**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, September 17, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Yakima County

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Quorum reached at 10:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nguyen at 10:07 AM.

*Present:* Chair Nam Nguyen, 1st Vice Chair Lydia Faitalia, 2nd Vice Chair Carrie Huie-Pascua, Cmmr. Julio Diaz, Cmmr. Lalita Uppala, Cmmr. Kendall Kosai, Cmmr. Ping Ping, Cmmr. Va’eomatoka Valu, Cmmr. Ekkarath Sisavatdy, and Cmmr. Sam Cho

*Absent:* Cmmr. Chongsun Abbott, and Cmmr. Satpal Singh Sidhu

*Staff:* Executive Director Toshiko Grace Hasegawa, Project Manager K’gnausa Yodkerepauprai, and Project Coordinator Brenda O’Brien

1. **Welcome**

Welcoming remarks were made by host Lon Inaba, Dori Peralta Baker from APIC-Yakima, and Rep. Alex Ybarra, of the 13th District.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Diaz

Seconded by: Cmmr. Faitalia

*Motion carried unanimously.*

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Valu

Seconded by: Cmmr. Ping

*Motion carried unanimously.*

1. **Commissioner Community Updates**

Cmmr. Valu has transitioned out of PICA into full-time focus into the arts. He also has a baby on the way in December! Things have been going well on the Tonga front, and some of the shipping relief efforts have been paused.

In August, the General Consulate from San Francisco flew over to help with renewing citizenship and passports for Tongans. They hope to have a similar event in the future. He would also like to have a Tonga Day Celebration sometime, and his focus has been on creating a Tongan Community Resource Center.

Cmmr. Uppala reported continued COVID relief efforts for small businesses are still underway, and is thankful for the partnership of the Economic Development Committee, Commerce, and L&I in those efforts. Clinics for the newest COVID boosters have also been started for these business communities and service workers.

She has also been collaborating with the Governor’s Office, along with ED Hasegawa, and Cmmrs. Sidhu and Nguyen after a proclamation was requested for Hindu Heritage Month. She is hoping CAPAA can help lead a conversation on the nuances of the Hindu religion and the Asian Indian immigration communitities.

Cmmr. Kosai took part in the OCA National Convention in August with ED Hasegawa, where they had the opportunity to address the rise of Anti-Asian sentiment and network. He has also been involved with the Asian Jewish Initiative that is seeking to bridge the two communities. There have been two meeting so far, and discussions have revolved around shared experiences, learning from each other, and how to best support one another. They are seeking other ANHPI members, so if you are interested in joining, let him know.

Cmmr. Huie-Pascua became a grandmother this summer! Her main focus has been with addressing behavioral health concerns through the NAMC and supporting various affiliates with DEI efforts. She has also been providing online support towards the planning of the 70th Anniversary of the Filipino American Community in Yakima taking place in October.

Cmmr. Faitalia has been serving as a sounding board regarding inflation impacts for small businesses, caregiving, homelessness, and education gaps that are being voiced by communities. Information gathered is being used to help shape our strategic plan for the next three years and strengthen our communities. She is also thinking about ways to help young people understand what a commissioner does and to develop leadership opportunities for them.

Cmmr. Diaz has been connecting communities to state programs. On a recent Zoom, Lt. Gov. Denny Heck stated that the competitiveness of Washington lies in tackling the homelessness crises and providing affordable housing. In that spirit, the Economic Development Committee recently met with OMWBE to learn about the Linked Deposit program, which offers reduced interest rates on loans for certified small businesses through participating lenders throughout the state.

He’s also been able to meet with the Dept. of Commerce to learn about the low income energy assistance program.

Cmmr. Cho has been involved with helping the Korean American Coalition plan their national conference and gala dinner. This will be the first national conference in about five years. It will take place at the Bell Harbor Conference Center on October 22-23rd and CAPAA is invited. He has also been working on an initiative to provide a Korean American Voter’s Guide. It is a non-partisan voter’s guide in both Korean and English that will help the Korean American community decide who they would like to vote for.

Lastly, in partnership with the Small Business Association, Mike Fong, The Greater Seattle Partners, and the Port of Seattle, a Korean American Exporters Conference was held. It was very well attended and allowed an opportunity to host and meet with the SBA Administrator from Washington DC, as well as the South Korean Ambassador to Seattle.

Cmmr. Ping had six things to report. First, she shared that the Education Committee has been collectively drafting their portion of the CAPAA Strategic Plan. Next, Spokane has Indian American mothers who have voiced a desire to do something for the common good of the Asian American community. They have been working to figure out who they can collaborate with to make this happen.

Third, APIC Spokane has a youth leader that was interviewed this summer for the Asian American people’s experiences with racism. Fourth, she wants to bring attention to the different treatment that middle-aged Chinese American customers have reported to have been receiving in various business settings. Among them have been Costco and Cash & Carry. Cmmr. Ping is very glad to learn that they stood up for themselves and called out the discrimination. One instance was reported to the Human Rights Commission.

Fifth, Spokane recently lost a beloved Black community leader, in the plane accident that took place September 4th off of Whidbey Island. Sandra Williams founded the Black Lens newspaper and the Carl Maxey Center, and was tireless in engaging in anti-racism work in the community. Her loss has been felt deeply in Spokane and 700 people attended her memorial service.

Finally, Cmmr. Ping wants to highlight the need for mental health support of Asian American students in the K-12 system. In August, a youth-led intergenerational conversation took place, where Cmmr. Ping’s daughter Rosie was a featured speaker. Many shared experiences of microaggression in public schools. Chinese students felt their identities are not welcome due to being from “COVID communism China.” They would like to see more representation through increased numbers of teachers of color. After the conversation, there were parents who expressed a desire to be involved with DEI work in their schools.

Cmmr. Nguyen had the opportunity to attend the Business Resource Group kickoff that took place last week, and provide opening remarks, along with ED Hasegawa, Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu, and Representative Sharon Santos.

**VI**.  **Staff Report**

ED Hasegawa gave a verbal overview of the Staff Report at 10:43 AM. Full report can be accessed below.



1. **Lunch**

Recessed for lunch at 11:34 AM.

Meeting was re-called to order at 11:58 AM

1. **Public Comment**

Maricres Castro, from the City of Tacoma’s Commission on Refugees & Immigrants, and who is also serving on APCC’s Steering Committee, announced that APCC is having their Lunar New Year event on February 22nd. Last year, over 3,000 people attended, so they are holding it at the Tacoma Dome this year.

Cmmr. Emeritus Tito Rey Pascua was nominated for the Larry Itliong Leadership Awards. The ceremony will take place in California on October 22nd and free flights can be arranged for anyone who would like to be in attendance. Please reach out to her if interested.

Sen. Bob Hasegawa would like to see CAPAA work with other ethnic commissions to develop more power in advising the legislature, an authority that was given to us four years ago to voice the issues concerning our communities. Ideally, reaching out to our communities directly to gather their specific concerns can build understanding and trust. The more power we have collectively to push those issues through, the more likely it is to pass.

ED Hasegawa agreed wholeheartedly, and is pleased to announce this is being addressed in our new Strategic Plan for 2023-2026; specifically, in the Pillars of Advocacy portion under Objective 3.

ED Josephine Tamayo Murray, from the Communities of Concern Commission, seconded Sen. Hasegawa’s comment on having more power. The ethnic commissions have representation, but they don’t have a vote, which shows the lack of respect the Legislature has towards them.

Sister Kathleen Ross thanked CAPAA for the work we are doing. They try to educate students, of which 70% are of color, to become leaders. CAPAA and the other Commissions are building the next generation of leaders, and she is very grateful.

Matt Chan, from the China International District (CID), conveyed the situation there concerning the city planning to open up yet another homeless shelter. There are currently 11 shelters within walking distance in their district. He knows of no other district shouldering a similar shelter load, and there are community concerns that are not being acknowledged or addressed.

Full plans are also not being reported back to the community. They would appreciate CAPAA amplifying this issue to county officials and electeds. A protest rally is planned for October 15th at Hing Hay Park.

1. **Presentation: History of Interracial Solidarity in Yakima Valley**

Lon Inaba and Stan Viernes gave presentations on the history of interracial solidarity in the region. Presentations can be accessed below.



1. **Elections**

* Executive Committee
* Chair: Cmmr. Faitalia nominated Cmmr. Nguyen, who accepted. Commission voted its unanimous approval. A Point of Information by ED Hasegawa clarified that the Executive Committee also includes past committee chairs, even if they are no longer with the Commission.
* 1st VC: Cmmr. Valu nominated Cmmr. Faitalia, who accepted. Commission voted its unanimous approval.
* 2nd VC: Cmmr. Ping nominated Cmmr. Diaz, who accepted. Commission voted its unanimous approval.
* Standing Committee Chairs & Assignments
* Civil Rights & Immigration: Cmmrs. Valu, Kosai, Sidhu, and Faitalia volunteered for this committee. Cmmr. Kosai volunteered to continue to chair the committee. No other nominations were given.
* Economic Development: Cmmrs. Diaz, Uppala, Cho, and Sidhu volunteered for this committee. Cmmr. Uppala accepted the nomination to chair from Cmmr. Diaz.
* Education: Cmmrs. Faitalia, Ping, Valu, Sisavatdy, and Sidhu volunteered for this committee. Cmmr. Sisavatdy accepted the nomination to chair by Cmmr. Ping.
* Health & Human Services: Cmmrs. Faitalia, Uppala, and Huie-Pascua volunteered for this committee. Cmmr. Huie-Pascua accepted the nomination to chair by Cmmr. Valu.

1. **Strategic Plan Overview & Update**

Current drafts of the Strategic Plan can be accessed below.



1. **Good of the Order**

Cmmr. Kosai recognized the hosts of the Board meeting and expressed his deep thanks for their preparations.

Cmmr. Diaz announced that he and Cmmr. Faitalia will be starting to plan an opportunity for developing youth leadership into CAPAA. Chair Nguyen offered that we could discuss establishing a liaison with high school students on the next meeting agenda.

Cmmr. Faitalia requested a pre-recorded message from ED Hasegawa for an event on Indigenous Peoples Day on October 10th. She is also in the process of planning a Youth Day in King County. She will provide details to the Commission once it is finalized.

Cmmr. Ping expressed her thanks for Matt Chan’s comment on the current CID situation and for acknowledging the erasure of these communities. This not only affects Seattle, but Spokane and other identity groups as well.

Cmmr. Nguyen thanked the hosts for two memorable presentations on Yakima Valley’s history. He further expressed how much more meaningful meeting in person has been. He has found learning more about every commissioner valuable.

1. **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.