

Meeting Minutes

COMMISSION OF ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS (CAPI)

Date: Saturday, Jul 22, 2021

Time: 9:30 Am-11:30 AM

Location: Virtual Meeting Via Google Meet

Conference Call- Public Access Provided

Commissioners Present:

Ben Jung, Chair-West Des Moines

Michelle Yoshimura-Smith-Des Moines

James Suong - Des Moines

Ritu Gurung - Davenport

Peggy La- Sioux City

DHR/CAS/API Staff:

Monica Stone, CAS Division Director/DHR Deputy Director

Trevy Augustin, Executive Officer for Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs/CAS

Guest Attendance: Bill Lu, Ankeny Police Department, Global Food Discovery, City of Ankeny Council Candidate

Call to Order

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. Quorum present.

Approval of Proposed Agenda

Meeting agenda was reviewed. Chair Jung called to amend the agenda to include commissioner updates, and time for guest, Bill Lu, to introduce and discuss Lu's work.

Unanimous consent. Motion carried.

Guest Bill Lu-Amendment

Guest Lu shared an interest in increasing civic engagement, leading to a career as Police Officer for 9 years. Founded Global Food Discovery, an effort to serve food from around the world to the public for free. Having volunteered frequently for Des Moines, Guest Lu sought opportunities to do more for Ankeny. Stone invited Guest Lu to consider the Talent Bank, and ways to promote board and commission vacancy among the community. Jung inquired "Have you seen or heard what is on peoples' minds? How do you balance social justice and measure what is important to members of the community?"

Past Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes of the 5/22/2021 were reviewed. **Motion by La, seconded by Yoshimura-Smith. Unanimous consent. Motion carried.**

Update from DHR and Office of API-Amendment

Augustin shared that DHR is working to provide API specific data and demographics from the 2020 Census for Commission and that the data may be helpful for CAPI in strategic planning. Stone shared that DHR is working with Cultural Affairs and small businesses in creating “Cultural Destinations” around the state. This could be ‘Main street’ opportunities for immigrant entrepreneurship, and for those moving to small towns. This new initiative is expected to launch this fall. This opportunity as a one stop shop, is interested in creating business in small towns., As we get more solid, the vision is that Iowa becomes a tourism state Asian and Pacific Islander communities are an important group for us to reach, and that COVID has been an instigator for important improvements.

Commissioner Updates:

1. Commissioner Yoshimura-Smith - *Des Moines*
Yoshimura-Smith shared her involvement in CelebrAsian and that the event has had a commission presence previously. One goal was increasing voter awareness. Commissioner Yoshimura-Smith asked the Commission if they should continue to have a presence at CelebrAsian.
2. Commissioner La - *Sioux City*
La shared that folks from Sioux City will be coming to represent and participate in CelebrAsian.
3. Commissioner Gurung - *Davenport*
Gurung shared that there are 100 Nepali families in Eastern Iowa, and that she is interested in ensuring that Nepali Americans’ voices are heard. Gurung expressed interest in helping Nepali residents get connected with the World's Affair Council of the Quad Cities.

Strategic Plan

Augustin inquired about the vision of the 2022 Strategic Plan among the commission. Stone suggested that the Commission implement a Google Drive as a way to work collaboratively and save time on editing the Strategic Plan. Augustin stated that she would send a poll to best identify strategic interests among the commission. Commissioners discussed agreement in establishing a shared Google Drive that would serve host to Agendas, Meeting Minutes, Commission Documents, and a working document of the Strategic Plan.

Other Items of Discussion

Yoshimura Smith discussed previous experiences of the commission having challenges with staffing a table at CelebrAsian. Stone shared that Iowa API Specific Data should be available by then, and can be presented on Informational Posters at CelebrAsian. The posters will include information on how to contact the Office of API Affairs, and the Commission.

Jung shared Congratulatory remarks for Community member, Lisa Ung, for implementing free Medicare Informational Sessions among Asian Iowans.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 AM. Unanimous Consent.