

MASSACHUSETTS ASIAN AMERICAN COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes: July 12, 2008, State House - Room 222, Boston Massachusetts

Present: R. Advani, M. Brown, T. Chan, H. Goon, G. King, K. Lau, K. Li, P. Shaw, N. Wali, D. Wong.

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by Neelam Wali, Chairperson.

May 13, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by T. Chan to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by K. Li. Vote is unanimous; 10 in favor, 0 oppose

Community Forum Report by N. Wali:

The Worcester area community meeting was well attended and organized by the India Center. Four Commissioners were present. A major issue was the lack of cultural competency among healthcare providers. There is a shortage of local Asian physicians and translation services in healthcare. Other issues raised were the lack of community services for seniors, including retirement planning. Dr. King noted that the Vietnamese Community Health Center in Dorchester could serve as a resource for Worcester area healthcare.

Healthcare Committee Report:

Dr. King has contacted the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation which is interested in organizing a forum for Community Health Centers serving Asians. The summit would identify healthcare needs and issues in the various communities serving Asians. T. Chan motion for Dr. King to proceed exploring the Health Care Summit, Seconded-R.Advani. Vote is unanimous; 10 in favor, 0 oppose

Economic Development Committee by R. Advani:

R. Advani has met with Asian American business owners in the Worcester area. The businesses were looking for more support regarding procurement for state contracts by minority business owners.

Other forums are planned for businesses in the Boston, Cambridge, and Springfield areas. The on-line business needs assessment is available through AAC website.

Election of Officers:

The Commission accepted the verbal resignations of Sorat Ly and Tina Matsuoka have resigned from the commission effective August 1, 2008.

Nomination for President:

Tackey Chan is nominated twice by J. Wong and seconded by K. Lau; and by N. Wali and second by M. Brown.

Motion to close nominations for President by R. Advani, seconded by P. Shaw.

Vote is unanimous; 10 in favor, 0 oppose

Nomination for Vice President:

Paul Lee nominated by J. Wong, seconded by K. Lau.

Paul Lee not present to accept nomination; nomination withdrawn.

Malisa Brown nominated by R. Advani, seconded by H. Goon.

Motion to close nomination for Vice President by R. Advani. Seconded Dr. King

Vote is unanimous; 10 in favor, 0 oppose

Nomination for Treasurer:

Ramesh Advani nominated by K. Kim, seconded T. Chan; and by N. Wali, seconded by T. Chan.

Geoffrey Why nominated by K. Lau, seconded J. Wong

Motion to close nominations for Treasurer K. Li, seconded H. Goon.

8 Votes for Advani; 2 votes for Why.

Ramesh Advani voted for Treasurer.

Nomination for Secretary:

Paul Shaw nominated by J. Wong, seconded by K. Lau; and by N. Wali, seconded by T. Chan

Motion to close nomination for Secretary by K. Li, seconded M. Brown

Vote is unanimous; 10 in favor ; 0 oppose.

New Business

K. Lau has a suggestion for by-law changes regarding the nomination procedures.

August 17 - India Day Festival at Hatch Shell in Boston.

August 24 – Quincy August Moon Festival in Quincy Center.

R. Advani received a phone call during the meeting from Asian Community Development Corporation that we did not receive the Commonwealth Corp grant.

Motion to close meeting at 1 PM by G. King, second H. Goon. Vote is unanimous; 10 in favor ; 0 oppose.

Next AAC meeting September 9, 2008, 12 PM, State House, Room 222.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Shaw, Secretary