



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Dimple J. Rana
Lydia Schroter
Evelyn Tang
Karen Tseng

Guests: Wendy Ng,
Paul Kushi, Dan Truong

Bora Chiemruom
Executive Director

One Ashburton Place
12th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
www.aacommission.org

Retreat Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 4:30pm
McCormack Building, One Ashburton Place, 12th floor

Absent Commissioners are highlighted and remote participants are indicated by an asterick*. Quorum was reached by attendance.

- Accepted 5/11/2016 meeting minutes
- Nick motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Lianna. Jennifer, Mabel and Gilbert abstained.

Item #2 – Elisa gave an overview of the AAC's past 1 year

Item #3 – 2016 Unity Dinner debrief and planning for 2017 UD

- Sold out event of 300 people!
- We agreed that there was a great diverse panel with good commentary
- Liz Cheng moved the program very well despite the amount of festivities in such limited time
- Every enjoyed the ceramic art created by Yary Livan, who won a National Heritage Fellowship. For future Dinners, potentially find other Asian American artists to highlight.
- We discussed creating a planning committee
 - Do we want to do BU again? Should we aim around AAPI month? Which days of the week? (being aware of other events such as commencement, prom, etc)
- We discussed how to deal with no shows but have already paid. Sophy mentioned Liz Cheng's "expect 10% drop, allow 10% over and give seats" making more profit
- Overall, we need more time planning and securing sponsorships.
- However, 2 Unity Dinners were pulled off in a 7-8 months' time period and both were very successful.

Item #4 – FY 2017 Budget

- Bora gave a breakdown of the budget of what we have for future events and programming.
- For October 2015 we spent \$19,339.00 at UMB and in June 2016 \$19,339.75 at BU. The difference of 50 more people.
- For October 2015, a majority of money for Unity Dinner was given by a Sponsor who generously donated \$25,000. We only fundraise for Unity Dinners. Lianna mentioned creating a Host Committee, finding a "Big Name" to help sponsors, sales and use as leverage.
- We discussed the new internship program and giving a



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stipend. It would be \$100/month for travel expenses.

- The 1st Scholarship Program would be in the amount of \$1000 given to a student who applies and attends the Young Leader Symposium. It would be more of a reimbursement for tuition, books, etc rather than one check.
- Sophy motioned to approve the new internship and scholarship budget, seconded by Kay, Elisa, Dimple and Nick.

Item #5 – Upcoming Events

- Southeast Asian Water Festival in Lowell
 - Saturday August 20, 2016
 - If not enough Commissioners are committed may cancel booth. Ideas were thrown around about maybe being able to say a few words than tabling since it would be more powerful.
- Film Screening/Community Listening in Worcester to engage Hmong community
 - Saturday September 10, 2016 (tentatively)
 - Conflicts with Boston Chinatown Lantern Festival
- Young Leader Symposium
 - Saturday October 15, 2016
- 1st Asian American Civil Rights Conference in Boston Federal Reserve Building
 - Friday October 21, 2016
 - 8am-7pm (5-7pm networking)
- Asian Traditional Medicine/Community Listening in Lowell General Hospital
 - Saturday November 5, 2016

Item #6 – We discussed the role of Commissioners, and AAC Staff.

Item #7 – Strategic Planning, Future Directions for the AAC

- We discussed that in 3-5 years we would like to see more of the community knowing who and what the AAC does – 100% participation
- We need to create a Google Doc and have all Commissioners fill out their skills so that we can train one another (i.e. public speaking, technology, etc)
- We discussed focusing more on advocacy than event planning. We should piggy back on events and do more speaking than tabling to be more effective.
- Ideas of Inviting the Asian Caucus to monthly meetings, getting to know appointing authorities. Doing more round table meetings and reaching out geographically.



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- Need a strategic planning committee of no more than 5 Commissioners

ACTION PLAN

- Strength – networking, diversity
- Weakness – all volunteers
- Threat – appropriation – impede growth, more funds – more work, Connecticut AAC has just been diminished
- Opportunity – Leverage network, expertise

Meeting adjourned!