

MASSACHUSETTS ASIAN AMERICAN COMMISSION
State House – Room 222

Meeting Minutes Mach 10, 2009

Present: Tackey Chan, Joseph Wong, Kija Kim, Paul Lee, Debbie Ho, Howard Wayne, Malisa Brown, Geoff Why, Kai Lau, Ramesh Advani, Tony Yee, George King.

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm by Tackey Chan, Chairperson.

Approval of the February 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

Commission members reviewed the minutes. It was noted that Geoff Why was incorrectly listed as attending the February Meeting and the minutes should be amended to reflect that. Howard Wayne motioned to approve the minutes with the amendment, and Debbie Ho seconded the motion. 10 in voted favor and 0 voted against, the motion was approved.

US Census Presentation:

Joseph Wong and Norman Eng, representatives of the US Census Bureau at the previous commission meeting made a presentation regarding having the AAC as a community partner. The level of commitment is up to the AAC and can change during the course of the year. The agreement involves signing the partnership agreement and sending it to the US Census. Tony Yee motioned to have the AAC a community partner with the US Census, and Malisa Brown seconded the motion. 10 voted in favor, 0 voted against, and Joseph Wong voted present, the motion is approved.

Office Transition Plan:

Geoff Why presented to the commission a proposal to move the AAC offices out of the State Treasury. The move would entail moving into space at Asian American Development Corporation (ACDC) and other than the cost for the key it would be rent free. The location would be where to store our paperwork. A virtual office could be set up through a post office box and a cellular phone. This would be a short term transition to another location yet to be determined but preferably in the State House. Issues that would have to be resolved includes transitioning and training in the AAC state website licensing and access, transitioning state e-mail, security of equipment and documents, purchasing office equipment, establishing a human resource department, and documentation for tax exempt status. Further updates will be provided as it is explored further. A budget would need to be established since the AAC currently does not have a office budget and each project's budget must be approved individually

Economic Development Committee:

Ramesh Advani reports that the Committee has done good work over the past year on this project. The Committee met with Dr. Paul Watenabe from the University of Massachusetts Boston, who compiled the report based on the Committee's data. The Committee has a meeting today. The Committee will be providing a recommendation to the AAC at the May 12 meeting.

APA Month Kick Off and Exhibits in the State House

Alex Zhang and Jin Zu from ACDC made a presentation to the AAC about collaborating again in the APA kick off again. Similar to the past 2 years, the AAC sponsored space in the State House and participate in the planning for the event. This year the event will be on May 1, 2009 in the State House Great Hall. In addition, Asian American Designers Forum will have exhibits in Doric Hall from May 26, 2009 to June 6, 2009 featuring Asian American designers work.

Dinner Update:

Leverett Wing presented a dinner update. A sample save the date e-mail was sent to the Commissioners for review. The fundraising plan is to get major sponsors, table sales, and silent auction. He hopes to have each Commissioner sell 2 tables and provide 2 silent auction items. There will be a need to drive up attendance for the event. He is currently trying to finalize a keynote speaker. Additional updates via e-mail will be provided in the future.

Update:

George King provided an update regarding a proposal made in several months ago about a Asian health care forum. He has put together one meeting thus far and there will be another meeting later today. The tentative date is May 9. The AAC would be a co-sponsor of the event. Both Peter Kiang and Leverett Wing would help organize the event. A further update will be provided in April.

Close of Meeting:

Motion to adjourn by Debbie Ho, and seconded by Kija Kim. 10 voted in favor and 0 voted against. Motion is approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Tackey Chan, Acting Secretary.