

Virginia Asian Advisory Board
Bank of America Building
2nd Floor
1111 E. Main Street
Richmond VA
Friday, February 11, 2011

Members Present:	Shekar Challa, Angela Chiang, Sal Hundal, Andrew Ko, Michael Liew, Eric Lin, Vicki Mirandah, Binh Nguyen, Joe Montano, Ray Obispo, Dilip Sarkar, uwattana Sugg, Shewling Moy Wong, Jimmy Rhee
Members Absent:	Kim Oanh Cook, Chun Elmejjad, Felix Wang, Tony Pham
Guests:	David Poole
Members of the Public:	Ting-Yi Oei, Genie Nguyen, Mike Martz, Malik Khan, Julie Laghi, Yock Lin Goh, Andrew Park, Yong Adams, Jun Y. An, William Hong, Mike Kim, Sulent Jhu, Velginy Hernandez, Eric Jensen

- I. Meeting was called to order at 3:40PM by the Chairperson (Binh Nguyen). Introductions were made around the room. It was noted that we had quorum.
 - a. Comments:
 - i. Binh – Welcomed the Virginia Korean American Association
 - ii. Binh – Recognized Mr. Jimmy Rhee – Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Trade (and VAAA Liaison to the Administration)
 - iii. Mr. Jimmy Rhee. – Asst. Secretary of Commerce & Trade. Secretary of Commerce & Trade Jim Cheng’s and Mr. Rhee’s primary responsibilities involve international trade and investment in Virginia and ultimately job creation. The focus is to “Sell VA” and they need help from the Asian American community in VA. The goal is to bring in serious business which will bring in the opportunities by leveraging the attractive features of the state such as low taxes, quality of education and population.

- II. Meeting Minutes: As noted, the VAAB had quorum so we were able to approve the meeting minutes with corrections noted below – Motion to approve (Binh), Second (Angela)
 - a. Vicki – Marj Mohta had resigned prior to the last meeting so her name was stricken from the Members Absent. Also requested a plan for filling the position vacated by Ms. Mohta. Discussion is covered in the following section under VAAB Discussions.
 - b. Shekar – noted that in the meeting minutes under “VAAB Actions”, that he and Tony were the host committee for the Jan 11 meeting. That was incorrect and was stricken from the minutes.

- III. VAAB Discussions:
 - a. Filling Vacant Board Position: The vacant position will be filled through the offices of Mr. Rhee.
 - i. Binh – noted that nominations should be submitted to Mr. Rhee’s office.
 - ii. Angela suggested that should anyone from the current Board membership have any nominations, to submit them to Binh, who would then submit them to Mr. Rhee.
 - b. Town Hall Meetings:
 - i. Felix Wang (through email via Eric Lin) expressed concerns in the effectiveness of holding town hall meetings in the Harrisonburg/Charlottesville/Lynchburg region of the state since the density of Asian American residents is relatively low and would experience difficulty in getting the necessary attendance to make the town halls effective. It was noted that many attendees would need to drive over 1.5 hours to attend the nearest town hall, which would prove a considerable obstacle.
 - ii. Michael did suggest that a town hall would be possible at Virginia Tech since there was a large Asian student population and 2 associations in Roanoke and that he would attempt to explore options through Virginia Tech’s Diversity Studies department. Michael will attempt to

- schedule a meeting with the head of the department and will send notice to the other VAAB members.
- iii. Binh asked if online methods would be possible - Skype or Web access? FOIA questions?
 - iv. Angela suggested a Road Tour of several smaller gatherings with a handful of VAAB members at each of the smaller gatherings.
 - v. Binh suggested that Michael continue with the plan and send a draft of his plan to hold a town hall meeting in Blacksburg to the other Board Members before the next Board meeting.
 - vi. Eric suggested that Felix also come up with some suggestions to outreach to those Asian Americans living in his region.
- c. Administrative Support: Binh raised the question to Mr. Rhee regarding the support that the VAAB could expect from the Administration.
- i. Material Support (Pins/Business Cards) – asked for the current administration pins and suggested that the VAAB members would be able to pay for their own cards if acceptable to the Administration. Mr. Rhee said that the policies on those items were still be developed and would let Generra Peck expand on this once it has been confirmed.
 - ii. Staff Support – Andrew Ko thanked Mr. Rhee for his attendance and noted that we have a dedicated and active membership, however we have been missing the ex-officio members from the Administration. Who did we need to contact and how should we secure their participation?
 1. Mr. Rhee noted that unlike the Virginia Latino Advisory Committee, the Virginia Asian Advisory Board has traditionally set its own agenda. Therefore the administrative liaisons have not been as integrated into our operations. However, it is their intention to help set the VAAB's agenda and meeting dates and locations after the submittal of our next Annual Report.
 2. Binh noted that this was very important as the VAAB members wished to spend their time helping to make a difference.
 3. Vicki asked if the frequency of meetings would be suggested by the Administration. Mr. Rhee noted that our quarterly meetings would be likely sufficient. It was also noted that the town halls would fall outside of the regularly scheduled meetings.
 4. Binh asked if Administration liaisons will be attending these scheduled meetings to which Mr. Rhee replied that he will attend the meetings as they fall under his responsibilities.
 5. Binh also noted that there would be community activities that would be of interest for Mr. Rhee to attend such as the upcoming Job Fair and International Trade Conferences (Oct. 2011) in Northern Virginia.
 - a. Mr. Rhee noted that this follows their desires for the VAAB. Areas such as Technology and Biomass are key topics.
 - b. Dilip Sarkar asked about the protocol for establishing new businesses. Mr. Rhee noted that this would be different with each case, but would ask that we help to vetting serious candidates. His office would definitely help us to put us in touch with the appropriate resources/contacts.
- d. Recognition of public members:
- i. William Hong of the Virginia Korean American Association from Northern Virginia. Mr. Hong spoke about their goals of vocational training and immigration concerns and expressed their interest in helping.
 - ii. Ting-Yi Oei President of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia (CAPAVA). Mr. Oei gave a brief synopsis of the events scheduled for the 7th Annual Asian American Policy & Resource Forum. Flyer is attached. Mr. Oei also acknowledged the involvement of Angela Chiang and Eric Lin in the planning and execution of the Forum's events.
 1. Events started earlier in the morning at the Gallery of the General Assembly building where the Asian Community was recognized by the GA.
 2. Saturday's Policy Forum will feature Secretary of Commerce & Trade Jim Cheng (and other panelists) discussion about Economic Development as well as discussions by

invited panelists about Immigration in the Commonwealth. Immigration topics to include current activity regarding the Chinese Exclusion Acts of 1882 where America's anti-Asian exclusion history would be addressed through an Act of Congress. This is important as immigration issues are considered Latino/Hispanic concerns. The Asian American population needs to become more aware and knowledgeable about the topic.

3. Reception in the evening (Crowne Plaza – 6:00PM). Binh noted that the VAAB has been heavily involved in these activities for many years and that all members of the VAAB and public are invited to attend.
 4. Dilip – wished to recognize CAPAVA for its involvement in the Asian Policy Forum and the VAAB for so many years.
- iii. Eric Jensen (Chairperson of CAPAVA) – also wished to thank the VAAB and other community partners (Asian American Society of Central Virginia) in their roles as shareholders in the Policy Forum. Mr. Jensen commended the members for being resources for the Asian community as well as conduits to bring information back to the Commonwealth. It was noted that at one of the initial Policy Forums, a representative of the Republican Caucus by the name of Bob McDonnell came and spoke to the Asian Community. And through the forums, the Asian community needs to learn to take control of the issues facing the community.
 - iv. Genie Nguyen and Velginy Hernandez of the Voice of Vietnamese Americans: Organization based in Northern Virginia that works nationally to focus on civic engagement.
 - v. David Poole of the Virginia Public Access Project: The VPAP is a non profit organization dedicated to increased public understanding and transparency by tracking money in politics. Mr. Poole [dpoole@vpap.org] presented information on redistricting based on the forthcoming data from the 2010 Census. The redistricting process will be affected immediately upon the General Assembly's return to session in April of 2011. In summary, redistricting is a zero sum game where every political district will be drawn to contain roughly the same population levels. The process is controlled by the State Legislature and will prove interesting as the House is Republican controlled while the Senate is Democrat controlled. Basically, the areas below the State average, will lose representation. As a data point – Northern VA increased its population by 10% and Senator Marsden's district grew by 22%. The State has not yet released the precinct level figures. Areas of notable concern for the Asian community are the areas in Northern Virginia (Loudoun and Prince Williams) as these are the areas of largest Asian population growth. Question – Is it possible to draw a district that has a Asian majority? [Presentation attached]
 1. Michael Liew noted that the numbers must take into account that the percentages can be deceiving areas with traditionally less dense Asian populations will show higher growth due to quantities of scale.
 2. Shewling Moy Wong asked which region, based on total numbers, had the second highest Asian population growth. Not yet confirmed, but it is believed to be the Tidewater area.
 3. Andrew Ko noted that in the upcoming small committee work, it was found in the Education subcommittee's research that population migration is driven by educational reasons.
 4. Joe noted that this information is also available online at the VPAP site.
 5. Angela questioned the definition of Asian American – As per the definition as set by the Census. Reference 2010 Census site.
 6. 2010 Census Numbers as compared to 2000 Census:
 - a. Asian Population has increased by a total of 52%
 - b. APA yearly average increase up from 4.1% to 5.5%
 - c. Hispanic Population yearly average increase up from 4% to 8% (as per Binh)
 7. Genie Nguyen Le : It is important to remind the Governor that APA's are historically underrepresented while contributing significantly through financial/business. Cautionary note: In LA as a result of redistricting, a predominately Korean district was

divided and redistricted into 6 other districts – thus marginalizing their majority position.

- a. Must insure Bipartisan/Non Partisan districts
 - b. Suggest following mapping (as per David Poole – there are several mapping sites that are interactive and accessible)
 - c. Need Attorney General's office to address judicial aspect of redistricting process as in will help to insure fair and equitable districts. Binh noted that this may not fall under the purview of the VAAB, but we would consider how it may be presented.
8. Eric Jensen – What does this all mean? What can we do? And how will it be evaluated/measured?
- a. David Poole suggested that alternate plans may be submitted prior to April 1st, and the GA's return to session, and
 - b. Litigation of preprocess or the threat of litigation will help to engage legislators
9. Jimmy Rhee – note that ironically, the party that controls the redistricting has lost many subsequent elections. But the case can be made that with the redistricting, we won't have a split House & Senate next time.
10. Joe Montano – expressed his appreciation for VPAP's work and recommended that the VAAB and public access the VPAP site and learn more about the money flow and transparency of the political process.
11. Andrew Ko – cautioned about VAAB's role in redistricting. We cannot engage in the political discussion, but may encourage other community groups to do so.
12. Angela Chiang – Governor's role is limited in scope and while we have our connections and may educate, ultimately the redistricting discussion will become more relevant if the APA community had more candidates like the African American community.
13. Velginy Hernandez- There are hearings being held in Fairfax County- should check online for others.
- e. Subcommittee Reports – Binh called for the individual subcommittees to submit their reports to her as soon as possible.
- i. Angela noted that the preliminary report should be done and submitted to the Governor's office by May 1st. The Governor's legal team would review the report and notify us of any need for clarification/modification. This working paper then would be formally presented by end of June. Also, reminder that the Governor may appoint new members in June/July.
 1. VAAB will target April 30th for preliminary draft completion
 2. Recommended that 1 person work on the initial draft – Binh to ask Tony Pham (VAAB member who is also attorney at the Richmond Sheriff's Office.) In the meantime, the individual subcommittees need to finalize their reports and submit to the Officers.
 3. Andrew recommended that the VAAB meet again in April to vote on the draft.
 4. Vicki explained that from previous annual reports, the difficulty arose from actual compilation and coalescing into a coherent and consistent document with the right tone. Especially difficult with several groups with different reporting styles and viewpoints.
 5. Angela was concerned that Tony had not worked on the annual report in the past and that perhaps we should seek additional info or orientation on the process.
 6. Binh suggested that we review previous year's reports and build off of those formats
 7. Shewling asked if Mr. Rhee's office would be able to help us with the more complicated or legal aspects. Mr. Rhee suggested that we summarize what we have and will work through the current process. When the agendas of the future VAAB and the administration are more aligned, they would be able to offer more input.
 8. Vicki suggested that Eric make sure that the notes from all previous Town Hall meetings also be made available to Tony along with subcommittee reports.

9. Andrew offered to make filesharing available through Microsoft to better facilitate the discussions and subcommittee report generation.
10. Binh suggested that the relationship with the Governor's Office needs to be stronger and Mr. Rhee responded with the current goals and initiatives of our Liaison's office are definitely in line with some of our subcommittee work. Most notably Economic Development (#1) and International Trade. The Governor's Office would like to see a concentrated effort to help with business matchmaking of serious businesses without a specific area or focus.
11. Andrew questioned whether we should move away from any of the the other areas of current VAAB focus, however Mr. Rhee stated that the other areas of Immigration and Education are also important and should not be left out.
12. Binh hopes for better access and communication with the Governor's Office and hopes that the VAAB would be able to schedule meetings in advance so that the Ex-Officio and Liaisons would be able to attend and be more involved. Chekar asked if Mr. Rhee could give us a specific schedule for us to work around, however Mr. Rhee noted that his schedule was very fluid, but would try to make as many meetings as possible.

IV. Meeting Adjourned at 5:29 PM by Binh Nguyen.

Minutes Submitted by Eric Lin, Secretary