

Virginia Asian Advisory Board
Bank of America Building
2nd Floor
1111 E. Main Street
Richmond VA
Friday, January 17, 2012

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| Members Present: | Shekar Challa, Angela Chiang, Kim Oanh Cook, Sal Hundal, Eric Lin, Vicki Mirandah, Binh Nguyen, Joe Montano, Tony Pham, Dilip Sarkar, Suwattana Sugg, Shewling Moy Wong, Jimmy Rhee (Ex-Officio) |
| Members Absent: | Chun Elmejjad, Andrew Ko, Mike Liew, Ray Obispo, Felix Wang |
| Guests: | |
| Members of the Public: | Ting-Yi Oei, Dan Choi, Binh "Gene" Nguyen, Hau Due Tran, Jane Pan, Michael Lau, Han Park, Alex Chan, Jackie Bong Wright, Terry Wang, Victor Shen, Rose Chu, Eunyoung Hong, Young Jung, Nhieu Nguyen, NiHia Tran, Hoang Dao, Nhung Hoa, Tran My, Toan Thai, Nguyen Duoc, Minh Chau Levan, Thinh Nguyen, Andy Le, Christopher Phan, Nguyen Thuyet Hia, Chu Nguyen, Rita M. Gerona Adkins, Loc Huynh, Antonio Ho, Hue To, Suong Nguyen, Phuong Tran, Eric Tran, Linh Bui, Minh Quan Nguyen, Thanh Tong, Mai Nguyen, Long Tran, Toa do, David Cheon, Silvia Patton |

- I. Meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM by the Chairperson (Binh Nguyen). Introductions were made around the room. It was noted that we had quorum.
 - a. Comments:
 - i. Binh – Recognized Mr. Jimmy Rhee – Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Trade (and VAAB Liaison to the Administration)

- II. Meeting Minutes: As noted, the VAAB had quorum so we were able to approve the last two meeting minutes with corrections noted
 - a. 7/1/11 minutes (Motion - Dilip, Second-Joe)
 - i. Article II.e.i.c.i – Samsung spelling corrected.
 - ii. Article IV.b.i – Corrected spelling on influx.
 - b. 8/24/11 minutes (Motion – Shewling, Second Kim)
 - i. Members Present – amended to reflect Jimmy Rhee’s role as Ex-Officio
 - ii. Article V – Corrected adjournment was 10:45 AM

- III. VAAB Discussions:
 - a. Elections: The current Officers terms end June 30th, 2012. There is no current procedure for the nomination or election process. Binh suggested that we discuss at the next meeting and as per Vicki’s suggestion, would ask Andrew to help establish the procedure as he helped administer the previous elections. Angela cautioned against delaying too long since the end of the current board term in June 2013. It was also noted that the procedures should include an outline on Officers descriptions and roles.
 - b. Annual Report – submitted to the Governor’s office and will be posted to the website for public view.
 - c. Report from Governor’s Office: Jimmy Rhee (see attachment)
 - i. Governor remains committed to job creation as his #1 priority and his interest in the Asian American community is strong. This is indicated by the representation in his administration.
 - ii. Response to the VAAB Annual Report deferred until the next meeting since Christy Morton was unable to attend the meeting. Binh will follow up.
 - iii. Governor acknowledges the tremendous amount of work that went into the report and appreciated the well thought out and organized contents.
 - iv. For future consideration, the Governor wishes to present the broader picture to help focus on those areas the VAAB can contribute
 1. Economic Development and Job Creation

- a. Governor is stressing the access to capital through programs like the available Business Assistance Loans
 - b. Workforce development initiatives through the community colleges with the emphasis on expansion of skill sets – in particular to help members of the Hispanic community
 - c. Emphasis on jobs for Virginia graduates
 - d. Government to increase contracting with small businesses to focus on diversity and unbundling of contracts
 - e. Angela: DMBE updates
 - i. DMBE's goal is to increase current level of 0.4% of State expenditures to 6% with SWAM businesses in ____ years. And is developing new accountability measures to insure supplier diversity.
 - ii. DMBE is now engaging in matchmaking. Matchmaking program "matches" participants/nonparticipants of the state's procurement program with potential suppliers/vendors.
 - 1. Most recently the matchmaking initiative brought 350 SWAM businesses to engage with University of Richmond procurement (note – UofR is private and not required to participate)
 - 2. Next matchmaking session is with VA Information Technology (VITA) in Northern VA - also working on one for Southwest VA.
 - f. Many areas are facing struggle
 - i. 50 miles south of Richmond there is 10%+ unemployment where tobacco, textile, warehousing and agricultural businesses used to abound
 - ii. When the tobacco industry was sued, the Southwest VA region lost a significant industry – the settlement funding was split to areas affected by the loss of business, but nothing can replace the loss of industry except a new industry
 - iii. Jimmy Rhee has a list of initiatives in the various regions that are being worked on by Commerce & Trade
 - g. There is also tremendous opportunity
 - i. Example - Because of base closing through Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) mandates, Quantico has many opportunities for businesses within a 5 mile radius
2. Energy policy – w/o getting into too many specifics
- a. Governor wants energy savings for small businesses
 - b. Create energy certificates for homes that will translate to utilities savings
3. Education
- a. Governor is considering idea to extend the school year based on observations of many Asian educational models
 - b. Governor is pushing for the repeal of the "King's Dominion Law" – which prohibits public school systems from commencing the school year before the Labor Day weekend
 - c. Governor's goal to increase funding by \$100K in the next 15 years especially Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
4. Transportation
- a. Governor has committed to the largest ever commitment to transportation with his \$4 Billion over 3 year plan to enhance the Commonwealth's public infrastructure
 - b. Focus on Public Private Partnerships (PPP's or P3's)
 - i. More efficient than just expansion of lanes

- ii. Development of Real Time Intelligent Traffic Control (have met with 5-6 Asian technology companies such as Samsung to explore this
 - 1. Stoplight control to enhance traffic patterns
 - 2. Accident traffic avoidance
5. Government Reform Initiatives
 - a. As Advisors to the Governor, he needs our help to meet with Asian Community leaders who will inform him of their Agenda
- d. Comments from Dan Choi (CAPAVA Chair) and Ting-Yi Oei (CAPAVA outgoing Chair)
- i. Recognize and thank the VAAB and the Asian American Society of Central Virginia (AASoCV) for partnering in the 2012 Asian Pacific American Legislative Forum. Focus on the trend of advocating and education of politicians and the communities.
 - ii. Thank the partners and sponsors of the 2012 Asian Pacific American Legislative Forum
 - iii. Summarized Reception event (Main Street Station, 1500 E. Main Street – 5:30-8:00PM)
 - 1. 1882 Chinese Exclusion Acts presentation by Ted Gong
 - 2. Lt. Governor appearance at 6:00PM
 - iv. Binh recognized CAPAVA for its work over the years including the work of Toa Do who was one of the founding members.
 - v. Kim applauded the efforts of CAPAVA for the work done to plan the Legislative Forum and bringing the diverse APA population together for a common purpose.
- e. Comments from Due Tran (Counsel for the VACOC – Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce)
- i. VACOC represents a “silent” community consisting of those who are in business and from the professional ranks. They host expos and have several thousands of companies involved with their initiatives. However, the group is upset due to the lack of representation in the higher echelons of government as evident due to the lack of action after the Eden police raids in the summer of 2011.
 - ii. Want to know how to understand the government better and be a part of the system so that they can help make a difference.
 - iii. Tony: Regarding the Eden incident, As a result, Mark Keam introduced a Bill in this session of the General Assembly regarding Mirandizing of suspects when culturally sensitivity should be employed.
 - 1. Interested communities should reach out to local governing entities to address issue. Officials do not wish to be painted with any racial insensitivity labels, so they should be responsive. However it is important to note that with the larger Asian communities in Northern VA, there could be many other issues at play.
 - 2. Also, there is a noted lack of APA’s in elected office. We are fortunate to have 2 APA’s in the General Assembly (Mark Keam and Ron Villaneuva), but none in Judiciary. Very important, especially in the case of the Eden raid as there were cultural issues at play. We need QUALIFIED individuals that are interested in public service who will reach out to legislators (especially for appointed positions).
 - a. Process begins with identification of those interested, then make that interest known. Communities and legislators will need to support in order for it to be successful
 - b. Has personally expressed interest in judgeship and brings commitment to family and community.
 - iv. Binh: Tony did participate in a public forum about Public Safety in NoVA, and the VAAB would be interested in helping to create future forums about public safety and other related issues.
 - v. Angela: The highest concentration of APA’s is in NoVA, but the decision making happens in Richmond. Need to access the decision makers there. That is one of the reasons why the APA Legislative Forum is extremely important. If we don’t speak for ourselves, then no one will.
 - vi. Binh “Gene” Nguyen (President of VACOC)– that is why the VACOC made the trip this year and they split into several groups to visit their legislators and discuss these issues.
 - vii. Joe: Reaction from the Eden Raid has been strong, but we need sustained energy to affect change before events like the raid.

- viii. Due Tran – Attended VA State Bar conference and stated that the Asian attorneys are active everywhere.
- ix. Shewling: Richmond is the political center of the State, but we must have a local connection to help take care of the local issues. Very important to build those local connection.
- x. Michael Lau: Attorney who has filed actions against Commonwealth has experienced difficulty in motivating State Agencies. How can we be more effective?
 - 1. Angela: Submit Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. If you write to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, they have to respond.
- xi. Thinkh Nguyen (VACOC) Now law requires commercial landlords to divulge CAM fees. Is there anything that can be done legally?
 - 1. Jimmy Rhee – Will need to work through local legislators to introduce a bill that addresses these types of issues.
- xii. Jimmy Rhee: Involvement effects influence. The more the APA becomes a part of the system, the more influence it will have. For the VACOC – they should get in touch with Virginia Economic Development Partnership.
 - 1. Dilip: If you want the government to do something, what are you willing to do to warrant their action?
 - 2. Binh: It is an election year. Encourage the APA population to vote. Get involved and support candidates.
 - a. Jackie Bong Wright: NoVA Vietnamese voter drive was a success and has planned organized workshops .
 - b. Eric: During the 2008 National Election, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund coordinated a nationwide poll that found that 77% of registered APA voters voted, higher than the 72% national average. Indicates that the average registered APA voter is involved. But the question is what percentage of the APA population is registered? This is where we can exert more political influence.
 - 3. Jimmy: As a whole, the APA community defers too much to politicians in general. When in fact, it should be the other way around.
 - 4. Angela: When trying to influence policymakers, you can't just approach 1 or 2; you must petition, send letters, get the press involved, make you position known and create enough public interest to demand action.
- f. Comment from Rita M. Gerano Adkins (Reporter from Asian Fortune) “ The economic advantage has moved away from Europe towards Asia, what is VA doing to take advantage of this?”
 - i. Jimmy Rhee: This is globalization of the economy. VA has the urgency to create a favorable environment for localities and businesses. VA has traditionally not been a destination for Asian companies. However the State is now developing policies to enhance the economic relationships with Asia and foster more economic interdependence.
 - 1. Energy agreements: nuclear, biofuels, coal, wind, offshore oil
 - 2. Infrastructure: Highway control systems
 - 3. Government contracting
 - 4. Free Trade agreements
- g. Presentation by Jane Pan (Executive Director of the Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington D.C.)
 - i. Purpose is to reach out the APA community to educate and raise awareness of the Hep B - silent epidemic. Silent epidemic since it exhibits no symptoms until too late.
 - ii. Encourages testing. There is no cure, but there is treatment. (see attachment)

IV. Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 PM by Binh Nguyen.

Minutes Submitted by Eric Lin, Secretary