

DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
November Commission Meeting Notes
June 27, 2017 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

- **Welcome/Introductions**

- Meeting was opened by Chair John Tinpe
- Commissioners offered introductions. In attendance:
 - CAPIA
 - Ben Takai; Helen Lee; Ronak Desai; Julie Won; Karissa Barnett; PHONE – Kishan Putta; Gregory Cendana; KJ Bagchi
 - MOAPIA
 - Phuong Nguyen
 - Peace-thru-Culture
 - Adriane Alfred
 - AARP
 - Scott Tanaka

- **Community Announcements and Presentations**

- Ms. Alfred thanked the Commission for being instrumental in organizing two tours of the Embassy of Japan for the participants of her summer program. She explained that these tours will be part of an international culture series that teaches civic engagement through culture including language instruction, art, and culinary segments.

- **Update from MOAPIA**

- Phuong Nguyen updated the commission on several MOAPIA events which include:
 - Chinatown Community Picnic that occurred on June 3 which was attended by over 400 participants and included activities, arts and crafts, performances and health screenings.
 - The June Asian Movie night was a success and the next movie night will be a screening of “Moana” and will occur on July 12 at 8:00pm.
- Phuong Nguyen briefed the commission that a piece of temporary art has been installed in the Chinatown Park and the commission discussed the possibility of finding a more permanent installation.
- Commissioner Tinpe asked about the Mobile market program and an update on the delivery of vouchers to residents of Wah Luck house. Phuong Nguyen reported that she will check with Director Do on the status of the delivery of the vouchers.
- Phuong Nguyen reported that MOAPIA’s outreach team continues regular outreach targeting the District’s AAPI population. The outreach team regularly meets with business owners, residents, and CBOs twice a week to listen to the concerns of the community and to help resolve the reported issues

- **Commissioner Announcements**

- Commissioner Lee briefed the commission that there is a food waste drop-off program for composting that is free and are located at farmers markets in each ward of the city
- Commissioner Lee briefed the commission on a rodent control program where businesses can rent trash compactors to reduce available food waste for rodents to eat in alleys.
- Commissioner Barnett discussed the city’s grant program through the Great Streets initiative (<https://greatstreets.dc.gov>)

- Phuong Nguyen responded that MOAPIA promotes this initiative to eligible businesses and invited commissioners on any walkthroughs of AAPI businesses as their schedules allowed.
 - Commissioner Tinpe discussed a bill that is being proposed to limit the volume of noise pollution currently being experienced by Chinatown residents.
 - Commissioner Desai discussed the recent visit by the Prime Minister of India and what his conversations with the President consisted of regarding H1B visas, and issues of racial and ethnic bias which have been observed as being on the rise.
 - Commissioner Takai discussed an incident that happened at a local business (Yoga District – Bloomingdale Studio) where signs that had been posted supporting inclusivity were vandalized and covered by posters that were supporting a white supremacist group (Vanguard America).
 - Commissioner Putta suggested reaching out to the Commissions of African affairs, Latino Affairs, Human Rights, and LGBTQ affairs to draft a joint statement supporting minority rights in DC.
 - Commissioner Desai volunteered to produce a draft on behalf of the Commission supporting this.
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- **Next Commission Meeting:** TBD Survey Monkey will be sent out by Commissioner Takai