



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

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commission of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs (CAPI)

**Date:** Saturday October 9, 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 - West Des Moines

James Suong - Des Moines

Suresh Basnet - Cedar Rapids

Peggy La - Sioux City

Karlai Thornburg - Ames

#### **DHR/CAS/API Staff:**

Monica Stone, CAS Division Director/DHR Deputy Director

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

#### **Guest Attendance:**

Sudhanshu Kaushik, Executive Director North American Association of Indian Students

Patrick Bigsby, Attorney and Environmental Justice Coordinator Dept Natural Resources

Commissioner, Iowa Commission of Native American Affairs

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Jung called to order at 9:37 AM. Quorum was present.

#### **Approval of Proposed Agenda**

The Meeting Agenda was reviewed. Thornburg motioned to approve the agenda. Basnet seconded. Unanimous consent, agenda approved.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 7/22/21**

Suong motioned to approve previous meeting minutes. Yoshimura seconded. Unanimous consent, minutes for 7/22/21 meeting approved.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Kaushik shared that NAAIS aims to create community and advocate for Indian students ages 18-28- and is working with students from University of Iowa and Iowa State University to increase public engagement efforts. At a recent NAAIS event at Iowa University, over ~150 Indian students were in attendance. NAAIS asked the commission how the Commission and

NAAIS can continue to do the work we are doing in Iowa. Commissioners Thornburg (Ames) and Commissioner Basnet (Cedar Rapids) offered to connect with NAAIS.

#### **V. Environmental Justice with Dept of Natural Resources**

Bigsby presented DNR Environmental Justice Priorities, Enforcement, Accountability, Grievance process for Grievance Procedure in process. How to spread burdens of waste How can DNR better engage API communities?

#### **VI. Commissioner Updates**

No updates shared.

Thornburg shared: Concerns about an incident at a Senior Living Home. Thornburg shares that a gentleman, who appears well, but is being taken advantage of. In Thornburg's efforts to advocate for the resident, Thornburg was dismissed off the property. Thornburg presented that more older residents within the API community may be experiencing mistreatment, but that it's challenging to advocate given Thornburg's recent experience. The Senior Living Home is located in Nevada, but there have been concerns about resident's treatments in Bloomington. Commissioner Suong also shared a similar incident involving a Cambodian elder, whose children removed him from a care facility due to concerns about his treatment while in Senior Care. In this situation, the family contacted the Iowa Insurance Division.

#### **VII. Census Data & Strategic Plan Feedback 2022**

Augustin shared API Specific Census Data and responses and suggestions shared by Commissioner's regarding Strategic Plan. Commission to revisit, revise and produce new Strategic Plan.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Jung motioned to adjourn the meeting. Yoshimura seconded. **Unanimous consent, meeting adjourned.**