



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

"Advocating Equality and Diversity"

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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Wednesday, September 28, 2011,

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Rm. 615,

Portland, OR 97232

ATTENDEES:

Chair: Carol Suzuki
Vice Chair: Stephen Ying
Commissioners: Mari Watanabe, Moinuddin Shaik, Rep. Gene Whisnant (phone)
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guest: Jennifer Kleskie (Appointment to Commission begins October 1, 2011)

I. Call to Order

Chair Suzuki called the meeting to order at 11:38am.
Quorum was not met when the meeting opened.

The Commissioners each introduced themselves, and described their connections to the Asian and Pacific Islander community. For those Commissioners not present, Chair Suzuki or Administrator Lucy Baker provided a brief introduction.

II. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Quorum was met after the arrival of Commissioner Shaik.

MOTION (Suzuki/Ying): To adopt the Agenda. Carried.

MOTION (Shaik/Watanabe): To adopt the minutes. Carried.

III. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Ying mentioned he is active with the Roundtable requesting an apology from the government for the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.

Commissioner Ying recently organized and traveled with a delegation of Oregon dignitaries to promote Oregon opportunities in China. Members of the delegation included: Co-Speakers of the Oregon House Hanna and Roblan and Senate President Peter Courtney. The goal was to cultivate Fujian Province relations create new markets for Oregon products. The Executive Director of the Joint Committee on Fujian Sister State (JCFSS), who is also the President of the Oregon-Fujian Sister State Association (OFSSA) organized the trip.

The delegation met with numerous Chinese officials and were shown great respect during their visit, with several dinners held in their honor and many touring opportunities.

Commissioner Ying has been hosting different visitors, ranging from China's Energy minister to seven young Mayors.

The Commission asked what, if any, opportunities for OCAPIA could come from this recent trip. Representative Whisnant wanted the Governor's Office to know that OCAPIA wants to be on the welcoming committee for any future visiting delegations from China. He suggested actively building relationships with the Governor, and to use the OCAPIA as a talking point with visiting Asians and Pacific Islanders.

ACTION: Lucy Baker will prepare a draft letter to the Governor, from OCAPIA covering several points:

- i. OCAPIA would welcome being on the welcome committee when API delegations visit Oregon;
- ii. That OCAPIA can contribute potential talking points for the Governor when he is meeting with API visiting dignitaries and guests. The talking points could include Commission activities of interest.

Representative Whisnant will review the letter.

Commissioner Watanabe attended the National Conference for Asian-Pacific Women in Houston, Texas earlier in September. She participated in a high-level leadership event earlier this year.

She is also on the Steering Committee for the National Veterans' Network's Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony that will be held on November 2, 2011 in Washington, DC. This is the highest civilian honor in the United States. KOIN TV will cover the departure of the 12 living Oregon veterans on their way to the Capitol.

She is collaborating with Anne Naito Campbell to bring talent from Japan to travel the U.S.

Chair Suzuki reported that OCAPIA-nominated former OCAPIA Chair Liani Reeves for the Portland Business Journal's, "40 Under 40" list. Former Chair Reeves was also nominated by the Asian American Bar Association for a national award.

Chair Suzuki met with John Yasutake and Sandra Blair of the U.S. Dept of Justice in Salem. They are in the Community Relations Service. He is new to the position, based in Seattle, and wanted to meet with the Commissions. His office handles Civil Rights complaints. Members of the Governor's Office met with him including Frank Garcia, Jr., of Diversity and Inclusion.

Sandra Blair has developed curriculum for schools struggling with diversity and inclusion issues and will share it with interested parties.

ACTION: Lucy Baker will connect Sandra Blair with former Commissioner David Kong. He is a counselor at Gresham's Barlow High School, and will appreciate the SPIRIT (Student Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together) Program Sandra is piloting.

The Commissioner welcomed guest Jennifer Kleskie, whose Commissioner appointment begins on October 1, 2011. She noted that she spoke at the recent Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce event in August.

IV. Budget Update

Lucy Baker reported on the next round of proposed budget cuts and the affect on OACO's budget. They are deep cuts and she will prepare recommendations. Lucy sent an email update to the Commissioners in mid-September noting an 87% cut in the OCAPIA's travel budget, leaving approximately \$600 per Commission for the biennium. Stipends were reduced by 20%. Supplies and Printing was also cut. Five cuts have already been sustained to the overall budget so far this biennium.

The new proposed reductions will total \$40,000 from the OACO budget.

ACTION: Lucy Baker will ask legislative members from Commissions to sign the letter to DAS requesting a consideration on OACO's assessment of fees. OACO will ask for a reduced assessment.

Lucy is talking with the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) and the Budget and Management (BAM) Analyst about options for increasing the number of staff furlough days. The Administrator position has 14 mandatory furlough days per year and the Executive Assistant position has 12. This could increase as part of OACO's budget reduction strategies.

Representative Whisnant thanked Lucy for her report and noted the budget was short \$200 million. He encouraged every option for savings.

The Commission discussed options for establishing a 501(c)(3) to ease fundraising. It already raises funds but may consider a nonprofit structure in the future.

V. OCAPIA Business & Commissioner Reports

Discussion of Goals, Outreach and Fundraising:

- Ideas for OCAPIA outreach and advocacy events:
 - Visibility and possibly fundraising event in February, to coincide with the Legislative Session and the Chinese New Year; a breakfast or late afternoon reception were suggested
 - Joint legislative day with APANO
 - Invite Chris Lu, from the White House API Initiative, to speak at an event targeted for Fall 2012

- Civil rights-themed event
- Do a joint fundraiser with the other Commissions
- Continue the voter education project with APANO; Commissioner Watanabe is the liaison to APANO. Partner with APANO on candidate forums and getting voter pamphlets available in Korean and Chinese.
- Hold accountability sessions/forums with public agencies:
 - Department of Education, regarding the achievement gap and the “model minority” myth
 - DHS, regarding community elders who don’t speak English; bus passes and vaccinations they might be unaware of
 - What is being done to address recidivism?
 - Exposure to chemicals through nail salons and dry cleaners
 - The high rate of mercury in fish; API’s consume more fish on average
 - Office of Multicultural Health Services and medical translations
 OCAPIA would choose an agency and prepare for the forum. The agency would present, OCAPIA would present and time would be left for questions from the audience.

Lucy Baker contacted the DEQ re: environmental equity and they are ready to come and present to OCAPIA at any time.

ACTION: By next OCAPIA meeting all Commissioners will have identified an API group and/or contact person in the following counties:

- Commissioner Kleskie: Ashland (in Jackson), Klamath, Lincoln
- Commissioner Shaik: Lane, Tillamook, Yamhill
- Chair Suzuki: Benton, Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Sherman, Wasco
- Commissioner Watanabe: Baker, Ontario (in Malheur), Wallowa
- Rep. Gene Whisnant: Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson and will also contact the County Commissioner on Families and Children.
- Vice Chair Ying: Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Jackson

Commissioners Ahmed, Mamaril and Vlach-Ing will be asked to take on some of the remaining counties.

The Leadership Team needs to meet again and suggest some specific outreach goals.

OCAPIA has been involved with the Asian American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC) in the past. OCAPIA plans to lead a session or a workshop at the next AAYLC which will be some time in April 2012. Commissioner Ying’s wife, Helen Ying, is chairing. OCAPIA will approach AAYLC about developing a more formal partnership.

Creation of By-Law Review Committee:

This committee will ensure the OCAPIA by-laws are current. The last by-law review was in 2010.

ACTION: Chair Suzuki will ask Commissioner Vlach-Ing to be on the newly created by law review committee. Commissioner Kleskie also offered to serve.

VI. Administrator Report

New Commissioner Orientations:

Lucy Baker is scheduling New Commissioner orientations with Commissioners Kleskie, Vlach-Ing and Representative Whisnant. The orientation consists of three parts. One part is a ½ day trip to Salem to meet with Governor’s key staff.

Chair Suzuki met with Frank Garcia, Jr. and Cheryl Meyers, requesting a meeting with the Governor for the Commission. OCAPIA provides advice to the Governor and wants to be in step with his vision for the State.

Website Updates:

Executive Assistant Nancy Kramer has been making web updates and better familiarizing herself with OCAPIA web pages.

Commissioner Watanabe expressed interest in having a Jobs page on the website.

Commissioners were asked to send email addresses to be added to the listserv.

Internships:

Lucy Baker is working on securing an intern for OCAPIA. A Hatfield graduate student, Debra Porta, worked on a nationwide overview regarding an overview of environmental equity and health. She is interested in doing an independent study on Environmental Health in the Nail Industry. Senator Dingfelder wants to work with her.

Representative Whisnant is also a representative on the Education Commission for the State. He will consider developing a concept around the education gap.

ACTION: Commissioners send Lucy Baker other ideas for legislative concepts and internship research projects.

Listserv:

ACTION: Nancy Kramer will add a link to the Asian Reporter’s list of API organizations on the OCAPIA website, and “If your organization would like to be added to the list email nancy.kramer@state.or.us”

VII. Public Testimony

Representative Whisnant talked about a United States-Korean Free Trade Agreement being discussed in Congress. The Governor is in favor of the agreement.

ACTION: Rep. Whisnant will provide a one-page Executive Summary about the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed United States-Korean Free Trade Agreement currently being discussed in Congress, as well as a letter of support to the Governor, within the next week. This way the Commissioners can decide if they support the proposed Agreement.

It was agreed that the process for discussing whether to support this agreement would begin with a review of Representative Whisnant's summary and then discuss it via email.

Simon Tam and the Slants:

MOTION (Ying/Shaik): To approve the letter as written with the change to read, "Simon as Band Manager and Performer". Carried.

Simon Tam will also be copied on the letter.

VIII. Announcements

Commissioner Ying said the 1882 Exclusion Act Project Roundtable for Portland and Southwest Washington is seeking non-monetary sponsorship. The purpose of the event is to educate people about the history of this act. The event is November 5th from 10am to noon, organized by the Chinese American Citizens' Alliance (CACA).

MOTION (Suzuki/Watanabe): The CACA Portland Lodge will be in partnership with OCAPIA for this event. Carried.

Commissioner Shaik:

ACTION: Commissioner Shaik to work with office staff to draft an upcoming brochure that would have his contact information on it. Chair Suzuki will wordsmith the document.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47pm.