

MASSACHUSETTS ASIAN AMERICAN COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes: October 14, 2008

Present: Ramesh Advani, Tackey Chan, Hung Goon, Debbie Ho, Kai Lau, Kao Li, Paul Lee, Paul Shaw, Geoffrey Why, Joe Wong, Tony Yee

Tackey Chan called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

September 9, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes of September 9, 2008 made by Ramesh Advani, Second by Debbie Ho. 11 voted in favor and 0 voted against. Meeting Minutes accepted.

Economic Development Committee:

Ramesh Advani requested \$7,000 appropriation from the Boston Foundation for needs assessment of Asian American business community. Professor Paul Watanabe will oversee report preparation. Ramesh Advani prepared itemized budget for the commissioner to review.

The budget proposed would be used for the “Asian American Business Owners Needs Assessment for Massachusetts”

- Focus Group and Online Survey Data Analysis: \$3,000.
- Report Preparation For Public On-Line Publication and Limited Number of Hard Copies Printed: \$3,000.
- Miscellaneous related costs associated with distribution of the hard copies and office related costs: \$1,000.
- Total Request for funding is \$7,000.

The report will be prepared by Dr. Paul Watanabe at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The \$7,000 for the project is supposed to come from Boston Foundation Grant but the Commission is still in process of getting those funds. The Commission will be reimbursed the \$7,000 when the funds are deposited into the account.

Motion to appropriate \$7,000 made by Geoffrey Why and second by Kao Li. 11 voted in favor and 0 voted against. The appropriation is approved.

The next business focus group is scheduled for 10/15/08. Ramesh Advani requested participation of the Commissioners. There is additional focus group will be in Quincy with a date to be announced.

Media Relations:

Kao Li contacted the Bankers and Tradesman weekly due to concern over an article entitled "Chinese Fire Drill". An apology was subsequently submitted by the editor. Discussion ensued about the procedure of contacting the press was reviewed and clarified.

All statements on behalf of the Commission should be reviewed by the Commission, especially to the media. If there is an emergency then Commission members will contact others via e-mail or other means detailing out a plan for a response before taking action.

New Business:

Debbie Ho recommends that fundraising committee consider an alternative community site for the next fundraiser. Debbie Ho is appointed to head the effort to find a location for the May 2009 Unity Dinner. Commissioners who are interested in participating in this effort should contact Debbie Ho.

Tackey Chan will try to secure State House Room 222 for commission meetings for 2009.

Old Business:

Neelam Wali is planning a town meeting in Burlington perhaps in December.

Tackey Chan reminded commissioners that additional assistance is needed on planning other town meetings.

Close of Meeting:

Kao Li motioned to close the meeting at 12:30 PM. Ramesh Advani seconded. 11 voted in favor and 0 voted against. The motion is approved.

Next AAC meeting November 18, 2008 Noon-1PM in State House - Room 222.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shaw, Secretary, AAC