



Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Monday, January 29, 2024

6 to 8 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commission Attendance: **Yes**

Dr. Yang Yu – Madam Chair

Isabelle Balakit – Member

Julia Chang – Member

Tim Chng – Member

Amy Fry – Member

Brian Gerardo – Member

Dr. Eugenia Henry – Member

Larry La – Member

Alanna Lee – Member

Kuan Lee – Member

Dr. Ping Lu – Member

Vacant – Vice Chair

Thai Nguyen – Member

Sirikarn (Sarah) Prammawat – Member

Siu Cheung Rossmark – Member

Young Smith – Member

Jarrett Stoltzfus – Member

Jessie Su – Member

Tho Tran – Member

Cecilia Vergara – Member

Dr. Roxanne Yamashita – Member

Lili Zhang – Member

GOCI Staff:

Gregory Yancey – Chief of Staff, GOCI

Christina Poy – Administrative Director of APA Affairs Commission, GOCI

Cheryl Madigan – Project Coordinator for the Ethnic Commissions, GOCI

Presenter: Katherine (Kate) Thompson – State Ethics Commission

I. Call to Order and Procedural Reminders:

Madam Chair Yang Yu called meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. She provided welcoming remarks and all the attendees introduced themselves.

II. Announcements from the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives:

Administrative Director, Christina Poy welcomed everyone to the first official commission meeting. She introduced Katherine Thompson from the State Ethics Commission.

III: State Ethics Commission:

Katherine (Kate) Thompson provided an Ethics presentation of the DO's and DON'T's of being a commissioner. This document has been provided in the commissioners' binder. She can be reached at katherine.thompson@maryland.gov or at 410-260-6148.

IV: Sub-Committees:

Madam Chair Yang Yu stated that there are four (4) subcommittees, and she will be the one to designate the chairs. She asks the commissioners to let her know which subcommittees they prefer to volunteer for and that they can serve on more than one. Administrative Director Christina Poy stated that she will send out a form to collect this data for the chair and the form will also allow the commissioners to express their interest in a chair position. The form will also allow the commissioner to provide their first, second, third choice of which subcommittee they would like to serve on. The four subcommittees are listed as follows:

- 1) Business/Economic Development
- 2) Community (including arts, culture and interfaith)
- 3) Education (social workforce development)
- 4) Health

She also stated when you are involved in a subcommittee, you are providing recommendations and disseminating information. You will be working through the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives to address the Governor's administration priorities. Each committee is tasked with finding unique ways to educate and inform the community on State agency programs and other opportunities. When it comes to how often a subcommittee meets, that will be determined by the chair of the subcommittee. Christina Poy stated that the subcommittee members make their own decisions, and the Chair of the Commission does not have a vote. The Chair can provide guidance. Each subcommittee must have at least three members, as stated in the Executive Orders.

IV: Executive Order Discussion:

Greg Yancey, Chief of Staff – GOCI spoke about executive orders. **The General Assembly** is Maryland's legislative body and is responsible for making the laws (statutes). The General Assembly consists of the Senate and the House of Delegates. The Executive Branch, the Governor has a right to send out executive orders regarding whether it's a cabinet, a commission, or an agency that affects the execution of the laws. This executive order is to help the governor make proposals, or how to execute things. The governor does have the authority constitutionally to do an executive order and it is not really a law, it is what he is saying or her saying or them saying. It's depending on the circumstances of things within his or her control would operate. **Mr. Yancey** was asked several questions concerning commissioners attending political events. It was stated it would be best to attend as a citizen, instead of as a commissioner. Another question was asked about paying to attend a fundraiser that elected officials are attending. **Christina Poy** stated that you can attend as a citizen, not as a commissioner. Commissioners are considered State employees, but elected officials are in office by constituents. There was a question concerning how to handle an emergency in the state. **Greg Yancey** stated that GOCI is working with the Attorney General's office on revisions and updates to the bylaws and

executive orders. These documents do not include anything about addressing an emergency.

V: By-laws Discussion:

Madam Chair Yang Yu request the following change in the By-laws.

Page 1, Section II – Change the wording from “the Office on Asian Pacific American Affairs” to “the Office of Community Initiatives”.

VI: Motion to Approve the Bylaw Changes:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of the By-law change “the Office of Community Initiatives”	Dr. Ping Lu	Tim Chng	15-Y, 0-N, 3-A

VII. Open Meetings Act Discussion:

Christina Poy provided the following information on the OMA. The Chair and Vice Chair are required to attend this training. It is recommended that all commissioners take this training, this isn’t just for the participation in meetings for the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, this will carry through in other boards and commissions and other organizations that you serve on. See the following link for the training.

https://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class_oma_title.php

VIII. Commission Support, Procurement and Affirmation of Sub-Committees

Ethnics Project Coordinator-Fiscal Administrator, Cheryl Madigan provided details of her position, which includes commission support for seven commissions, scheduling and holding meetings, event planning, fiscal administration for GOCI, website updating, etc. It was asked if an event calendar could be created and updated on a continuous basis. She stated that she is able to post events to GOCI’s APAA website page and upload flyers. **Christina Poy** commented that she already shares via email all correspondence she receives about flyers, invitations, and scholarships. She is working on prototype form to collect this data, so she can share this with everyone. **Cheryl Madigan** is to send out the calendar dates of meetings for all commissions. Greg Yancey stated that GOCI is working on hiring an Outreach Coordinator that could help with this task, as well as activating our social media. Hopefully, this will be up and running in the next three months.

IX. Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs 2024 Agenda Discussion:

Madam Chair Yu stated she would like to have a clear mission and vision statement defining what it may aim to be, and why we are doing this. In terms of strategic goals, we should align with the top priorities of the Moore-Miller administration (see below), but APAA needs to come up with own strategic goals and visions like GOCI’s did (see below).

Moore-Miller Administration Top Priorities

- Ending child poverty in the State of Maryland.
- Bolstering the wellbeing of Marylanders by ensuring world-class health systems for all.
- Advancing infrastructure to better connect all Marylanders to opportunities and each other.
- Making the State of Maryland a desirable and affordable home for residents of all demographics.
- Creating a safer Maryland by interrupting violence, preventing crime, and protecting the state.
- Making Maryland the greenest state in the country.
- Increasing Maryland's economic competitiveness.
- Setting Maryland's students up for success.
- Connecting Marylanders to jobs.
- Making Maryland a state of service.

GOCI Mission, Vision, and Values

GOCI serves a critical role in the state as the primary community outreach department of the Governor's Office with the purpose of fostering community engagement, connecting Marylanders with state government, and building partnerships to better serve the needs of Maryland's communities.

Mission: To empower and connect Maryland's diverse communities through active engagement, dialogue, and collaboration, ensuring representation, understanding, and mutual growth for all.

Vision: A unified Maryland where every community is heard, valued, and involved in working together for a brighter, more inclusive future that leaves no one behind.

Our Values:

- **Inclusivity:** Celebrate and embrace the diverse voices, experiences, cultures, and identities that make up Maryland.
- **Engagement:** Foster open dialogue and active participation from all communities in shaping the state's future.
- **Collaboration:** Work hand-in-hand with local governments, community organizations, and faith-based groups, recognizing that unity is strength.
- **Empowerment:** Provide the tools, resources, and opportunities needed for each community to thrive and flourish.
- **Integrity:** Uphold the highest standards of honesty, transparency, and responsibility in all initiatives and interactions.

She said she would like to imitate the GOCI's mission and vision. Then the question is, what do we want to be? What do we want to achieve? Once we have our objectives, the question will be how we can achieve them. After that, we will have our suggested implementation strategies. This is when the 10 top priorities of the Moore-Miller administration come into play. She would like to have four categories and under each goal, establish the specific objectives. The four categories, social well-being, equity, community development, environmental sustainability, economic growth and competitiveness.

Tim Chng: If we could just improve Baltimore City. We've achieved these goals, or more than half of these goals. He thinks Asian Pacific American representation is lacking in Baltimore City. To encourage one of the activities that's going on is the Baltimore School for the Arts. Last year they held their first Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and a big activity where a big showcase and they are planning another showcase this year. He suggests if the Commission attends this showcase and show support, it will at least show the people in the city to see that Asian Pacific Americans represented.

Brian Gerardo: He feels that we need specific data in different ethnic groups in our different communities to develop strategies. This Commission really take a lot of this aggregated data that's spread out across so many agencies, so many nonprofits, so many organizations, so that we can really be a body that represents the entire State to really support the governor in these goals specific to our community. **Gregory Yancey** responded that GOCI is working on a partnership with consultants that can work with the different ethnic commissions and offering their services. So, the different things that they can research whether it's demographics, and the flow of immigration. Our governor has insisted that we be data driven and heart led. He also addresses the question about the option of different laws and different things that should be changed and how do they get implemented. Different events that you want to do and different ways to provide infrastructure in the communities, whether it's within the API community or the Maryland community at large. This is something that GOCI is working on and hopefully to have someone at one of your meetings soon to do their presentation. **Brian Gerardo** suggested the commissioners bring two to three things that are impacting their communities. **Madam Chair Yang Yu** agreed and asked the commissioners to bring these things to our next SPS II meeting. A survey will be sent out to determine a date for our SPS II meeting.

Siu Cheung Rossmark: She suggested an ad hoc committee to work on strategic planning.

Christina Poy: Provided a lot of detailed information on what needs to be done for the upcoming Lunar New Year event. The event will probably be held at Howard Community College and will be held on February 29th. A planning committee will be form and **Cheryl Madigan** will schedule a meeting to continue the planning and executive of this event.

Yang Yu wanted to recognize a few commissioners (**Young Smith, Dr. Ping Lu, Dr. Roxanne Yamashita, Brian Gerardo, Tho Tran, Larry La and Thai Nguyen**) that have already attended events and helped organize events and wanted to say Thank You.

Christina Poy: She reminded the Commissioners that if they are attending events and they are representing themselves as a commissioner, they need to inform her in advance. She needs to have this information for recording purposes.

X. Meeting Adjourned

Motion	1 st		2 nd	Vote	Adjourn: 8:00 p.m.
Adjourned	Young Smith		Tim Chng	15Y-0N-3A	