



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



MINUTES, Monthly Board Meeting

6:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 12, 2024

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

Ref: 03-12-2024

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- Present:** Luna Adachi; Aileen Alon; Hoda Askari; Sadrul Fasihi; Eugene Fu; Li Gurau; Subbarayan Pochi; Stephen Lian Thang; Adrienne Aiko Thompson; Tai Vaz; Jim Yu
- Excused:** Vinita Chakravarty; Sharon Fine; Christina Fuentes; Jose Keichi Fuentes; Josephine Gordy; Smita Kulkarni; Stephen Matsumoto; Anjana Mishra; Mehmet Ulutas; Nick Vicera
- Absent:**
- Staff:** Joshua Ho; Cedric Brazle; Vanessa Azzam; Griselle Marino; Amanda Gonzalez
- Guest:** Major Patky Changkachith; Sergeant Zubair Khan; Officer John Leon; Hannah Locop; Michael Chan; Winnie Tang

At 7:10 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 February 2024 and requested a motion to approve the Minutes. Dr. Adrienne Aiko Thompson moved to approve the February Minutes, Ms. Aileen Alon seconded, Board unanimously approved the February Minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Ho welcomed the Board and the guests and thanked all for attending AAAB March 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. As for the 33rd Annual Asian Culture Festival, Mr. Ho thanked the leadership of the AAAB Executive Team and Members for helping to prepare, share, and engage our communities as we continue to promote our culture and heritage as part of Miami-Dade County community. He acknowledged and repeated his appreciation and thankfulness to the Thai American Association of Florida for hosting another successful festival. Mr. Ho thanked all the members who helped celebrate the Asian Pacific American Bar Association 20th Anniversary Gala. 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>

Mr. Ho reminded the board to complete the County Board Members' Financial Disclosure Requirement for 2023 and the deadline is July 1st: to email the completed form directly to the Elections Department at financial.disclosures@miamidade.gov and Copy hjoshua@miamidadade.gov and Nilda Olmo at the Ethics Commission at Nilda.Olmo@miamidade.gov.

He once again 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:

AAPI Civic Engagement in Miami-Dade County - Hannah Locop, Florida Field Organizer, APIAVote
Hannah provided the role and responsibility of APIAVote, the nation's leading nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to engaging AAPI communities to strengthen their voices and create impact. She shared AAPI Voter Statistics of Miami-Dade County, approximately 17, 500 registered voters and approximately 6,500 unregistered voting eligible AAPIs. Hannah informed that there are three upcoming opportunities for engaging AAPI communities: Norman Y. Mineta Leadership Institute on April 28th in Orlando; Presidential Townhall Watch Party on July 13th in Philadelphia; and National Voter Registration Day on September 17th. Hannah's contact information is 561-370-9933 / organizefl@apiavote.org

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
 - Asian-American Community Tour with Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau – April 6th
 - AAPI Heritage Month Celebration with History Miami Museum and Miami-Dade Public Library System – May 11th
 - Continuation of partnership with Miami-Dade Public Library System

AAAB Economic Development Committee – Sharon Fine, Chairwoman

- Cultural Grants Workshop - Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs – Thurs. March 21st, 2PM (Zoom)
 - Follow up with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council
- Vendor Forum: Contracting Opportunities on Food, Beverage, and Related Services – Wed. March 27th, 11AM (South Dade Regional Library Auditorium, 10750 SW 211 St, Cutler Bay, FL 33189)
- Report: MDC International Trade Consortium – Preeya Disyanan, ITC Board Member
 - Reports from Sister Cities Committee & Trade Missions Committee
 - Grateful to participate with Asian Culture Festival

AAAB Education/Civic Engagement Committee - Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

- Health/Wellness Sub-committee: Chair: Sadrul Fasihi
 - UMC Free Clinic (Mobile Clinic) participated at the 33rd Annual Asian Culture Festival

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- **Updates from Miami-Dade Police – MDPD Major Patky Changkachith**
 - Sergeant Zubair Khan provided information on “sovereign nation” groups; Threat to law enforcement agencies more so than residence community; instigators of hate crime
 - Major Patky referred back to the relationships Miami Dade Police Department has created with the Asian community for supporting and assisting our events and activities as we promote Asian culture and heritage, embracing diversity as a community.
- **Report: 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, thanked the ACF Committees for making this festival a success.
 - Grateful to Miami-Dade Police Department for support throughout the festival, especially Kendall District.
 - Thankful to see so many elected officials, dignitaries, and county leadership for attendance and participation at the festival.
 - Thankful to the Marketing Committee: including Stephen Matsumoto, Celine Fang, and Amanda Gonzalez.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month – May 2024**
 - Opening Kickoff Ceremony at Stephen P. Clark Center: First week in May
 - History Miami Museum & Miami-Dade Public Library: Sat. May 11th
 - NAMI Walk 2024: Sat. May 18th @ Zoo Miami
 - Asians4Awareness - Team Captain: Dr. Eugene Fu
 - Museum of Discovery and Science: Sat. May 18th
 - Ichimura Japan Garden: Sun. May 19th
 - Federal Detention Center Miami: TBD
 - Gummakonda Reddy Foundation Golf Tournament: Wed. May 15th @ Jacaranda Country Club

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Calendar of Events:

- 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
- March 17, Sunday: **IRCC Holi Celebration**; Miramar Regional Park, 16801 Miramar Parkway, Miramar; 11AM-4PM; \$35, \$20; Tickets [IRCC Holi Celebration](#)
- March 19, Tuesday: March 10, Sunday – April 9, Tuesday - Holy Month of Ramadan; **Inter-Faith Iftar** (breaking of fast/dinner during Ramadan) hosted by Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies at FIU; FIU MMC, Graham Center Ballrooms; 6:30PM; RSVP Required [Interfaith Iftar at FIU](#)
- March 21, Thursday: **Cultural Grants Workshop - Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs**; Zoom; 2PM; Register [Cultural Grants Workshop](#)
- March 27, Wednesday: **Vendor Forum: Contracting Opportunities on Food, Beverage, and Related Services** hosted by Miami-Dade County's Strategic Procurement Department; South Dade Regional Library Auditorium, 10750 SW 211 St, Cutler Bay; 11AM; No registration required; www.miamidade.gov/procurement

- March 31, Sunday: **Easter Sunday**
- April 6, Saturday: **Asian-American Community Tour with Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau**
- April 6, Saturday: **Maha Songkran Festival** – Cambodia New Year Festival; Wat Buddha Metta, 20599 SW 304th Street, Homestead; 5PM -11PM
- April 7, Sunday: **Maha Songkran Festival** – Cambodia New Year Festival; Wat Buddha Metta, 20599 SW 304th Street, Homestead; 10AM -2PM
- April 14, Sunday: **Songkran Festival** – Thai New Year Celebration; Wat Buddharangsi of Miami, 15200 SW 240th Street, Miami; 10AM-3PM; Free admission; Cash for purchases;
www.thaitemplemiamifl.org
- April 22, Monday – April 30, Tuesday: **Passover (Pesach)**
- Sundays: **ACE Talk** Show with Winnie Tang, Josephine Gordy & Joshua Ho on WAVS 1170AM & 107.9 FM, Sunday evening from 9PM – 10PM www.ACETalk.org

Adjournment: At 7:50 PM, Ms. Tai Vaz requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Aileen Alon moved to adjourn, Dr. Subbarayan Pochi seconded; Board unanimously approved to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 6PM – SPCC 18-4 Conference Room