

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

April 3, 2014

In attendance were Neel Saxena, Soohyun "Julie" Koo, Wylie Chen, Nicholas Lephram, Ajay Ojha, Laura Shin, Dana Tai Soon Burgess, Stan Lou, Sylvia Garrick, MS.

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

Wylie Chen was acknowledged for his service to the commission as both a commissioner and as the chair. His leadership is much appreciated and will be greatly missed.

The Commission heard a presentation from Sylvia Garrick, MS, Office of the People's Counsel, regarding educating our communities about unfair price hikes affecting DC utility consumers. Of special note was information about 1) scams on both phone and email that are targeting immigrant communities to pay fake utility bills in cash and 2) the availability of a \$500 per client energy assistance fund to clients who are behind on their utility payments.

Announcements by Neel: April Language Access Month Celebration, Wednesday, April 23rd at the Wilson Building, 6 pm to 8 pm, entitled "GroundBroken."

May Asian American Heritage Month Celebrations: Thursday, May 8th at the Loft (600 F St NW), entitled "Fabric for Thought." Evening Celebration, Friday, May 30th at the Lincoln Theatre. Full programming to be determined, although Korean drummers will interact with hip hop artists (Burgess will research). Please let Neel know of any potential MC's (all).

Commissioner Vacancies: There will be multiple vacancies on the commission. Please consider outreaching for new commissioners who can represent our constituencies in a diverse way. We greatly appreciate all the work of the outgoing commissioners.

Chinatown Update: Stan Lou spoke about the 1882 Project Foundation proposal to Monument Properties for a community space. Monument Realty is considering a 2000 sq. ft. allotment to a community group or groups. The deadline for plans is approx. 30 days with an additional 30 review process. Stan will share the proposal for a "Talk Story Space" electronically with the commission. Discussion regarding business vs. resident interests ensued. The Historic Preservation Commission hearings included testimony by residents

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and businesses. No final ruling was made by the HP commission regarding historic building tear down.

Chinatown Street Fair Project: There will be a street fair predominantly of food vendors either in front of the National Portrait Gallery or on I Street with the focus of healthy food/healthy options. Date and location is to be determined.

Newsletter: Dory Peters is starting a Chinatown newsletter.

Suggestion: College students might be activated to assist in the urban planning process. AU and Georgetown students were specifically suggested by Ajay.