



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ASIAN AMERICAN ADVISORY BOARD



MINUTES, Monthly Board Meeting

6:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Stephen P. Clark Center, 18-4 Conference Room, Miami, FL 33128

Ref: 02-13-2024

Present: Luna Adachi; Aileen Alon; Hoda Askari; Vinita Chakravarty; Sadrul Fasihi; Sharon Fine; Christina Fuentes; Josephine Gordy; Smita Kulkarni; Stephen Matsumoto; Anjana Mishra; Subbarayan Pochi; Stephen Lian Thang; Adrienne Aiko Thompson; Mehmet Ulutas; Tai Vaz; Jim Yu

Excused: Eugene Fu; Jose Keichi Fuentes; Li Gurau; Nick Vicera

Absent:

Staff: Joshua Ho; Cedric Brazle; Vanessa Azzam; Griselle Marino; Amanda Gonzalez

Guest: Detective Brandy Conway; Major Patky Changkachith, Houyu Dong; Taylor Haas; Sergeant Zubair Khan; Officer John Leon; Detective Christine Marte; Narisha Nuchanart; Emma Soupharath; Davie Zhong; UM AASA; Winnie Tang; Kenneth Wong

At 6:10 PM., Ms. Tai Vaz, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order; she welcomed the members and guests. Ms. Vaz asked the Program Director to verify the quorum. Quorum was established.

MINUTES: Ms. Vaz, Chairwoman, asked the members to review the Minutes for January 2024 and requested a motion to approve the Minutes. Ms. Josephine Gordy moved to approve the January Minutes, Mr. Stephen Matsumoto seconded, Board unanimously approved the January Minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Ho welcomed the Board and the guests and thanked all for attending AAAB February General Board meeting. He informed the Board to mark their 2024 calendar for 2024 AAAB General Board Meetings and stressed having a quorum as it is very important for our communities. Mr. Ho wished all a very healthy and prosperous lunar new year and thanked all for sharing our culture and heritage through our celebrations throughout the month. Mr. Ho thanked all the members who helped to make the Protecting Places of Worship Forum with local, state, and federal law enforcement on January 30th, and to continue the conversation with our community regarding hate crimes and biased incidents. Remember, No Report, No Crime. He proceeded to inform that he is working on reappointments and appointments to AAAB and the board members' patience are very welcomed and appreciated. Mr. Ho reminded to those board members who have not fulfilled the requirement to complete the County's mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention training course to do so online as the reports for non-compliant board members will be reported to the Board of County

Commissioners. Board Members can now take the course at their leisure with our web-based video and complete the acknowledgment form and submit to our office at Woody.Remy@miamidade.gov .

PSH Video: http://miamidade.granicus.com/player/clip/6171?publish_id=b96c9797-b24e-11ea-888f-0050569183fa&redirect=true&h=fd3e7c3b157b789011de620d1cd37cab

Acknowledgment Form: <https://www.miamidade.gov/humanresources/library/sexual-harassment-prevention-training-acknowledgment-form.pdf>

As we start the lunar new year, he asked the Board members to sign up for any of the three Board committees, after careful consideration of time and dedication, to actively engage our communities: Cultural Advancement Committee, Education/Civic Engagement Committee, and Economic Development Committee. Additionally, to inform any events and activities that we may as a board member can support and promote Asian American communities.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Civic Engagement to Get Out the Vote (AAFF's 40 Year History) – Winnie Tang, Vice President, Asian American Federation of Florida. Ms. Tang, a founding board member of the Asian American Advisory Board, provided a brief introduction of the work of the Asian American Federation of Florida since 1991. In addition to cultural exchange, AAFF worked on civic engagement and community education within all of our communities. In 2011, AAFF turned over the Asian Culture Festival to the Thai American Association of South Florida. As for civic engagement, AAFF has been working with US Census since 2000. From candidate debates, voter registration, get out the vote campaign, AAPI Data and Asian American Voting Day, AAFF has been providing vital services to the Asian American communities. Ms. Tang provided Asian American voter data for Florida as well as Broward and Miami-Dade County. Ms. Josephine Gordy, AAAB 3rd Vice-Chairwoman has been actively involved with AAFF.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AAAB Executive Committee – Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

AAAB Cultural Advancement Committee – Li Gurau, Chairwoman

- Asian Cultural Series Sub-committee: Chair, Tai Vaz

AAAB Economic Development Committee – Sharon Fine, Chairwoman

- Report: MDC International Trade Consortium – Preeya Disyanan, ITC Board Member
 - Ms. Disyanan provided the Board with the ITC Meeting agenda and minutes which was held on Monday, January 29th. India and Vietnam was mentioned for future trade missions in Asia and she is working to sit on the trade missions committee in addition to current sister cities committee.

AAAB Education/Civic Engagement Committee - Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

- Health/Wellness Sub-committee: Chair: Sadrul Fasihi
 - UMC Free Clinic is providing clinical services throughout the Miami-Dade County
 - 35 to 40 patients are seen on a daily basis

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- **Updates from Miami-Dade Police – MDPD Detective Brandy Conway**
 - Detective Brandy Conway informed that her department gathers intel and reporting mechanism within the community and her guest, Detective Christine Marte deals with the actual crimes being elevated to hate crimes. There are resources available to protect places of worship as her department works alongside DHS and FBI.

- Major Patky referred back to the video that his department created to inform the Asian community for hate crimes and biased incidents.
- Miami-Dade County is on a decline in major crimes but feels that the criminal activities are moving to Broward County.
- Sergeant Zubair Khan provided brief background as how he became an officer, moving from Pakistan with his family.
- **33rd Annual Asian Culture Festival:** Host – Thai American Association of Florida; Cohost – MDC Asian American Advisory Board
 - Ms. Tai Vaz, the Executive Producer for ACF, informed that the ACF Committees are working diligently to provide and represent as many Asian countries and states at this year's Asian Culture Festival.
 - Mr. Mehmet Ulutas will help confirm the Consul General of Turkiye and Turkish performer.
 - Ms. Vaz secured funding to provide food sampler to students invited by ACF and partners.
 - Mr. Matsumoto, 1st Vice-Chairman, has been very involved with the marketing committee and provided updates to new marketing campaigns to promote ACF.
 - Advertising in Spanish
 - Social media through short video promotions
 - Amanda Gonzalez has contacted school organizations to help promote ACF on their social platforms.
 - Requested AAAB to help promote by sharing on their social media.
 - ACF website has a micro-site of every nations represented in the past and current ACF.
 - Introduced Todd Tongdee, an American influencer in Thailand, brought in to help with the talent and entertainment portion of the ACF.
 - Landing pages in multiple languages
 - ACF website has been updated and upgraded thanks to MS. Celine Fang.
 - New this year: Cosplay Contest
 - Need: volunteers
 - Ms. Christina Fuentes informed that she attended an event and knows many food influencers and will share the information with them.
 - AAAB will have a table and will need AAAB members to volunteer for both Saturday and Sunday.
 - Ms. Aileen Alon pointed out that there are two other Asian festivals occurring on the same date, one in Broward and one in Palm Beach. Ms. Vaz responded that she is aware and that through the assistance of Ms. Winnie Tang and Mr. Ho, has reached out to the organizers, and will try again this year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month – May 2024**
 - Although we are in February, Mr. Ho shared the importance of preparing early to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month and hopefully will have a calendar of events prepared for the community.
 - The local colleges and universities will also need sponsorship for their events hosting and celebrating many Asian holidays and Mr. Ho emphasized the opportunity to do so through AAAB.
 - Mr. Ho asked for information as to any community organizations celebrating AAPI Heritage Month to see the possibility of partnering or sharing their events with Miami-Dade County residents.
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- **Miami Dade College's Miami Film Festival**
 - April 5th through April 14th
 - Alberto Sigarroat, Director of Partnerships and Development asked to see if the Board members may want to sponsor the three film makers for the Florida Premieres at the festival.
 - Black Box Diaries from Japan – Filmmaker Shiori Ito, based out of Japan, flying from Berlin
 - The Concierge from Japan – Filmmaker Yoshimi Itazu, flying from Japan
 - Dear Jassi – Filmmaker Tarsem Singh, flying from India
 - Contact Information: Alberto Sigarroat, alberto@miamifilmfestival.com / 305-298-8721

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Calendar of Events:

- 2/13, Tuesday: **Student Life & Wolfson Campus World Language Department's Chinese New Year Celebration** - The Year of the Dragon; Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, Atrium, Miami; Noon – 1PM; Free Event
- 2/14, Wednesday: **Don't Go Breaking My Heart (Learn About S.T.E.M. of the Heart as we celebrate Valentines and Lunar New Year)**, Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, Kyriakides Plaza, Miami; Noon – 1PM; Free Event
- 2/17, Saturday; **2024 Lunar New Year Festival with the City of North Miami Beach**; Senator Gwen Margolis Amphitheater, 16501 NE 16th Avenue, North Miami Beach; 12 – 4PM; Free Event; For information 305-753-8791
- 2/22, Thursday; **NAMI Miami-Dade Annual Meeting and Walk Kick-off Dinner**; Coral Gables Congregational Church, 3010 De Soto Blvd, Coral Gables; 6:30PM; RSVP <https://secure.everyaction.com/zfS2GLMJp0Oo7LjWHCZ2hA2>
- 2/29, Thursday; **Asian Pacific American Bar Association 20th Anniversary Gala**; The Rusty Pelican, 3201 Rickenbacker Causeway, Key Biscayne; 6PM; \$115 per person; Tickets [APABASFL 20th Anniversary](#)
- 2/29, Thursday; **India-US Chamber of Commerce, South Florida (IUCC-SFL) Business Networking Mixer** – “Immigration Options for Employers, H-1B Cap Season, and Updates with Kaityln Dhar; Palace Cuisine of India, 11422 West State Road 84, Davie; 6PM -8PM; \$15; RSVP [Immigration Updates!- IUCCSFL](#)
- March 2 & 3, Saturday & Sunday; **33rd Annual Asian Culture Festival**; Tropical Park; 11AM -5PM; Tickets www.asianculturefestival.net
- March 2, Saturday; **COSMOS Annual Community Appreciation Dinner**; Hilton Miami Airport, 5101 Blue Lagoon Drive; 6PM; \$75 per person; RSVP cosmosfla@gmail.com
- March 6 & 7, Wednesday & Thursday: **Disaster Expo USA** - an established program featuring experts from FEMA, The World Bank, NOAA, NASA and many more all under one roof; Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Drive; 10AM-4PM; VIP Tickets [DISASTER EXPO USA 2024](#)
- March 8, Friday; **South Florida Filipino American Chamber of Commerce March networking event**; Kanto Restaurant, 720 Lake Avenue, Lake Worth; 6PM; \$50; Contact Mellany @ 561-313-5119 or www.sffacc.com
- March 17, Sunday; **MAIACA Holi Festival**; Kendall Indian Hammocks Park, 11395 SW 79th Street, Miami; Noon; Early Bird Tix \$30 (until 2/15); www.maiaca.org

- Sundays: **ACE Talk** Show with Winnie Tang, Josephine Gordy, Jeannie Wong & Joshua Ho on WAVS 1170AM & 107.9 FM, Sunday evening from 9PM – 10PM www.ACETalk.org

Adjournment: At 7:35 PM, Ms. Tai Vaz requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mehmet Ulutas moved to adjourn, Mr. Stephen Matsumoto seconded; Board unanimously approved to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6PM – SPCC 18-4 Conference Room