

## Minutes from Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Community Development Meeting

February 25, 2011

Present: Martha Watanabe, John Tinpe, Wylie Chen, Richard Chiang (on the phone), Soohyun “Julie” Koo, Urmi Chakrabarti

The meeting started with the discussion on the Oversight Hearing coming up this Monday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Julie reported that she is taking care of community testimonies. John and Martha shared what they would be presenting at the testimonies. All agreed to focus on the positives and taking this chance to form a good foundational relationship with the new mayor. Group decided to mention Gray’s involvement in the Chinatown Cultural Development Strategy.

Logistics of the Commissioners’ terms expiring along with proper paperwork to apply for reappointment were discussed. The possibility of staggering terms was discussed. According to Office of Boards and Commission, Martha and John are the only active commissioners and everybody else has to reapply. Soohyun is looking into this and will expedite the process. Wylie and Tej are reapplying. Matt has to resubmit his paperwork. Richard’s paperwork is in the process of being reviewed.

Commissioners also wanted Julie to see whether the name of the Commission could change back to Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

Julie also mentioned that she had a meeting with Councilmember Marion Barry with regards filling the open Commissioner positions, and he suggested having a Korean business owner represented in the Commission. The Commissioners also suggested having someone who represents the Filipino, Vietnamese, and Thai communities.

John Tinpe also wanted to remember Jeff Coudriet who was on the staff of Council Person Jack Evans.

He also worked in the past as Director of Operations in ABRA, President of Gay and Lesbian Activist Alliance, and President of Gertrude Stein Democratic Club.

The report was thoroughly discussed. Major events were mentioned, etc.

Commissioners also mentioned doing an API cultural/educational event with communities at the different Wards. Wylie mentioned doing something in Ward 5 where the Yes Organic (Korean owned) grocery store is. John mentioned doing something with youth and Anacostia High School and youth in that area where there will be educational and cultural dialogue.

May Heritage nomination letters and forms were reviewed and edited accordingly. Nomination letters will be sent out first week in March and nomination due date is Thurs. April 7<sup>th</sup>. Some

ideas for this year's May Heritage month were to involve more youth and youth dance groups like Silk Road and Sahara.

Upcoming events to mention:

Make sure and put the Maximum India event at Kennedy Center on Calendar.

Next Commissioner's Meeting will be Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.