping Ping is connected to APIC-Spokane. It’s a small AAPI community here.

Marsha Botzer: Hello, I’m the new co-chair of the LGBTQ Commission. We were just getting started before COVID struck. We’re seeing how you run your meetings, which is fantastic. I do lot of work in the Trans community. I want to thank you so much, because I know what it means to be here doing this work.

Chair Dickinson: Thank you for your work and for joining us today. We’re happy to help however we can, and we can announce any forums you might have.

Luisa Laulile: Hi, it’s so great to see all of you again. I work on child advocacy for United Indians of All Tribes Foundation and I’m volunteer for the Pacific Islander Community Association of Washington. We’re an NHPI organization who’ve been working diligently on COVID support work. We’re doing language translations, food drives, striking up solidarity conversations in the community.

Chair Dickinson: Thanks for joining again today. We’re always glad to hear from you about your work.

Brenda O’Brien: Good morning! My name is Brenda O’Brien, and I’m the new Project Coordinator for CAPAA. I’m looking forward to working with everyone and officially joining CAPAA next week. I’m learning so much about what everyone does and the issues they’re trying to tackle.

Chair Dickinson: Thank you for joining us today, Brenda, and for being patient with us through this meeting. We’re excited to have you onboard.

1. **For the Good of the Order**

Chair Dickinson: For the Good of the Order, as we mentioned in our emails prior to the start of this meeting, there’s a lot for us to discuss in these past few months. What can we do to affect change as a Commission? How are our communities doing? Do people feel safe going out, and what can we do to assist in that? What do next steps look like?

Commr. Sisavatdy: I think we’re seeing a lot of microaggressions. I was out golfing yesterday, and I was wearing a mask, ad many people were giving me the side-eye for wearing it. My friends were sending me things about the racism and prejudice going around regarding BLM and also around the Asian community. We know it didn’t start with COVID, but it’s heightened during this time.

Chair Dickinson: I think it’s interesting that you’re saying that in the Seattle area, because I’m having relatives visit here in the Spokane area and I’m really worried for them. It’s terrifying. I want to know if, say, the Civil Rights Committee have ideas on how to address this—I know you all are doing so much right now, because it’s such a time.

Commr. Faitalia: Pacific Islander communities are having conversations about racism and solidarity. There’s a lot of unpacking and relearning, and a lot of calling it out for what it is. A lot of our community members are in different places in regards to black lives, and in regards to racism in general.

Chair Dickinson: We’re almost at time, so I want to take a moment to share some reflections on CAPAA after nine years on the Commission. It’s not goodbye, it’s see you again. I’ve made so many great friendships, this has been one of my favorite boards to sit in. I’m acutely aware of being from Spokane, and I hope we continue to hear from communities statewide, especially in counties with low API populations. We don’t have the elevated conversations like in the Seattle-centric circle, and we need to make sure that we’re pulling everyone into these conversations too and take in these different perspectives and experiences. I want to thank you all for your time and for your friendship.

E.D. Hasegawa: Thank you for your leadership, Chair Dickinson. You served the maximum amount of time you can give, and your input and advocacy and experience are invaluable. You’ve been with me since day one of my time with CAPAA; you were on my hiring committee, and I’ve leaned on you heavily. I’m glad you’re staying on as an at-large member in consultation with the Department of Commerce’s work. We’ll have a chance for a proper goodbye in September in Yakima.

1st Vice Chair Nguyen: Thank you, Lisa. You’ve been a great mentor for me, both personally and professionally. I know I’m not acting Chair yet at the moment, but I want to make a motion at the moment for everyone to stand up to give you a round of applause.

Commissioners, staff, and other attendees stand to applaud Chair Dickinson.

1. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made at 12:01 PM by Commr. Cho.

Commr. Christensen seconds.

*Motion passed unanimously.*

1. **Chat Box Transcript**

10:23:15 From Lydia M. Faitalia : Thank you Rosa!

10:23:35 From Carrie Huie-Pascua : Terrific work Rosa!

10:24:40 From Sina Sam to Rosa Mai(Privately) : My comp has been malfunctioning lately, if I drop again that is why. Jus a heads up, thx!

10:24:52 From Sina Sam : Awesome work, Rosa!!

10:25:29 From Tam Dinh : Thank you Rosa. We are so blessed to have you.

10:29:24 From Brenda O’Brien : That’s amazing, Rosa! I look forward to looking over those resources.

10:52:08 From Lydia M. Faitalia : Thank you ED Hasegawa !

11:00:38 From Lin Crowley : Thank you for the thorough ED report. I also want to acknowledge the great works that have taken place this year, thanks to Toshiko and Rosa for all your work, despite the COVID-19 impact. People with different language needs now can access the website much easier, because CAPAA has an automatic translate function installed, which was very much appreciated. Thank you!

11:02:18 From CAPAA CAPAA : Thank you Lin, as well as Rowen & Pui Yan from APIC-Spokane, for your recommendations on how to make CAPAA's website more accessible! You are doing amazing work in community and we want to be as supportive to you and your efforts as possible!

11:02:53 From Sam Cho : https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FmWvZT9wcp5qJZ57lVvj6ZyKqufi2dzCBLV40mQ1uAA/edit?ouid=116591846659009360330&usp=sheets\_home&ths=true

11:03:08 From Sam Cho : WA Resources for COVID-19^

11:04:53 From CAPAA CAPAA : @Cmmr Cho, This is golden! Thank you so much. @ We will add link with blurb to our next newsletter and upload to our webpage

11:09:17 From CAPAA CAPAA : Marsha Botzer is here!!!! SHERO <3

11:10:41 From Sina Sam : Commissioner Cho's excel sheet is actually been included in all our newsletter resources for COVID support.

11:11:01 From Fred Thomas : Fred Thomas, Next Steps Washington

11:12:43 From JamesNguyen : JamesMinh Nguyen, Partners In Change

11:12:53 From Fred Thomas : sorry Fred Thomas, Next Steps Washington ratcityfred@gmail.com

11:13:04 From CAPAA CAPAA : Hi Uncle Fred -- we got you!! :-)

11:13:18 From JamesNguyen : oh yeah, ty^^ Jamesmt-nguyn@hotmail.com !

11:13:34 From JamesNguyen : nguyen\* !!

11:13:36 From Lin Crowley : Thank you for shring the document, Sam! Really enjoy your and Sina's organized forums, in addition to the CAPAA/APIC forum. We would love to collaborate with you later, this is Lin Crowley from APIC SPS.

11:13:39 From CAPAA CAPAA : @james thank yoU! got you!

11:13:50 From JamesNguyen : ty

11:13:53 From Sina Sam : I forgot to mention during my Civil Rights-Immigration report this resource I helped create for SEARAC in Washington, D.C.. It is a national resource hub on how to talk to our families, and in our AAPI/Southeast Asian communities about anti-Blackness, colorism and solidarity for Black lives during this time.- There are in-language toolkits, training and materials. - Culturally appropriate and in-language webinars lead by AAPI/SE Asian leaders addressing these issues. - AAPI National networks and groups working alongside Black leadership for the movement for Black lives.      https://www.searac.org/seaa-resources-for-solidarity-with-blm

11:14:10 From Lisa Jill Dickinson : gotcha, Fred next then James, Lin, would you like to speak too?

11:17:05 From CAPAA CAPAA : yes @ lin please share!

11:18:18 From Sina Sam : Hi @Ping Ping- Thank you for bringing up the need for solidarity within and across communities! It's not in mainstream news coverage, but there are a lot of efforts happening. Here is a resource hub where you can find Asian leadership doing this work. https://www.searac.org/seaa-resources-for-solidarity-with-blm

11:20:49 From Lisa Jill Dickinson : commissioners please try to save comments for end, we will have 1 comment per public speaker please. Speakers, 2 min pp please if possible.

11:21:17 From Lin Crowley : I like to suggest Ping Ping to contact APIC Spokane to learn more about what she and other API members could do to address the internal racism she shared. Thank you for asking!

11:22:53 From Luisa Laulile : Lu’isa Laulile with PICAWA

11:23:07 From Marsha Botzer : Marsha Botzer mbotzer@botzerconsulting.com

11:23:17 From Ping Ping : Thank you Tam, thank you Christensen for your support! My email is ping9615@yahoo.com keep in touch thank you! (Ping from Spokane)

11:24:20 From Ping Ping : To Lin Crowley,

11:25:26 From Carrie Huie-Pascua : NAACP-Yakima hosted a town hall meeting on Zoom that had an attendance of 70 people on the issues of police use of force. very successful.

11:25:56 From Ping Ping : To Lin, thank you so much for your suggestion, actually we , several community leaders in API have contacted APIC Spokane, but nothing really get done. That is why I brought it to today's meeting, we need stronger leadership here to say NO to internal racism, clearly.

11:27:47 From CAPAA CAPAA : @James Beacon Hill represent!

11:28:12 From JamesNguyen : https://mediatorsbeyondborders.org/anti-racism-resources/

11:31:18 From CAPAA CAPAA : Lin email rosa and info for your events :-) we can include in newsletter, facebook, commissioners

11:32:21 From CAPAA CAPAA : rosa.mai@capaa.wa.gov

11:33:41 From Lin Crowley : Sure. I will do so. Thank you.

11:33:47 From CAPAA CAPAA : @Marsha I worked for councilmember Kohl-Welles and coordinated the womens history month panel when you were a panelist. I will NEVER forget your story and presentation -- one of the most compelling guest speakers I've seen to date! THANK YOU for your service at the state and for joining us this morning!

11:36:35 From Tam Dinh : Welcome Brenda!

11:36:49 From Carrie Huie-Pascua : Welcome Brenda!

11:37:01 From Lalita Uppala : Welcome Brenda

11:37:19 From Brenda O’Brien : Thank you, Tam!

11:37:46 From Brenda O’Brien : Thank you!!

11:38:16 From Tam Dinh : Thanks for your leadership Ekk and support of the Education Committee work

11:38:44 From Helen Christensen : Welcome aboard, Brenda!

11:39:12 From CAPAA CAPAA : TREMENDOUS leadership @Cmmr Sisavatdy, the state is listening to capaa and partners In education are noticing the work the team is doing. Thank you!

11:40:01 From CAPAA CAPAA : "Nisei students relocation commemorative fund" info https://nsrcfund.org/#:~:text=In%201980%2C%20nearly%2040%20years%20after%20the%20wartime,all%20Nisei%2C%20second-generation%20American-born%20descendants%20of%20Japanese%20immigrants.

11:52:59 From CAPAA CAPAA : @sina Thank you for allowing us to use your Zoom account for official CAPAA work. We appreciate your generosity and volunteerism ! @rosa, Flawlessly hosted. Excellent work as always. @Lisa please leave us at least a couple minutes at the end for comment about you...

11:57:12 From Tam Dinh : With the masks, we need to normalize it. Encourage state and community leaders to do a social media campaign where they were masks

11:59:13 From JamesNguyen : ^^https://southseattleemerald.com/2020/05/29/safety-not-stigma-a-pandemic-portrait-campaign-to-fight-racism/

12:00:08 From Tam Dinh : Thank you for your leadership Commissioner Dickinson. I appreciate your commitment to the community, honesty, and hard work. I will MISS YOU!!!

12:00:18 From Carrie Huie-Pascua : Lisa, we will miss your leadership and voice at the meetings!

12:00:34 From Lydia M. Faitalia : Thank you Chair Dickinson for your service! Going to miss you

12:01:26 From Helen Christensen : thank you, Lisa! for your contribution

12:02:13 From Sina Sam : THANK YOU Chair Dickinson for your amazing years in leadership, service and CAPAA fierceness!!! Big shoes to fill. <3

12:02:50 From Ping Ping : Thank you Lisa for representing Spokane, and your speech to the whole attendants today.

12:03:25 From Ping Ping : Thank you All CAPAA commissioners, very productive meeting. Thank you Toshiko the Director of CAPAA!

12:03:26 From Lydia M. Faitalia : Love you Lisa