

**Minutes**

Council Board Meeting

January 18, 2018

5:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Blazing Star Room – Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar Street – Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Maeda called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

- I. Presentation to the board by the Minnesota Chinese Coalition (MCC). The presentation is titled, “We Serve the Community through Collaboration,” and the presenters were Mr. Wei Qiao and Mr. Jeff Jiang.

Mr. Qiao began with a presentation on Minnesota’s Chinese American community, so as to provide the context for organizations such as MCC, other Chinese-led organizations, the history of Chinese immigrants in the United States and Minnesota.

Mr. Jiang presented on the current challenges for Chinese Americans, including those living in Minnesota. Mr. Jiang spoke about MCC’s position against data disaggregation, and the nature of its concerns with the implementation of disaggregated data collection in Minnesota.

A brief questions and answers period followed MCC’s presentation.

- II. Special Guest: Senator Paul E. Gazelka, Majority Leader. Senator Gazelka shared with the board a few of his caucus’s priorities and achievements during the 2017 legislative session, including tax relief for senior citizens, farmers, small business owners, and students. He also shared that REAL ID passed, and that Minnesota is one of the last states to get this done. As for priorities for the 2018 session, Senator Gazelka shared that with the new Federal tax reform approved, the Legislature will look to align Minnesota’s tax code with the new Federal tax code so Minnesotans don’t pay more tax. Senator Chamberlain and his team will lead this effort.

During the questions and answers period, Mr. Hurkadli asked about rural Minnesota issues, including the fact that rural Minnesota faces a workforce shortage. Chair Maeda asked about teachers of color training. Ms. Zhi asked about Federal tax code conformity. Senator Gazelka responded that the Legislature will take up tax conformity during the 2018 session.

- III. ROLL CALL

***Present:***

Anil Hurkadli

Dave Hoang

David Maeda

Famaati Winey

Hafiz Munir

Zoe Zhi

Senator Roger Chamberlain

Senator Carolyn Laine

***Staff:*** Sia Her, Karina Vang, and Tou Xiong.

**Absent:** Sharon Lim, Tsewang Ngodup, Grace Lee, George Thawmoo, Representative JoAnn Ward, and Representative Rod Hamilton.

*With 8 out of 14 voting members present, there was a quorum.*

IV. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2017 MINUTES

Chair Maeda presented to the board the meeting minutes of November 16, 2017.

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of November 16, 2017.

BY: Mr. Hurkadli, and seconded by Mr. Munir. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

V. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2018 AGENDA

Chair Maeda presented to the board the meeting agenda of January 18, 2018.

MOTION: To approve the meeting agenda of January 18, 2018.

BY: Ms. Winey, and seconded by Mr. Hoang. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

VI. MOVE UP STRATEGIC PLAN

Chair Maeda moved to have the Strategic Plan discussed first.

MOTION: To amend the agenda as proposed by the Chair.

BY: Mr. Munir, and seconded by Senator Chamberlain. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

VII. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

Chair Maeda explained to board members the goals of the strategic plan. The strategic plan is a declaration of the Council's goals and plans for the next few years; it is derived from several documents provided by the consultant (MAD) to board members in previous meetings.

Mr. Munir asked if Ms. Her modified the work plan document in any way.

Ms. Her answered that the work plan document Mr. Munir is referring to has not been changed in any way; what the board members have tonight in their hands is what the MAD consultant documented from the discussion of the board members at the last board meeting, and sent over to her.

Mr. Hoang asked what the goal is for this one hour dedicated to discussing the draft Strategic Plan.

Ms. Her answered that the amount of time is perhaps more than necessary, but dedicated nonetheless for members to review and ask questions about the draft Strategic Plan before them; it is important that board members understand what they are being asked to adopt as the Council's goals and strategies.

Chair Maeda mentioned that the board's objective tonight is to adopt the draft Strategic Plan document the E.D. has put together for the board, not the work plan as submitted by the MAD consultant.

Mr. Hurkadli said he is pleased to see the work plan and the draft Strategic Plan.

Senator Laine shared that she is pleased to see the work of the board culminate into this cohesive and comprehensive Strategic Plan.

MOTION: To approve and adopt the draft Strategic Plan as the Council’s Strategic Plan.  
Moved by Senator Chamberlain and seconded by Mr. Hoang. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

VIII. 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Her deferred to the Treasurer (Ms. Zoe Zhi) to speak to the financial report. Ms. Zhi shared that she met with Tracy Sigstad (the Accounting Director within SmART); during this meeting, they talked about the Dinner costs. Tracey shared that while the receipts covered the Dinner, there is not sufficient funds there to cover the cost in terms of staff hours.

MOTION: Adoption of January 2018 Financial Report.

BY: Mr. Munir, and seconded by Mr. Hurkadli. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Her reported on the 2017 Report and its completion. Staff will look to send the Report and accompanying documents to the legislative reference library, the Legislature, and others soon. These other documents, enclosed on the inside and at the end of the Report, one-pagers that speak to each of the 5 emerging communities featured in our upcoming report titled, “Minnesota’s Emerging Asian Pacific Communities.”

Questions from board members: Mr. Munir pointed to page 2 of the Executive Director’s report where she said there will be a recommendation on the Asian Pacific Leadership Award Dinner. Mr. Munir asked Ms. Her to elaborate on this item.

Ms. Her shared that she met with a group of board members (Senator Laine, Vice Chair Hoang, 2017 Dinner Committee Chair, Treasurer Zhi, and board member Sharon Lim). At the request of this group, staff then sent out a brief survey to all board members to ascertain more input on the Dinner as it relates to what they can/can’t do to support the Dinner. Ms. Her expects that she will have more to share at the next board meeting, in particular as it relates to the results of the survey.

Mr. Munir is concern that too much money is being spent on the Dinner, rather than being used to spread word about the Council. Mr. Munir added that he does not believe he should be soliciting tables for the Dinner.

Additionally, Mr. Munir would like information on the legislative advocacy training at Mitchell-Hamline Law School; he asked if information on this training was sent out to board members. Chair Maeda answered yes to Mr. Munir’s question, and added that there were two workshops, and attendance for the first workshop was needed for the second workshop to be relevant for participants.

Ms. Zhi asked about the Intra-agency Homelessness Task Force, and expressed a desire to serve in any capacity on the Task Force. She shared that she is a realtor, and rental property owner, and that she would like to have the Chinese community contribute in any way possible. Ms. Her responded that this is one of the items she would like the Board Development Taskforce to look into when it is convened.

X. COMMUNITY UPDATES

Chair Maeda asked board members to share community event updates or report on events.

Ms. Zhi – There are a number of events in honor of the Chinese New Year, albeit many of the programs will be in the Chinese language. One of these celebrations will take place at the Mall of America (MOA). Information will be forwarded to board members.

Ms. Winey – There will be a Hawaiian Luau event on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at the MOA as well, in coordination with the Super Bowl. Contact Ms. Winey for tickets if anyone is interested.

Chair Maeda – There is a Japanese Photography exhibit at the Eastside Library; the exhibit is of Japanese internment sites, and will go from January 26 to February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Chair will follow up with board members via email with more information.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 P.M.