

**Virginia Asian Advisory Board**  
**Patrick Henry Building**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**1111 E. Broad Street**  
**Richmond VA 23219**  
**Friday, July 1, 2011**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Shekar Challa, Angela Chiang, Chun Elmejjad, Sal Hundal, Andrew Ko, Michael Liew, Eric Lin, Vicki Mirandah, Binh Nguyen, Joe Montano Jr., Tony Pham, Ray Obispo, Suwattana Sugg, Felix Wang, Jimmy Rhee, James Cheng
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Kim Oanh Cook, Dilip Sarkar, Shewling Moy Wong
<b>Guests:</b>	Jay Chen, Ting-Yi Oei, Emily Sumner, Toa Do
<b>Members of the Public:</b>	Generra Peck

- I. Meeting was called to order at 10:40AM by the Chairperson (Binh Nguyen). Introductions were made around the room. It was noted that we had quorum.
  - a. Comments:
    - i. Binh – Welcomed the Guests
    - ii. Binh – Recognized Mr. James Cheng – Secretary of Commerce and Trade & Mr. Jimmy Rhee – Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Trade (and VAAB Liaison to the Administration)
  
- II. Secretary Cheng spoke briefly about the progress and state of the Commonwealth now that Governor McDonnell has been in office for 18 months.
  - a. The Commonwealth’s economic health has improved from a 14.2 Billion deficit to a 200 Million surplus. Attributed to the fiscally responsible approach of the administration.
    - i. Companies and Residents wish for stability and predictability 6% unemployment (compared to 9.1% nationally); aside from new home construction, revenues have increased.
  - b. CNBC has rated Virginia the #1 state to do business. However Gov. McDonnell is still focusing on being a global competitor, not just a domestic one.
    - i. Right to Work
    - ii. Pro business regulations
    - iii. Courts conducive to business
    - iv. Attractive tax structure
  - c. Virginia has increased the Education budget by 100 million (\$100,000 for STEM grants – Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
  - d. Have invested another 4 Billion into Transportation to enhance commerce & trade.
  - e. Governor is asking for help in economic development. Virginia’s story needs to be told internationally.
    - i. Increasing International Presence
      1. Opening a 2<sup>nd</sup> European location in England
      2. Trade trip to Asia (China, Japan & Korea) to market Virginia (notably wine and agriculture)
        - a. Japan – VA already enjoys significant Japanese business presence. 120 Japanese companies (70-80 industrial) already here.
          - i. Gov. McDonnell was the first US governor to visit Japan since the disasters earlier this year.
          - ii. The Japanese economy has had limited growth and is in fact shrinking. The workforce is aging so Japanese companies are relocating.
        - b. China – currently very limited presence in VA.
          - i. China is more interested in finding business models to help grow the Chinese economy rather than building here. But Gov. McDonnell is

- trying to build relationships for these new businesses so that there is future potential.
    - ii. Gov. McDonnell was impressed with the amount of development in a communist country.
    - iii. Virginia marketing centered on seminars about doing business in VA.
    - iv. Jimmy Rhee noted that the potential in China is enormous and is in its early stages.
  - c. South Korea - Jimmy Rhee gave update on this portion of trip.
    - i. South Korea economy similar to Japan's 10-15 years ago. Companies such as LG, Samsung, Hyundai have gained significant inroads in the USA.
    - ii. S. Korean government also is focusing on job creation. It is their #1 goal of economic development. Leadership has an incredible sense of urgency in this regard.
  - d. India & Israel – Planning a trade mission soon and would welcome any suggestions. Can contact his office or Paul Grossman.
- f. Question & Answer Session
  - i. Binh – Concerned about VAAB status. Have heard rumors of changes, consolidation with other groups.
    - 1. Mike Liew – Noted that since we have 2 such highly placed Asians in the Governor's administration, it would not be good to lose the VAAB.
    - 2. Sal Hundal – Had heard that the Jewish, Latino and Asian Advisory Boards could be consolidated.
    - 3. Asst. Sec. Rhee – Governor values the VAAB's contributions and he (Jimmy) has heard of no such plans and was surprised that these rumors were being promulgated.
    - 4. Vicki Mirandah – With the current momentum, the VAAB is appreciative of suggestion as to the direction of the VAAB's endeavors. In the past, we have focused on things we thought important.
    - 5. Tony Pham – since the VAAB is created as a statutory Board, legislative action would be necessary to change the status. The VAAB hopes that Sec. Cheng and Asst. Sec. Rhee would speak in support of the VAAB and that is anything were to change, they would inform the VAAB.
    - 6. Sec. Cheng - Governor values the contributions of the VAAB. Reminder that Gov. McDonnell is focused on job creation and is looking for more specific involvement for us. The Jewish Board has brought in several companies and the Hispanic Board has also helped with economic development.
  - ii. Chun Emejgad – noted that the Korean community (as far as she is aware) was not contacted about the recent trade mission. She noted that as one of the Korean members of the VAAB, she had hoped that she would have been contacted about helping.
    - 1. Mr. Rhee – How can the administration know what help we can offer?
    - 2. Angela Chiang – The VAAB needs to discuss what we can offer and then reach out.
    - 3. Binh – The VAAB is willing to work, but we need overall better communication.
    - 4. Sal – the VAAB supports what Sec. Cheng, Asst. Sec. Rhee and the administration are trying to do.
    - 5. Eric Lin – Now that we know that job creation and economic development is the main focus of the administration, many of the issues that we have previously reported on can be viewed through a slightly different lens. This will help make the report from the VAAB much more valuable. For instance, education is very important to the Asian community, but how can we leverage the communities and professors in our state universities and colleges into an economic development tool?

III. Toa Do: The Business Development Assistance Group is hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Conference – Access to Success in Falls Church on August 11, 2011.

- a. This conference will focus on exporting to Korea. 200 million exported to Korea each year. If the free trade agreement (awaiting congressional approval) passes, that can reduce the tariff from 3-27% which could increase revenue by 200 million and create 10,000 jobs. Once policy is set, then logistics will be the issue.
- b. Participants to include VEDP, 4 international law firms, Export Authority and Frank Wolf of the Appropriations Committee in Congress.
- c. Hoping the VAAB can spread the word and encourage its members to attend.
- d. Mr. Rhee – this is where the VAAB can help – encourage Korean companies to attend this conference.
  - i. Keep in mind that the Panam Canal will be expanding in 2014 which means more deep sea traffic and Norfolk is the only deep water port in the region.

IV. Emily Sumter – Immigration attorney from Challa Law

- a. Hottest topic right now is state enforcement of immigration law and challenging of Federal laws.
  - i. Currently Utah, Georgia and Alabama have the strictest immigration laws. Most notably the IRCA (immigration Reform and Control Act) of 1986 regarding immigration. Law criminalizes the act of knowingly hiring illegal workers by creation of the I-9 process.
    - 1. Alabama even requires the education system to make determinations of legal status and inform authorities.
      - a. Ramifications - undocumented foreign nationals will not send their children to school & US citizens whose parents are undocumented, will not have an adequate education.
    - ii. Arizona SB1070 Lawful Workers Act – basically enforces E-Verify but also makes it an AZ state misdemeanor for an illegal alien to be in the state without carrying the required documents. It also addresses issues of employer safe harbor; false negatives; and employer punishment for knowingly violating E-verify by loss of business license.
    - iii. Educated immigrants have many options as students or through establishment of businesses.
  - b. Comments
    - i. Joe Montano, Jr. - The VAAB become more knowledgeable about immigration law/regulations. Ramifications of these laws – influx of undocumented workers to unrestricted states and flight from states with restrictions.
      - 1. FAIR (Federation for American Immigration Reform) – Non-profit organization advocating change in US Immigration policy.
      - 2. Other publications, new – there may also be a general assembly site dedicated to this.
      - 3. Project Sunshine – Connecticut community watchdog site
      - 4. AILA.org – immigration attorneys
      - 5. Joe also has additional resources to share – contact him.
    - ii. Shekar Challa – Challa Law has a newsletter that interested parties can sign up for.

V. Jay Chen – Asian Fortune – Virginia Asian American Job Fair – Hosted Job fair June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 10Am-3PM

- a. Asian Fortune created in 1993. Serving 800,000 Asians living in DC, VA & MD.
  - i. Hosted Job Fair every year except for the last 2 years (due to economy).
  - ii. employers (including NSA & Defense Intelligence agencies) represented and 600 job seekers attended (young and middle aged).
  - iii. Advertised everywhere through many cross cultural methods. Community very supportive.
- b. Comments
  - i. Binh – Was there any surveyed feedback?
  - ii. Joe – Suggest going to employers to find out the success rate in hiring.
  - iii. Jay – considering a 2<sup>nd</sup> job fair to focus on government agencies.
  - iv. Mr. Rhee – suggest SWAM program advertising

VI. Ting Yi Oei – Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia – Legislative Policy Forum

- a. Traditionally partnered with the VAAB and Asian American Society of Central VA (AASoCV)
  - i. Considering retooling the event

- ii. Making Census information focal point – issues like Health Care
- iii. Possibly having an Advocacy Day
- iv. APA Roundtable – comprised of Asian groups and utilized by county, state and fed government entities.

b. Comments

- i. Angela – very important event that the VAAB has partnered in for over 7 years.
- ii. Joe – it needs to involve more than just Northern and Central Virginia and needs to bring more community partners and Asian communities together.
- iii. Angela – Tidewater has had some involvement, but there is a loose overall organizational structure in the region.

VII. Tony Pham – August 6<sup>th</sup>, Genie Nguyen (Voice of Vietnamese Americans) will be hosting a Community Resource event. 10Am-2PM.

a. Topics to include

- i. Census 2010
- ii. Redistricting
- iii. Public Safety
- iv. Health Issues
- v. Education and Higher Education

b. Comments

- i. Ting-Yi – ESL issues should be addressed, proficiency question
  - 1. Asian Americans in Higher Education – Glass ceiling and sticky floor.
- ii. Joe – Are there other jurisdictions where the VAAB can partner with organizations for events like this?

VIII. Meeting Minutes

- a. Joe moved for acceptance with changes.
- b. Andrew Ko – second
- c. Changes – Jimmy Rhee should be in Members Present section as opposed to Guests.

IX. Annual report

- a. Binh – Want to target end of July for completion.
- b. Angela – Addressed to Mr. Rhee – when can we get the legal team to review?
  - i. Response from Mr. Rhee – will check with Generra Peck
- c. Each of the subcommittees will send modifications to Tony by 7/15/2011

X. Other Items

- a. Tony – note for record – the room doors were inadvertently locked for the early portion of the meeting.
- b. Mr. Rhee –
  - i. If individuals from the Asian communities should be recognized, the Governor would like to know. Perhaps one per month.
  - ii. State Schools - 56% of International students are Asian.
  - iii. Government doesn't have funds – so looking for creative ways to create jobs and revenue.
  - iv. Immigration issues – for instance in Loudoun County – there is considerable Hispanic flight to rural areas & crime coincides with paydays.
  - v. Health & Human Services – 1 million uninsured in VA – what about the Asian community?
  - vi. Would love to be able to create a econ development conference – VAAB can think about possibilities. Have facilities to do so. Just need dates.
    - 1. Angela – perhaps partner with groups like VITA (Virginia Information Technologies Agency)

XI. Binh adjourned meeting at 2:45PM

Meeting Minutes submitted by Eric Lin