

Massachusetts Asian American Commission Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2008 – State House Room 222

Attendance: Neelam Wali (Chair), Paul Lee, Kao Li, Tina Matsuoka, Geoffrey Why, Tony Yee, Tackey Chan, Eugene Hartigan

Neelam Wali opened the meeting at 12:12 PM

January 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve January meeting minutes by Eugene Hartigan, and seconded by Geoffrey Why. Discussion followed. The motion carried: 8 in favor, 0 against.

Approving Dates and Times of Commission Meetings for 2008.

Motion made to approve dates and meeting times for Commission meeting by Tackey Chan and seconded by Kao Li. Discussion followed. The motion carried: 8 in favor, 9 against.

2008 Commission meetings will be in Room 222 of the State House at Noon.
Meeting dates are: March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 18 and December 9.

Fundraising Committee Report

Tina Matsuoka presented the progress on the Commission's annual banquet and provided commissioners with draft letters and sponsorship levels. Discussion among commissioners ensued on a variety of topics including, black tie optional concept, an appropriate price for tickets, and the number of tables per sponsor. Suggestions to the committee are welcomed as well as any one who wants to help out. The themes and ideas are still being worked. Save the date cards will be available to be sent out soon.

Outreach Committee Meeting

Tackey Chan reported that the Chinatown Town Meeting on January 24, 2008 was overall a good meeting with about 20 to 30 people turning out. Local community leaders and residents attended.

Kao Li reported the Dorchester Town Meeting on January 31, 2008 had about 30 people with only half of the people from Dorchester. Many issues regarding the Vietnamese community was brought up. There is an interest in returning to Dorchester for a follow up meeting.

There was a conference call regarding the planning of the March 6, 2008 Newton/Brookline Town Meeting. The most likely meeting place is going to be the

Brookline Town Library in Coolidge Corner. A confirmation electronic mail will be sent to Commissioners and the public once the location and time is set.

There will be a Burlington Town Meeting some time in the month of March.

Policy and Rules Committee:

Tackey Chan presented a draft ethics rules for the commission. The draft is based on the one used by the Division of Professional Licensure, which has over 2 dozen boards. It is not uncommon for a commission to have ethical rules consistent with the State Ethics Commission. The purpose of the rules is to ensure compliance with State Ethics laws and prevent Commissioner's from abusing their position as a state official. Discussion ensued about the purpose, length, level of detail and approval process of the Commission's ethical rules. Tackey Chan will continue to work on these rules to customize them to the Commissioner's needs. Any proposal will require the State Ethics Commission to approve them prior to a Commission vote.

Health Care Committee:

Report postponed.

Economic Development Committee:

Neelam Wali reports that the committee is in the process of setting focus groups. There will be more information via electronic mail to the Commissioners.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

David Chee from North Attleborough is a former Selectmen greeted the Commission, talked about his background and expressed an interest being involved in Commission activities.

Advisory Committee member Kumo informed the Commission about her discussions with the Executive Office of Workforce Development regarding Adult Basic Education and English Class (ABE/ESOL). There are regular meeting with the next meeting February 27th, on this issue and are seeking a way to get additional information.

Close of Meeting:

Motion made to close the meeting made by Tackey Chan and seconded by Eugene Hartigan. The motion carried: 7 in favor, 0 against.

Commission meeting closed at 12:45 PM.

Submitted by Tackey Chan
Acting Secretary