



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSION OF ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS (CAPI)

Date: Saturday, May 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*

Karlai Thornburg – *Ames*

Peggy La – *Sioux City*

Suresh Basnet – *Cedar Rapids*

DHR Director San Wong – *Ex Officio*

DHR/CAS/API Staff:

Monica Stone, CAS Division Director/DHR Deputy Director

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

Members Absent: Commissioner James Suong, Commissioner Michelle Yoshimura, Commissioner Ritu Gurung

Guest Attendance: none in attendance

Public Comment: No public guests in attendance to provide public comment.

I. Call to Order

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 9:39 AM. 4 commissioners in attendance. Quorum present.

II. Past Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 3/27/21 meeting were reviewed. **Motion by Thornburg, seconded by LA** to approve the minutes of 3/27/21 meeting. **Unanimous consent. Motion carried.**

III. Schedule Upcoming Meetings

Chair Jung kindly welcomed Augustin to the role, and to the Commission of Asian and Pacific Islanders. Additionally, Jung shared that the DHR day did not occur this year, this is officially the 2nd CAPI, and that the requirement is to have 4 meetings. Chair Jung also shared that CAPI had 8 meetings in 2020.

Chair Jung proposed that CAPI aim to meet 4-8 times.

La proposed meeting on June 19, 2021 for Siouxland festival.

Augustin offered to send calendar invites to Siouxland Asian Festival. Chair Jung proposed that CAPI aim to meet prior to the June 19th Festival with the intention of preparing a more robust meeting on June 19, 2021.

Stone proposed that attending Siouxland Asian Fest could be a Commission Activity and an opportunity for CAPI to gather input from the community, and an opportunity to distribute the survey Thornburg presented in the previous Commissioner's meeting. Stone further shared that CAPI presence at the Siouxland Asian Festival would be fun, purposeful way to be present in the community.

Jung shared that the commission should use conversations from the March 27 meeting to use as arrows to the commission's next steps. Jung asked "Where do we want to position ourselves?" He voiced that more action items are required from meetings.

Director Wong asked if Chair Jung would be present for the Round Table with Representative Axney. Jung confirmed participation and that he would ask Rep. Axney a question regarding Iowa Hate Crime Law. Jung to report back on what materializes from conversation.

Jung further shared gap in data around AAPI Iowans reporting incidents of discrimination and hate. At the moment, there are no reported incidents in the State of Iowa.

Director Wong reiterated that there is a perception of shame in reporting incidents, and that there needs to be a better way to voice concerns.

Thornburg revisited four-question survey that was distributed among Ames residents, as well as a public guest who attend the previous March meeting. La and Thornburg agreed to outreach volunteers to translate the survey into Vietnamese, Korean, and Filipino. Augustin agreed to send the translated surveys to Mark Schmidt, who would distribute among the Catholic dioceses.

IV. Old Business

COFA Health Care Policy Recommendation Success

Stone shared that guidance was issued through Medicaid enterprise on DHS and that there is people friendly version of the guidance for COFA Migrants to navigate Medicaid.

La shared that Mindi Nguyen from DOT distributed informational flyers.

V. Review of Strategic Plan Priorities

Jung revisited Commission Discussion of 'Friends of CAPI', or allyship group comprised of 12-15 people.

Stone shared that the Commission on the Status of Women used to have a 'Friends' group, but was disbanded. Stone shared that the 501C3 model does exist. Stone also shared that another model for an advisory council, Commissioners would gather feedback from Advisory Council to inform discussions.

Jung asked members “have we done enough on hate/discrimination? Do we need to have a document that says CAPI stands for this? A document that highlights accomplishments, the commission recognizes this as a concern for our community in Iowa. This is what the commission does within our capacity. Are we ready to entertain or adopt a statement? Do we like having panels, discussions and festival presence? Additionally, we have yet to meet with legislators.

La: We should try and see what happens, whoever has time should represent. I am already doing this work in Siouxland. We had a vigil to bring visibility.

Thornburg: This has been a long year, the virus brought about discrimination. There is still lack of understanding among the different AAPI groups. My focus is to improve mutual understanding of ethnic groups.

Basnat shared personal experiences of discrimination. Basnat further shared that remarks by people in public serving positions can contribute to incidents of discrimination experienced by people of the AAPI community.

Augustin inserted that Basnat’s comments are an opportunity for educating Iowans, and challenging harmful narratives.

VI. Public Comment

There were no public guests in attendance to provide public comment.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by La to adjourn the meeting, Thornburg seconded. Unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.