



Meeting Notes

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Wednesday, May 16, 2012,

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., 7th floor empty office

Portland, OR 97232

ATTENDEES:

Chair: Stephen Ying
Vice Chair: Mari Watanabe
Commissioners: Ping Khaw-Sutherland
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guests:

I. Call to Order and Introduction of Commissioners/Guests

The meeting came to order 10:09am. Quorum was not established. Roll call was taken.

II. Review and Adoption of Agenda

The group agreed to follow the agenda with no changes.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January 23, 2012 were reviewed and will be approved at the next OCPIA meeting at which a quorum is present.

IV. Commissioner Reports

Chair's report

Chair Ying reported that he has represented OCAPIA at a number of events in the API community over the past 2 months. This has included:

- Laos New Year celebration at Legend restaurant and also at the temple.
- Asian Reporter Banquet – Stephen's nominees won the award.
- The Astoria Surging Wave ground breaking ceremony, to honor first Chinese arrivals to work on the railroad.
- CCBA High School graduation dinner.
- Filipino Idols celebration.
- Joined other groups for Democracy Week at City Hall.
- Rose Parade planning meeting – Chinese marching in parade from all over Asia.

Stephen noted that Commissioner Jennifer Kleskie serves on the AAYLC Planning Committee for Youth leadership. He, Jennifer and Commissioner Ping Khaw-Sutherland will all be serving as facilitators at the event. The attendance is expected to top last year's large group of youth.

Other announcements included:

- OCAPIA will support the Oregon Vote Coalition.
- Secretary of State Kate Brown is planning a trip to Taiwan in December with her delegation. She has asked Stephen to lead it.
- Another trip planned with Gov and delegation in September, Stephen will lead.
- Whenever Stephen is in the API community he is raising awareness about the Commission and invites other Commissioners to do the same.
- Stephen attends planning meetings for RACC regarding new art.
- Was asked to join Human Rights Connection and the New Portlander Program.

Vice Chair's Report

- Mari would like OCAPIA to host a Say Hey event, maybe with PSU on August 9th. She will talk with OCBA Chair Isaac Dixon and OCHA Chair Andrea Cano to see if the Advocacy Commissions are interested in hosting.
- Vice Chair Watanabe was invited to a NW Health Foundation meeting about the Asian community and philanthropy. The group met with funders from several sources and heard presentations about giving in the API Community. API organizations receive very small amounts of total philanthropic giving. Also giving from 3rd and 4th generation API's is lower than their parents' generation. Much of their discretionary income is sent to relatives overseas. A \$1million grant is being made from the Kleskie and Ford Foundations for hosting API community conversations on giving. Mari thinks that OCAPIA should consider hosting one of these forums. The money is to generate conversations around this, and OCAPIA could host a forum.
- Mari will be participating in August on Beaverton School District's Diversity Forum. She will talk about building leaders from within.
- Mari will contact Dante James to serve on the New Portlander Council and will also reach out to Polo Catalani.

Commissioner Khaw-Sutherland

- Ping has been working hard on preparations for tomorrow's APACC/OCAPIA reception at the Chinese Garden followed by the half day small business contracting conference. The OACO office has been assisting with getting letters to presenters and Chair Ying will be providing part of the opening remarks at the conference. Ping has been working with Nancy Kramer and Lucy Baker at OACO to finalize the standing OCAPIA banner in time for the conference.
- Ping is meeting with Nita Shah regarding affordable health care options for the API community.
- October 20th, Uniquely Portland event: This is a showcase at the Crowne Plaza, with a fashion show, for holiday shoppers. Ping will ask OCAPIA to speak at the event nearer to the date.

V. OACO Administrator's Report: Lucy Baker

Oregon Voter Coalition – Lucy represented OCAPIA at an organizing meeting hosted by the Oregon Vote Coalition and APANO on voter registration on May 5, 2012.

As in other years, OCAPIA will partner APANO for voter registration. This year the partnership is broader with many API organizations working to increase API voter registration. In the past, OCAPIA has involved SOS Brown's office in training and translating voter pamphlets into several API languages.

ACTION: Lucy will look in the OCAPIA files and share what has been done before with current Commissioners. She will help connect OCAPIA Commissioners to the Oregon Vote Coalition to offer their support of the effort.

OACO and OCAPIA Budget:

Lucy presented the April financial reports for General Fund (GF) and Other Funds (OF) for the Advocacy Commission office and the OCAPIA. The Commissioners reviewed the amount of Other Funds that they have raised.

ACTION: Ping and Stephen will work with Nancy and Lucy to get quotes and designs to have name tags made for OCAPIA Commissioners.

Review of Budget projections:

Lucy explained the budget process and some history of the how the budget got to where it is. She projects that by the end of the current biennium, the OACO and OCAPIA will have spent their General Fund Allotment within \$5,000 of the total budget. The budget is very tight and has been reduced by the legislature 5 times in the current biennium. Funds for travel for Commissioners and staff have been cut, but Lucy projects that the current budget is sufficient for the biennium.

Building the budget for the 2013-15 biennium begins in June. Lucy expects that we will have the opportunity to propose adding more funds to travel using a policy option package for the new budget. She is always available for discussion and questions about the budget and will keep Commissioners updated as the budget process goes forward.

Fundraising

In 2010, OCAPIA hosted a fundraising event to build Other Funds for the OCAPIA budget. It was an evening celebration in May with 2 speakers in Portland. Liani Reeves and Carol Suzuki were the primary organizers of the event and were supported as needed by other Commissioners

ACTION: Stephen, Mari, and Ping, will ask Carol and Liani to meet with them to talk about how the event was planned and ideas that the current commissioners could use for a 2012 OCAPIA fundraiser.

Ping noted that she has connections to performers who could be part of the event.

Historically the OCAPIA has used its Other Funds for activities that promote its mission of building awareness, leadership and success in the API community. This has included donations made to API youth leadership programs, DisOrient API film festival, scholarships for leadership events and others.

Internships:

Lucy reported that the Advocacy Commissions are growing the number of public policy internships. She expects that there will be 6 interns this year. A Commission hosting an intern supports their leadership goals while doing public policy work. Currently, OCHA has 2 interns working on improving hate crime protections in Oregon and reducing achievement gaps for students of color. OCFW has a joint internship with BOLI researching wage gap information that will become part of their Status of Oregon Women Report.

ACTION: Lucy will send out an email to OCAPIA soliciting internship topics.

VI. New Business

Governor's Proclamation Event for Asian Heritage Month on May 11th

The event went well with lots of performers and a variety of people attending. There were representatives from different cultural groups. Stephen noted that next year all performances will come before the signing. He thanked Nancy and Lucy for their help in scheduling the performers and making the arrangements with the Governor for the signing ceremony. OCAPIA worked with APANO for this event and it was a good partnership. June Schumann, Chair of APANO, spoke with Stephen before the Governor signed the proclamation.

OCAPIA Facebook page – There is interest in having an OCAPIA Facebook page, and because of other demands on the Office staff, it needs to be created and maintained by Commissioners. Ping volunteered to lead the Facebook Page work.

ACTION: Nancy and Lucy to send Ping photos and text

APACC/OCAPIA Small Business forum

Ping reported that the Chinese Garden has been great to work with as the location for the reception. There are currently 67 RSVPs. The MC will be Roger Mendoza. At the reception APACC will be recognizing Ann Naito-Campbell and Elisa Dozono for their community work.

OCAPIA Commissioner nomination process:

The next round of executive appointments will be in May. Commissioner Michelle Vlach-Ing has suggested someone who will submit their application to the Governor's Executive Appointments Director, Kendall Clawson.

Mari has been recruiting and has met with Nita Shaw who noted that her husband is interested. Others were also discussed.

ACTION: Mari and Stephen send a joint email to Ms. Clawson to request an update on who has applied for OCAPIA.

ACTION: The OCAPIA will draft a letter thanking Commissioner Roveeda Ahmed for her service.

The OCAPIA wants to assure that there is a good balance of gender and different API cultures is represented on the Commission.

It was noted that a Commissioner is needed to represent OCAPIA at the World Beat Festival in Salem in 2012.

VII. 2012 OCAPIA Goals

Subcommittees

Developing an Art & Culture Subcommittee of the OCAPIA was discussed. Lily Ye is interested in volunteering as Chair of that subcommittee. There were a number of ideas for partnership and artists around the committee work, including partnering with Colored Pencils.

Chair Ying would like to see OCAPIA have working committees for each of its priority areas. It would allow community members become engaged in the work of OCAPIA as Committee members. This would include Art/Culture, Education, Health and other areas.

ACTION: Stephen will contact Lily Ye to set up a meeting with Ping and Mari.

Diversity

Mari talked about approaches for discussion of difficult diversity issues. In one of the leadership discussions she regularly participates in there is one individual who always asks the same powerful question: "All ethnicities are racially disparaged and what are you doing about it?"

Mari has been struck with how difficult that question is to address, and asked the group whether OCAPIA might take the lead on it on in a forum setting aimed at airing viewpoints and providing tools or leading to training. She underscored the need to be effective in weaving diversity into all we do. The group discussed it and suggested that statistics about Asian culture could be helpful. They considered the scale of response from angry to more indirect answers.

Mari will ask OCAPIA if they wish to take the lead on how to speak on this subject?

VII. Other Business

Ping announced – September 12th event at Pittock Mansion.

ACTION: she will send the office an email about it to share with the OCAPIA.

Commissioner Michelle Vlach-Ing is working with Lucy to coordinate a conversation on developing a tax credit for those who donate to the Advocacy Commissions.

ACTION: Lucy will send out email's to Michelle, Carol Suzuki, Sunny Petit and others who will work with Michelle to develop the concept.

Next meeting 7/18 at 10am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:32pm.