



# 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  
Monday, January 23, 2012,  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Rm. 918,  
Portland, OR 97232

### ATTENDEES:

**Chair:** Carol Suzuki  
**Vice Chair:** Stephen Ying  
**Commissioners:** Jennifer Kleskie, Simeon Mamaril, Michelle Vlach-Ing, Mari Watanabe, Rep. Gene Whisnant (phone)  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer  
**Guest:** Joseph Santos Lyons, APANO; Ben Duncan, Governor's Environmental Justice Task Force

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Suzuki called the meeting to order at 10:10am. A quorum was established. The Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

#### **II. Review and Adoption of Agenda**

Ben Duncan, Governor's Environmental Justice Task Force was added to the agenda.

**MOTION (Ying/Vlach-Ing):** To adopt the agenda as amended. **CARRIED.**

#### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

**MOTION (Ying/Mamaril):** To approve the 9/28/11 minutes as written. **CARRIED.**

#### **IV. Chair's Report**

Chair Suzuki is stepping down from the Chair position after 10 years of serving the OCAPIA. Her final term ends in April but she plans to remain active in the Commission.

Ping Khaw-Sutherland submitted an Interest form; she is the Chair of the Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce. There is still a need to recruit applicants that include a Korean, Samoan or Pacific Islander male to help maintain diversity on the Commission.

#### **V. Update from APANO - Joseph Santos Lyons**

APANO's Annual Statewide Convention is February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Over 150 people attended last year, consisting of more than 25 different ethnic and

racial groups. The Friday is a legislative day at the Capitol, with a focus on the proposed TANF cuts and the impact this could have on low-income Asian and Pacific Islanders.

The Racial Equity Report Card was the first ever and reviewed legislation regarding persistent racial inequities. 24 groups came together to review and vet legislation. The Oregon House received a “D” and the Oregon Senate received a “C”. The goal is to highlight policies that made a difference as well as highlight missed opportunities. There will be a new Racial Equity Report card in 2013.

Coalition of Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile report will be released on February 27<sup>th</sup>. This report was written in collaboration with Portland State University. It focuses on areas such as education, health, employment, poverty and results show that the API community is doing more poorly in Multnomah County than in the national average, specifically Southeast Asians. The data is available online at [www.apano.org](http://www.apano.org)

It was noted that because of past history many immigrants are uneasy about being involved in politics.

The Community Leadership Institute is a program funded by the Meyer Memorial Trust, led by Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) with a May 2012 anticipated start date. It is a year-long leadership development forum, open to anyone; individuals with a connection with the API community, commitment and accountability are desired.

The Commission thanked Joseph Santos-Lyons for his report.

## **VI. Governor’s Environmental Justice Task Force**

Ben Duncan reported that the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) was formed to advise the Governor on environmental justice for all people. Each of the cultural Commissions has a statutory seat on the EJTF, and there is also a seat to represent the Native American community.

It was noted that the EJTF wants to partner with the Commissions and work with other agencies and elected officials to ensure that people of color have the same quality of life as white people. Ideally the Commission could raise awareness about environmental issues of which the EJTF may be unaware. EJTF meetings are quarterly, and last 6 hours.

The EJTF cannot draft legislation but it can review legislation and make recommendations. The Task Force is interested in facilitating translations of warnings, advisories, notifications and signs and getting these posted in the community.

The Commission thanked Ben Duncan for his report.

## **VII. February Session Update**

Chair Suzuki reported about activities planned during the February session. The 1<sup>st</sup> short Oregon Legislative Session begins on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The economic forecast is February 8<sup>th</sup>.

February 15<sup>th</sup> is the only available date for a visibility/fundraiser event for the API community at the Capitol during the Legislative Session. The Governor's food drive is that month too, and could potentially be a partner, or the OCFW or the OCHA, who will also be traveling to the Capitol during Session.

February 25<sup>th</sup> is Nisei Veterans' day and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japanese internment. Nisei Veterans received the Congressional Medal of Honor at the White House in November 2011. February 19<sup>th</sup> is a day of remembrance. Mari Watanabe in her role as Executive Director of the Nikkei Endowment, organized a delegation of Oregon's Nisei Veterans to attend the White House ceremony to receive their medal. She and Chair Suzuki and interested OCAPIA Commissioners will work together with APANO to honor the veterans in Salem during the Session. Chair Suzuki also inquire about having a copy of the Proclamation placed on all Senators' desks.

## **VIII. Administrator's Report**

### *Internships*

Education: The OAC jointly sponsored a briefing with Ben Cannon on Education Gaps. Sen. Dingfelder's aide attended. Ben Cannon explained what the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) is doing to address longstanding education gaps. Ben Cannon is interested in exploring a joint Education Intern with the Advocacy Commissions to consider improving education gaps for students of color.

Civil Rights: The Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the Commission on Black Affairs are co-sponsoring a law student internship on Hate Crime protections in Oregon. The goal is to identify weak areas in the law and suggest ways to strengthen it during the 2013 legislative session.

### *Gender Parity Executive Order*

The Commission for Women is requesting that the Governor's office issue an Executive Order for gender parity on all 220 boards and commissions. They will meet January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to discuss this.

### *Budget Update*

Lucy Baker reviewed the OCAPIA General Fund allocation within the overall OACO budget. It consists of \$4,125 to cover Commissioner stipends and travel. Commissioners expressed interest in using the funds for mileage reimbursement to do outreach beyond the I-5 corridor.

The OCAPIA Other Fund balance is \$8,132.52. These are funds that OCAPIA has raised independently and may use to further their mission in any way that is allowable under state expenditures.

**IX. Nominations/Elections of New Officers**

Chair Carol Suzuki announced that she is stepping down as Chair. She has served since 2007 and noted the pleasure it has been to serve on the Commission. The Commission thanked Carol for her exemplary service. Commissioner Mamaril nominated Commissioner Ying as Chair. Commissioner Ying nominated Commissioner Watanabe as Vice Chair.

**MOTION (Mamaril/Vlach-Ing): to elect Stephen Ying as Chair and Mari Watanabe as Vice Chair. CARRIED.**

**X. OCAPIA Planning**

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Asian Celebration is in Eugene in February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Commissioners discussed advertising OCAPIA in the event program. It was suggested that Dotcal, a calendaring program, be considered for use by OCAPIA.

Commissioner Suzuki will notify the office staff of any policy of potential interest to any of the advocacy commissions.

Forum on jobs and the economy: Commissioners discussed hosting a forum on jobs and the economy in Oregon and inviting Cheryl Myers, Director of the Office of Equity and Business, to speak. Chair Ying, Vice Chair Watanabe, and Commissioners Mamaril and Suzuki volunteered to be on the Planning Committee for this event.

The Commission discussed choosing a regular, recurring meeting day for the OCAPIA. It was decided by common consent that OCAPIA will hold regular meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every other month, starting in May, from 10am – noon in the State Office Building in Portland.

**XI. New Business**

*Tax Credit:* Commissioner Vlach-Ing expressed interest in creating a tax credit for individuals donating to the Commissions. The Commissioners expressed their interest and asked Commissioner Vlach-Ing to pursue it with the Chair and Vice Chair.

It was suggested that next steps include a meeting with OCAPIA and Paul Warner of the Legislative Fiscal Office; and/or Richard Devlin and also the Legislative Counsel should be consulted

*Tsunami Tourism:*

Vice Chair Watanabe was contacted by Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) about hosting two directors from Japan during an outreach trip, as well as

committing to setting up meetings with interested parties. The Vice Chair will take on hosting a meeting.

*Voter Registration Booth:*

The annual Chinese New Year celebration will take place on February 11, 2012, at the Convention Center in Portland. Chinese American Citizen Alliance (CACA) will have a voter registration booth at the event. OCAPIA was asked for a donation and also for volunteers who can man the booth. They need people who can speak Chinese, Vietnamese, Laos, Cambodian. The booth is \$380. CACA is contributing \$100 and \$80 was contributed by an anonymous donor. They still need \$200.

**MOTION (Vlach-Ing/Watanabe): To donate \$200 for voter's booth registration at Chinese New Year from 10am - 5pm. CARRIED.**

It was requested that the number of voters registered at the event be reported to the Commission. Stephen Ying volunteered to staff the booth and invited other interested Commissioners to join him.

**XII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 12:50pm.