

MINUTES

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ASIAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday – August 23, 2006 – 2:00 p.m.

Oklahoma History Center
Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer Board Room, Third Floor
2401 North Laird Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Advance written notice of regular scheduled meetings was filed with the Secretary of State on December 14, 2005. The agenda for this meeting was posted at the State Office of Personnel Management (OPM). This meeting was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act, Section 301 through 314 of Title 25.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hung Le, Chair
Tinny Chang
Dr. Kyung-Whan Min
Thuy Pham
Vasithy Sengdara
Nick Wu

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Evelina Morales
Dr. Rita Raman
Dr. Yoshi Sasaki

OPM STAFF PRESENT

Brenda C. Thornton
Linda Williamson

VISITORS PRESENT

Dr. Bob Blackburn – Executive Director, Oklahoma Historical Society
Shirley A. Russell – Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of Personnel Management

A. CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Hung Le called the meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian-American Affairs to order at 2:32 p.m.

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS.

Chair Le welcomed and thanked each one for attending. He thanked Dr. Bob Blackburn for hosting their council meeting at the new Oklahoma History Center. Guests, council members and staff were then asked to provide self-introductions.

C. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 26, 2006, MEETING.

The minutes of April 26, 2006, were approved as presented on a motion by Dr. Kyung-Whan Min; seconded by Ms. Vasithy Sengdara. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. SHIRLEY A. RUSSELL, OPM DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS:
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.**

Shirley Russell provided each member with a packet of information on the legislative studies requested and approved for both the House and Senate. She explained the process for these studies and what might be expected as a result of these studies. She highlighted those that specifically dealt with immigration issues. She noted that the meeting schedules had not been finalized but that she would forward the information to the council upon receipt. Ms. Russell also provided information on the public hearings to be held by the Department of Labor in an attempt to gather information on the impact, if any, of illegal immigration on the State of Oklahoma.

E. TRAINING REPORT: OPEN MEETING ACT AND OPEN RECORDS ACT.

Ms. Thuy Pham attended the recent training held at OPM and conducted by the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma on the Open Meeting Act and Open Records Act. Ms. Pham gave an overview of the training with emphasis on those items of particular interest and impact on the council. Chair Le noted that OPM had provided each council chair with a copy of the book on the Open Meeting Act and Open Records Act that was available for all members to use.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Tinny Chang reported that a Chinese automaker company would bring MG Motors headquarters to Oklahoma City with their assembly plant located in Ardmore. They plan to locate the engineering and research labs on the OU campus in Norman. Production is scheduled to start sometime in 2007. This should bring approximately 500 jobs to Oklahoma.

JUVENILE CRISIS/SAFETY & SECURITY

No items to report at this time.

HEALTH CARE/SOCIAL SERVICES

No items to report at this time.

ARTS/CULTURAL

Dr. Min reported that the Korean School of Culture and Language of Oklahoma and the Korean Society of Oklahoma in collaboration with the Korean War Veterans Association of Oklahoma participated in the July 4th parade in downtown Edmond. Their entry took 2nd place out of approximately 400 participants.

Dr. Min also reported that the annual Taste of Asia Festival was held on August 19th with ten countries being represented.

Ms. Sengdara reported that in July she had the opportunity to travel to Malaysia and China with a group of American students from Langston University to learn about the Asian culture.

EDUCATION

Ms. Sengdara reported that an exchange program between China's Lanzhou University and Langston University is being developed. Lanzhou University is located in the Gansu Province which recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of sister state relations with the State of Oklahoma. Mr. Li Fashen, Past President of Lanzhou University, visited Oklahoma to attend this celebration.

Mr. Nick Wu and Ms. Chang were honored guests at the Confucius Institute signing ceremony held at the Oklahoma Memorial Union. The first Confucius Institute is located in Korea. The Confucius Institute at the University of Oklahoma is the thirtieth institute. The OU Confucius Institute is an alliance between the University of Oklahoma and Beijing Normal University, under the sponsorship of the Office of Chinese Language Council International.

Ms. Sengdara announced that Lanzhou University in China is in need of and aggressively searching for someone to teach English.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

There were no items presented at this time.

H. NEW BUSINESS.

Dr. Min made a motion that the Chair of this Council send a letter to Senator Lawler to communicate the council's concerns that a member of the Asian community was not considered or named as a member of the task force; and, that illegal immigration is not only an Hispanic issue but also an issue for all immigrants. Mr. Wu seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.

There were no comments.

J. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Le adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.