

Minutes

Council Board Meeting

November 21, 2019

5:00 – 6:30 P.M.

Blazing Star Conference Room – Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar Street – Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Maeda called the meeting to order at 5:10 P.M.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment was made.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Anil Hurkadli

David Maeda

Dave Hoang

Bryan Thao Worra

Grace Lee

Hafiz Munir

Dr. Tsewang Ngodup

Famaati Winey

Senator Eric Pratt

Representative Kaohly Her

Senator Carolyn Laine

Staff: Sia Her, Anjuli Mishra Cameron, and Virakcheath Hing

Absent:

Representative Rod Hamilton, Bryan Thao Worra, and Representative Kaohly Her

With 9 out of 12 voting members present, there was a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19 2019 MINUTES

Chair Maeda presented to the Board the meeting minutes of September 19, 2019.

Mr. Maeda requested a change in item 3, to a motion made by Mr. Munir, and not “Mrs.” Munir.

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 2019 with amended changes.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 21 2019 AGENDA

Chair Maeda presented to the Board the meeting agenda of November 21, 2019.

MOTION: To approve the November 21, 2019 agenda.

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

V. NOVEMBER 21 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Her stated there was no new changes to be reported as it related to the November 2019 financial report, and that she would address any questions that members may have. Senator Pratt

asked if the fiscal year was from July to the end of June. Ms. Her confirmed that it is. Senator Pratt questioned about the Rate-Based MNIT Services listed on the financial report. Ms. Her acknowledged that we have a small service agreement with MNIT Services to perform work around our website, which is generally around \$1000-\$3000, and is used for communication purposes.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Her highlighted the Executive Director's Report for the members. She has hired Andrew Morris as a Legislative Liaison. Mr. Morris's employment date will begin on December 2, 2019. Ms. Her is excited about Mr. Morris, since she believes that he is the most seasoned Legislative Liaison she has hired during her time as Executive Director.

Ms. Her added that we are a month out from hiring the Research Assistant. The posting for this position has closed, and we will begin interviewing applicants soon. If all goes accordingly, the intern positions will be posted by the end of 2019.

Ms. Her stated that Governor Walz and his team recently implemented a process where different departments seek advice from our agency on their legislative proposals. She appreciates the multiple opportunities within this new process.

Mrs. Lee referenced the vacancy process. Ms. Her said the Governor's office is implementing a process with a recommendation form with these vacancies. The Governor will appoint members to their in the next few months.

VII. API COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Her called upon Ms. Cameron to speak briefly on the Asian Pacific Islander Complete Count Committee (API CCC). Ms. Cameron said the API CCC facilitates collaboration across a geographically and ethnically diverse group of API community leaders, whose focus is raising awareness of the 2020 Census in Minnesota. Ms. Cameron said the CCC will work to build and maintain trust between community members and the U.S. Census Bureau, the Minnesota Department of Administration, as well as other state and local government bodies.

Mr. Hurkadli asked if dates have been set aside for the API CCC meeting. Mrs. Cameron said the meetings will occur on the 4th Friday of each month, 12 P.M.-1:30 P.M.

Mr. Hoang asked how far along we are on the development of the shared website. Ms. Cameron responded that the website is not ready to go live yet, but that it will be up and running by the December 27, 2019 meeting.

Ms. Cameron also added that because we have a geographically diverse community, we want to make sure that people can attend the meetings. To this end, we are using the Blazing Star meeting room which is operated by MNIT and equipped with microphones, video cameras, video conferencing, and Skype.

Additionally, the expectation is that a Chair of the CCC will report to the Board at Council Board meetings. Members will have the opportunity to directly engage and, to some extent, hold that

entity accountable as appropriate given that the Council created the CCC to operate as an independent driven by community leaders for their respective communities.

Ms. Her asked Ms. Cameron how many members have signed on to the CCC. Ms. Cameron stated that there are 30-40 strong commitments.

VIII. 2020 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Chair Maeda shared that the proposal is to continue Board meetings every other month, as the Board has done so in the last several years. The Executive Committee will meet every month unless the Committee members decide otherwise.

MOTION: To approve the 2020 Board meeting schedule.

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

IX. ELECTION OF 2020 BOARD OFFICERS

Chair Maeda nominated Vice Chair Dave Hoang to serve as Chair in 2020.

MOTION: To nominate Vice Chair Dave Hoang to serve as Chair in 2020.

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

Vice Chair David Hoang accepted the nomination to serve as the 2020 Chair.

Ms. Winey nominated Chair David Maeda to serve as Chair in 2020.

MOTION: To nominate Chair David Maeda to serve as Chair in 2020.

BY: Ms. Winey, and seconded by Mr. Munir. Chair David Maeda expressed his preference to not serve as Chair in 2020.

Senator Laine nominated Chair David Maeda for Vice Chair in 2020.

MOTION: To nominate Chair David Maeda to serve as Vice Chair in 2020.

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

Mr. Maeda accepted the nomination to serve as the 2020 Chair.

Mr. Hurkadli nominated Ms. Grace Lee to serve as Treasurer in 2020.

MOTION: To nominate Ms. Grace Lee to be Treasurer in 2020.

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

Ms. Lee accepted the nomination to serve as Treasurer in 2020.

Chair Maeda nominated Senator Pratt to serve as the legislative member on the Executive Committee.

MOTION: To nominate Senator Pratt to serve on the Executive Committee.

BY: Chair David Maeda, seconded by Senator Laine. *The motion was unanimously passed.*

Senator Pratt accepted the nomination to serve on the Executive Committee.

Mr. Maeda shared with members that the Hmong Board member, Ms. Lee, had resigned. Ms. Lim, our at-large Board member, also resigned due to family matters. Mr. Hurkadli will not seek reappointment to the Board.

X. BOARD RETREAT DEBRIEF AND NEXT STEPS

Ms. Her provided a follow up on the Board retreat and repeated that a retreat report was furnished to the Board members. Mr. Munir requested copies of materials used during the Board retreat. Mr. Maeda ask for members to comment on the Board retreat. Dr. Tsewang said it was the best out of the four retreats he has attended during his tenure.

Ms. Her said the consultant highlighted the bottom of page 10, next steps, regarding the second half of the conversation of what happened at the retreat. In the report, you can begin to clearly see some of the actionable steps that the Board could take. The consultant asked Ms. Her to remind the members of the Board that we should keep the capacity of the Board and the capacity of the staff at the forefront of this conversation.

NEXT STEPS: Senator Laine said the next steps would be: communication, leading diversity, and decision making. Ms. Her said that one step forward could entail the a standard Board meetingagenda item on educating the Board, perhaps focusing on six communities under our umbrella given the political landscape at the time. Ms. Her will bring to the Chair and the Executive Committee an update on the Board retreat to determine appropriate and meanginful next steps. This will allow for staff to help Board members build capacity and in turn, continue to provide support to staff as we continue to deliver on our statutory duties.

XI. APPOINTMENT TO THE ASIAN OMBUDSPERSON OFFICE

Ms. Her shared that when a community Board member seat becomes vacant, that member has to resubmit their application for consideration by the Governor. The members of the Board, as volutneers are not allowed to see the resumes/applications; whereas, the Executive Director is allowed because she is an employee of the state.

The Chair of the Board of the Asian Ombudspersons for Families' Office has reviewed all of the applications and has submitted letters of recommendations, attached to the resumes of the respective candidates. The next step is for the Council Chair to appoint. Ms. Her will make sure to follow up with the Board Chair so that he carry out his responsibility as the appointing authority.

XII. COMMUNITY UPDATES

Dr. Tsewang shared with the members that His Eminence Professor Samdhong Rinpoche contributes immensely to the Tibetan and Budhist communities. Dr. Tsewang asked members to recognize this individual. Ms. Her said a letter from the Council can be generated, as well as a resolution by legislators, or a proclamation by the Governor. Senators Laine and Pratt tentatively agreed to work together on a resolution honoring Professor Samdhong Rinpoche.

Ms. Her shared with members that the Hmong New Year celebration will be on November 30 and December 1, 2019, at the River Center in St. Paul.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.