

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

December 5, 2013

In attendance were Richard, Dana, Ada, Simone, Lawrence, Nick, and Eugene.

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

The Commission heard a presentation from Kay Gibb, the civilian hired as the Asian Community Outreach Coordinator for the Asian Liaison Unit. She explained her recent routine and non-routine activities to members of the Commission, including noting that every Wednesday from 10 to 2 she is at the Chinatown Cultural Community Center. Commissioners asked questions of Ms. Gibb. Commissioners expressed support for her role and raised the idea of having Ms. Gibb report to the Commission periodically.

Julie Koo presented the OAPIA's report. Items discussed included the upcoming toy drive, the community outreach assistant position for OAPIA, and OAPIA outreach to residents of the Museum Square Apartments located at 401 K St., which has a large AAPI population who are impacted by building's decision not to renew its Section 8 status. One Commissioner asked about ownership of Museum Square. Also discussed the introduction of a grant for Vietnamese American youth to fill the void left behind by closure of a long-time Vietnamese community center in Columbia Heights.

Commission members discussed the latest issue with development in Chinatown. Ms. Koo presented the background behind the Chinatown Cultural Development Small Area Plan. Described how the plan was formulated through meetings and coordination with the DC Office of Planning and described there was 80 active members who participated including residents of Chinatown as well as residents with interests in Chinatown. Ms. Koo presented the status update of the plan and how to better support the plan. There was also discussion of a new development on H. St. between 6th and 7th and how to encourage development that preserves Chinatown's heritage and the cultural aspects of Chinatown. Suggestions included meetings with deputy mayor or ANC members and reaching out to them on this issue, setting up a working group to do some research on this issue to prepare for meetings.