

**December Meeting Minutes**  
**DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**  
**December 16, 2014 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at OAPIA**

**Attendance:** (in-person) Ada Loo, Surjeet Ahluwalia, Ben Bahk, Dana Tai Soon Burgess, Erick Hosaka, Nicholas Lephram, Jed Wulfekotte, Soohyun "Julie" Koo, Andrew Chang; (phone) Laura Shin, Mindy Siebenaler Bopp

**Meeting Summary:** Commission Chair Ada Loo welcomed current commissioners and potential commissioners at the meeting, including recently sworn-in Commissioners Surjeet Ahluwalia and Erick Hosaka. Other prospective commissioners are still going through the appointment approval process. Commissioner Simone Jacobson has decided to resign from the Commission due to time and personal life commitments.

The Commission asked OAPIA Community Outreach Specialist and Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs OAPIA liaison Andrew Chang to look into the process for live streaming commission meetings in order to fulfill Mayor Gray's open government and transparency initiative.

The Commission voted on several items: 1) Commission by-laws revisions (unanimous vote in favor); 2) Commission DC Code revisions (unanimous vote in favor); 3) Creating a volunteer service award named in memory of the late Commissioner Ajay K. Ojha (unanimous vote in favor).

The Commission then proceeded to discuss the awards committee that selects awardees for the Mayor's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community Service Awards. Commission Chair Loo will re-send awards committee documents to the Commission to be reviewed by January 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Martha Watanabe will chair the committee. Commission Chair Loo encouraged the rest of the commissioners to join the committee, and will meet with Commissioner Watanabe in the future to discuss next steps.

OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo provided OAPIA updates and the OAPIA report to the commission. She outlined partnerships between OAPIA and DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of Human Services which resulted in additional funding for OAPIA. OAPIA used this funding to hire several bilingual community outreach assistants. Director Koo announced the success of the OAPIA toy giveaway on December 9<sup>th</sup> with over 120 youth in attendance, as well as attendance by several commissioners. The memorial celebration on December 10<sup>th</sup> for the late Commissioner Ojha was well attended, with Commissioners Nicholas Lephram, Laura Shin, and Surjeet Ahluwalia in attendance. OAPIA Director Koo also noted that FY15 AAPI Community Grant checks have been sent out to grant recipients. OAPIA is working on an FY14 agency annual report for Mayor Gray. Lastly, the Commission asked to be added to OAPIA's newsletter contact list.

Next, Commission Chair Loo proceeded to discuss the upcoming roundtable discussion on strategic planning. Commission Chair Loo proposed that the commission needs a dedicated hour or two for strategic planning, with potential dates for the discussion in January. The Commission agreed with this proposal. Director Koo also shared that OAPIA is working on its own strategic plan and hopes to have it align with the Commission's plan.

Commissioner Lephram asked about the process to engage with Mayor-elect Bowser during the mayoral transition process and following the transition. Commissioner Shin said she will try to get in contact

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with potential contacts to reach the Mayor-elect's transition team. The Commission strategized on how to increase awareness of the AAPI community and its issues to various public sector and community stakeholders, including the new mayoral administration.

As the year comes to an end, the Commission would like to thank Director Koo and her OAPIA staff (i.e. Neel Saxena, Dory Peters, Ngoc Trinh, Andrew Chang, Christina Truong, Kangeun Jeong, Yiyang Guo), as well as recently departed staff (i.e. Frank Huynh, Chau Ngo), for a successful year and for all of their hard work in support of the DC AAPI community.

**Announcements:** The Commission announced a vigil for victims in Pakistan at Dupont Circle on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Dana Tai Soon Burgess announced DTSB&Co's youth program event at Busboys & Poets (5<sup>th</sup> St location) on December 18th. Commissioner Ahluwalia announced an Asian American LEAD holiday party on December 17<sup>th</sup>.