



Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

*Wednesday, February 14, 2024
6 to 8 p.m.*

Meeting Minutes for SPS II

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:

Christina Poy – Administrative Director of APA Affairs Commission, GOCI

Cheryl Madigan – Project Coordinator for the Ethnic Commissions, GOCI

I. Call to Order and Procedural Reminders:

Madam Chair Yang Yu called meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. She provided welcoming remarks and thanked the commissioners for attended Lunar New Year events.

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

Administrative Director, Christina Poy welcomed everyone and thanked all the commissioners that attended Lunar New Year events. She mentioned the importance of the commissioners being out in the communities and letting them know that they are a commissioner, and they are here to help the communities with their challenges and concerns. The commissioners should bring this information back to the commission to see how the commission can assist.

III: Subcommittees:

Christina Poy informed that the google form was sent out to the commissioners for them to sign up for which subcommittee they are interested in, and if they might be interested as a chair for a subcommittee. They could sign up for more than one, but they do need to at least sign up for one. If one subcommittee has more volunteers than other subcommittees, it is a chance that the commissioner could be moved to assist on that subcommittee. She thanked everyone that did complete the form.

IV: Vice Chair Election:

Christina Poy stated that GOCI would like to see some diversity for the vice Chair position. This would include ethnic background, professional background, what region/county they are from. Since the Chair is from the Chinese background, it would be nice to have someone from another background to provide this diversity and representation, but she expressed that you can have the Chair and Vice Chair with the same nationalities. She asked the commission to consider this information when they are making their votes. She introduced the nominations and asked them to speak and asked all commissioners to email herself and Cheryl Madigan their vote.

- 1) Tim Chng – Taiwanese American/Baltimore City
- 2) Alanna Lee – Korean American/Montgomery County
- 3) Siu Cheung Rossmark – Chinese American/Baltimore County
- 4) Cecilia Vergara – Filipino American/Frederick County
- 5) Dr. Roxanne Yamashita – Hawaii-Japanese-Chinese/Montgomery County

IV: Subcommittees Tasks & Strategic Plan Discussion:

Madam Chair Yang Yu brought up the APAA Commission Admin Priority Ranking spreadsheet that Cherie Warehime sent to the commissioners. She pointed out the top three items that were the highest concerns. These items were designated to the subcommittees.

- 1) Business (Economic Development):
 - a. Economic Competitiveness
 - b. Connecting Marylanders to jobs
- 2) Community (Arts, Culture and Interfaith):
 - a. Safety
- 3) Education (Social Workforce Development):
- 4) Health:
 - a. Safety

Madam Chair Yang Yu regarding a vision statement, she asked the commissioners to think of what they would want to hear what people are saying about what our commission has accomplished in the next three years.

- 1) **Sui Cheung Rossmark** – Safety has improved, economics has increase for better jobs and business opportunities. She would like to see in a magazine that people are saying that Maryland is the place that want to live.
- 2) **Dr. Eugenia Henry** – She would like to better school systems across the state vs. Howard County being in the top ranking. This would allow people to purchase homes anywhere in the state, because they wouldn't be concerned about the school systems.

- 3) **Julia Chang** – She wants to bridge the gap and educate on all the things that APA has to offer with the communities. She would like this commission to be able to provide resources to the communities on language barriers, scholarships, safety, opportunities for economic and business growth and health. Julia feels that the vision and mission statements should be related only to Maryland and stay small in the beginning and not go to the direction of national.
- 4) **Tim Chng** – He agreed with Julia’s vision. He feels that we should concentrate on a doable project like creating resource site. This could be something that can be accomplished. It could also be a Google Doc that would be shareable or WordPress site. These resources would be available to the communities. He would love to see safety in Baltimore City, but he knows that it is not a doable project.
- 5) **Madam Chair Yang Yu** - responded to Tim’s vision. She would like to see a physical location of Asian American Pacific Islander resource center, but she realizes that this will not be realistic. She would like to see if we can have a centralized online hub to streamline resources so that all the Marylanders-AAPI residents could go to this one stop shop and find what they need. She would also like to see more recognition during Asian Pacific Heritage Month, like schools taking more initiatives and competency in school curriculum. Also, would like to solve language barrier issues with AAPI communities for them to have access to resources to learn English. She mentioned that the vision and mission statement did not need to have Maryland mentioned in it, it could be on a national level.
- 6) **Dr. Roxanne Yamashita** – she agreed and liked this same vision, but addressed concern for the senior population that may not be as easy for them to navigate these types of things. This is when she brought the concern for education. One thing is to develop an application for cell phones. Also, for the commission to go out to the public and teach them on how to find these resources.
- 7) **Brian Gerardo** – suggested that the commission have a long-term vision for the State of Maryland. What is being done in the next three years will be setting the foundation for this vision/goal. He would like to challenge the commission to figure out what that vision could be and ask themselves what is the next best step that they can do towards that bigger vision, so they’re setting those future leaders up for success. There are multiple nonprofits and universities doing this work already, and we need to know how we can bring these people together. Are we hosting convenings for those groups? Since we know of them in our communities? Can we say the State of Maryland becomes an example for Asian-Pacific Americans, so that we become a learning community. Also, he mentioned Maryland is often overlooked and to consider being a part of national networks with Maryland’s proximity to D.C.
- 8) **Young Smith** – She would like to see safety address throughout Maryland, especially Baltimore City. To have senior citizen communities feel safer, then they would have a better quality of life.

- 9) **Cecilia Vergara** – She feels the commission should stay in smaller visions, so that the commission will be able to accomplish it within the three-year time frame. She suggested QR Codes to help people navigate the systems. To have something to provide aid to Asian Americans to realize their full potential.
- 1) **Alanna Lee** – She would like a pamphlet that contains a list of phone numbers on who to call for situations. Who would be the next contact or resource. She agreed with Julia's thoughts on showing the State of Maryland that we are one team. She suggested having a big culture event.

Madam Chair Yang Yu ask the commissioners for their vision statement or words.

- 1) **Tim Chng** – Welcoming
- 2) **Dr. Roxanne Yamashita** - Equitable Access for Health & Education Resources
- 3) **Alanna Lee** – Cultural Event

Madam Chair Yang Yu stated that she would like to get the rest of the commissioners' ideas (absentees) and once she has a Vice Chair and Subcommittee Chairs, she will work with the Executive team and develop a few words and get back to the Commission for voting.

Madam Chair Yang Yu said that everyone has their own understanding of strategic plan. The key is to direct the activities of our entire Commission. There is limited time and resources. It's about strategies for choices. We need to think about where we want to go in the future and together, we can reach decisions in a most efficient way. We need to align our strategic goals with Governor Moore's ten priorities. Here is an example to start with strategic goals.

- 1) Community Development & Safety
- 2) Economic Development
- 3) Education – early childhood education to K. 12 and to college
- 4) Health

She has referred to the information that she received from the commissioners on challenges and opportunities survey to help determine some of the strategic goals. The first task she has designated to the subcommittees is to develop their objectives that they wish to accomplish. **Dr. Eugenia Henry** suggested completing the goals from the previous commission and **Alanna Lee** agreed. **Christina Poy** recommended that this commission develop their own goals and ideas and accomplish them. She said this is a new administration and recommended focusing on the Governor's top priorities. She did mention one task that was never accomplish, which was having the Asian American Business Conference. This is something that was done in a previous administration, but this was done jointly with the South Asian Commission. There are funds for this project. The commissions agreed to split the funding and hold their own business conference or workshops, but COVID came, and the events never happened. This

is something that GOCI would like both commissions to work together on. The funding is earmarked for this project, and this is something that will require all the subcommittees to work on. She said that the budget is \$17,000.00 for the combined total for both commissions. It was accomplished through sponsorships, and they had been working with the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce. **Brian Gerardo** suggested that each subcommittee choose one of those items from the survey to list as an objective. It would be good to list the data/resource idea under each subcommittee. **Julia Chang** suggested improving the website and recommended everyone to view other states websites. The Washington State

<https://capaa.wa.gov/> and The California State <https://capiaa.ca.gov/>. **Cheryl Madigan** provided an example of the minutes from another ethnic commission's SPS meeting to show how they recorded their subcommittee goals/objectives.

Yang Yu provided some examples:

- 1) Community - foster a resident, proactively addressing some disparities like poverty and violence. Supports grassroots, organizations, promote social cohesion and plan some culture events, advocate for policies that increase some opportunities.
- 2) Economic Development - The goal can be to promote the success of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander communities by addressing some of those economic challenges, housing calls, and the need for job openings, policies that boost economic growth, encourage innovation, create job opportunities, provide business and workers with tools and resources. They need to succeed in the long term and implement some programs.

V: Governor's Lunar New Year Celebration

Madam Chair Yang Yu mention that we will need to start planning for the Lunar New Year event. We do not have a confirmation date or confirmation if the Governor or LT Governor will be able to attend. Possible dates are March 5th, 7th or 8th.

VI: Announcement of Vice Chair of the APAA & Chairs of the Subcommittees:

Christina Poy announced the election results:

Commission **Siu Cheung Rossmark** as the Vice Chair of the commission.

Madam Chair Yang Yu announced the committee members to each subcommittee and the Chair for the subcommittees.

- 1) **Community (Arts, Culture and Interfaith): Chair, Tim Chng**
Members: Thai Nguyen, Dr. Ping Lu, Kuan Lee, Isabelle Balakit, Julia Chang and Young Smith.
- 2) **Business (Economic Development): Chair, Cecilia Vergara**
Members: Larry La, Jessie Su, Vice Chair Siu Cheung Rossmark.
- 3) **Education (Social Workforce Development): Chair, Alanna Lee**
Members: Jarrett Stoltzfus, Tho Tran, Lili Zhang, Madam Chair Yang Yu, Amy Fry, Sarah Prammawat.
- 4) **Health: Chair, Brian Gerard**
Members: Dr. Eugenia Henry and Dr. Roxanne Yamashita.

Brian Gerardo suggested moving “SAFETY” under all subcommittees.

Madam Chair Yang Yu asked that the subcommittees get together and form four strategic goals and three to five objectives and them ready by March 19th meeting. She stated that the Executive team will be the Chair, Vice Chair and the four subcommittees’ Chairs. She will set up a meeting with the Executive team to discuss the Mission and Vision statements.

VII. Meeting Adjourned

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	Adjourn: 8:00 p.m.
Adjourned	Alanna Lee	Dr. Eugenia Henry	14Y-0N-0A	