



## Minutes

Council Board of Directors Meeting

July 20, 2017

5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Blazing Star Room, Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Maeda called the meeting to order at 5:11 P.M.

### I. WELCOME

Chair Maeda welcomed the new board members and asked everyone to make introductions.

### II. COMMUNITY PRESENTER

Chair Maeda welcomed Ms. Bao Vang, Executive Director of Hmong American Partnership (HAP). Ms. Vang outlined the mission, vision and history of HAP and its three core competencies. HAP also has a national subsidiary known as Hmong National Development, based in Washington D.C., after limited refugee funding opportunities caused the two organizations to merge.

HAP reached 65,000+ people and served 26,352 in 2016, across 5 impact areas. These impact areas for service include workforce development; economic and community development; children and family services; health and wellness; and social enterprises. Ms. Vang highlighted support services offered and career matching in technical fields for graduates from their programs. Community development also includes lending and affordable housing programs. Children and family services leads their pre-K education and family crisis intervention/prevention programs. Health and wellness focuses on health education, MNSure enrollment, and a community health clinic that will open in 2018. Social enterprises includes the revenue generating departments including transportation services, restaurant and hospitality training, a staffing agency, and a fix-it clinic.

Ms. Vang outlined specific traits of the Hmong community, including population growth and limited educational attainment. Poverty rates are highest amongst Asians in the Hmong community. Ms. Vang highlighted the changing landscape of Minnesota's workforce including future projects for workforce participation and the job opportunities that may be come available. She also highlighted the high-level of Hmong civic engagement, while still having limited engagement in policymaking process.

Ms. Zhi asked if HAP would consider serving other Asian communities, beyond Hmong communities. Ms. Vang stated that program services are open to anyone, and all are welcome. Ms. Zhi asked if certifications were available to graduates. HAP does provide certification to its



graduates and is currently pursuing a higher-level of certification that would allow for scholarships. Ms. Lee asked what policies and legislative requests the organization is supporting. HAP is pursuing legislation in areas related to education, ABE and workforce development, and health. Ms. S. Her asked if HAP will bring forth any bonding proposals in the 2018 session. Ms. Vang responded that HAP is determining what the best route is to pursue funds in order to serve communities as quickly as possible.

III. ROLL CALL

**Present:**

David Maeda

Anil Hurkadli

Grace Lee

Famaati Winey

Thaoke Her

Hafiz Munir

Zoe Zhi

Dave Hoang

Senator Carolyn Laine

**Staff:** Sia Her, Karina Vang, and Anjuli Mishra

**Absent:** George Thawmoo, Tsewang Ngodup, Senator Roger Chamberlain, Representative JoAnn Ward, Representative Rod Hamilton.

*With 9 out of 15 voting members present, there was a quorum.*

IV. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2017 MINUTES

Chair Maeda presented to the Board the meeting minutes of June 1, 2017.

**MOTION:** To approve the meeting minutes of June 1, 2017.

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

V. APPROVAL OF JULY 2017 AGENDA

Chair Maeda presented to the Board the meeting agenda of July 20, 2017.

**MOTION:** To approve the meeting agenda of July 20, 2017.

**BY:** Ms. T. Her and seconded by Mr. Hurkadli. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

VI. STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Chair Maeda requested that board members review the three mission statements provided by MAD. Ms. S. Her asked board members to share their thoughts regarding the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Retreat. Ms. T. Her appreciated the turnout and level of reflection during the June 3<sup>rd</sup> session, as well as hearing the different visions board members have for the Council. Ms. Lee will lead a



subcommittee responsible for action plans created from the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, which will ultimately result in the Council's work plan. Mr. Hurkadli asked for next steps on the strategic plan following today's discussion. Ms. S. Her will share a timeline for action steps on mission statements. Board members commented on what they liked and disliked about each mission statement. Ms. Lee and Mr. Hurkadli liked the "economic, social, legal and political equity" specific language in statement 1. Mr. Hurkadli wanted elements of the community being heard and an emphasis on community participation added to the statement. Ms. Zhi stressed the importance of language that reflects all communities being heard as part of the agency's mission, and agreed to Ms. Lee's request for her to join the action plan subcommittee. Chair Maeda asked for strategic planning documents to be shared with all new board members. Ms. Zhi asked for increased work in reaching out to the Chinese community in engagement efforts going forward. Mr. Munir expressed that he liked the completeness of statement 3, and suggested taking "economic, social, legal and political equity" be added to it. Ms. S. Her asked board members to email her their additional comments on the mission statement.

VII. LEGISLATIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Senator Laine provided a brief introduction of herself for the new board members. Senator Laine reflected on the changes in agency cultures for the three ethnic councils, since the restructuring.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. S. Her welcomed the new board members. Mr. Munir asked what the 5 largest ethnic groups are. Ms. S. Her responded that the 5 largest Asian communities in Minnesota are the Hmong, Asian Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. She also highlighted the policy advocacy training program, through the Mitchell Hamline Law School. The training will be 3 days long, and specific to cultural communities. The current proposal would include a first cohort made up of board members from each of the 3 ethnic councils. Ms. S. Her strongly encouraged board members to participate in the program.

Ms. Her updated board members on the staff community engagement plan for the gender-based violence legislative proposals. The plan will be implemented beginning in the middle of August, for the purpose of obtaining community input on draft legislation for the 2018 session.

Ms. Her updated members on the financial report for the first month of the new biennium, including the increased \$93,000 budget to an annual budget of \$425,000 for FY17-18. Ms. Lee asked for clarification on the unexpended column, which is available for unexpected expenses. Ms. Lee also asked for confirmation on the payment for the SAS program and training for staff, which was determined to be a smaller dollar amount than initially anticipated. Ms. Zhi asked for further explanation on the different line items and how they are categorized. Ms. S. Her stated that new board members will receive further explanation of the financial report document at the upcoming board member training. Ms. Lee requested for an update on the appointment of



the African Heritage Council's Executive Director. The responses included that in June, the LCC created a subcommittee to assist with the search for a new Executive Director.

IX. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Chair Maeda presented to the Board the July Financial Report.

MOTION: To approve the July Financial Report.

BY: Ms. Lee and seconded by Senator Laine. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

X. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT CONTRACTS

Chair Maeda presented to the Board with two contracts for the Annual Report's graphic designer and also the report writer.

Ms. Lee requested more details be included in future contracts. Mr. Munir asked for explanation of the services, and board members discussed whether the services are necessary for the next biennium.

MOTION: To approve the contract for the graphic designer and for the writer of the annual report.

BY: Ms. Lee and seconded by Ms. Winey. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

XI. APPROVAL OF MAD CONTRACT

Ms. S. Her stated that a new contract must be signed with MAD for the new fiscal year, if they are to continue to assist the Council with the strategic plan. The new contract is estimated to be between five and seven thousand dollars, equivalent for 40 additional hours of MAD staff time to complete the plan. Ms. Lee requested for clarification on the limitations of working hours due to the end of the previous fiscal year MAD contract. Ms. Lee expressed her hope that work promised for the the previous fiscal year was already paid for in the previous contract. Ms. Zhi asked how the billing process is handled with MAD, and which line item from the budget is used to pay for the services. The contract was drafted based on an hourly rate, and is paid for by the professional/technical outside vendor line item. Ms. S. Her suggested that the contract resolution could be done by the Executive Committee (Chair Maeda, Vice Chair Hurkadli, Treasurer Lee, and Senator Chamberlain serve on the Executive Committee). Mr. Hurkadli and Ms. Lee requested that the full board have an opportunity to review the contract. Mr. Munir asked if the different committees are open to new members. Chair Maeda clarified that all committees are open to new board members, with the exception fo the Executive Committee.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Events Committee:

Ms. Winey stated that the Events Committee will review nominations for the Leadership Dinner awards at its meeting next week. Ms. Winey encouraged board members to reserve tables (\$320/table) for their community. Ms. Zhi requested for more information on table sponsorship. Ms. S. Her summarized the theme for this year's Dinner, and asked board members to review the venue and size of the Dinner in the Event's Committee Report. Ms. S. Her announced that



Doualy Xaykaothao will be the female Master of Ceremony. Ms. Lee suggested that staff reach out to a Korean broadcaster to be the male Master of Ceremony. Ms. Winey invited new board members to join the Events Committee.

Executive Committee:

Ms. S. Her stated that the report topics had been discussed in her Executive Director's Report.

Government Relations Committee:

Ms. S. Her stated that the report topics had been discussed in her Executive Director's Report.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 P.M.