



City of Jacksonville
Mayor's Asian American Advisory Board (MAAAB)



MAAAB Board Members

Radwan Chowdhury
Chair

Rajat Sharma
Vice Chair

Wen Raiti
Treasurer

Sophal Archard
Secretary

Ed Callao
Past Chair

Jay Gogaliya

Bala Govi

Do In Kim

Lorelie Papel

Sang Phouansouvanh

Contact
maaab@coj.net

Webpage
www.coj.net/maaab

Board Meeting
Monday, August 11, 2014 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Radwan Chowdhury, Bala Govi, Sang

Phouansouvanh, Wen Raiti and Rajat Sharma

Board Members Excused: Sophal Archard, Ed Callao, Jay Gogaliya and
Lorelie Papel

Board Members Unexcused: Do In Kim

Liaison to Board: Johnnetta Moore

Prospective Members/Guests/Volunteers Present: Thang Khan Dal, Lian
Mun Pau, Kham Khan Suan and Thang Siam Tuang

I. Call to Order

The Chair, Radwan Chowdhury called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

II. Pledge Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated.

III. Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

IV. Liaison to Board Update

Laura Davis inquired to the Board if they wanted to spend the \$96 in Copy Center funds on Business Cards and Radwan Chowdhury suggested that if we could get banner instead. Mrs. Davis will inquire from the Copy Center on a new banner if not able then the officers of the Board will have personalized cards and the members will have generic MAAAB cards.

Mrs. Moore answered questions from last meeting:

Yes, a Board member can continue to serve until a replacement is found.

Daniel Albert's Board application is on hold because he is on two other Boards and it will be the Mayor's decision if he will be allowed to serve on MAAAB.

The Chair is responsible for sending a letter of acknowledgments for contributions made to MAAAB.

There has been no decision on rent forgiveness from the Main Library.

V. Guest Speaker –

Kham Khan Suan explained that Zomi's have their own language and culture compared to the Burmese. Mr. Suan also stated that they are in need of assistance of learning how things work. Sang Phouansouvanh and Radwan Chowdhury said that there services available that could help them with the process. MAAAB will update webpage with resource information for refugees.

VI. Committee Updates

➤ Asian Sports Day – Rajat Sharma

No report. Rajat Sharma explained the event to the guests.

➤ Candidate and Gubernatorial Forums – Radwan Chowdhury

City of Jacksonville's Office of General Counsel considers the forums to be a conflict of interest. MAAAB is no longer pursuing the event but is encouraging Jacksonville University and Florida State College to sponsor the event. MAAAB will not be able to assist with any aspects of the forums.

➤ Executive Committee – Radwan Chowdhury

No report.

➤ Finance Committee – Wen Raiti

No Report.

➤ Leadership Forum – Ed Callao

No report. Rajat Sharma explained the event to guests.

➤ May Event

Mrs. Moore is working on the fee waiver for the event.

➤ Membership/Nominations – Radwan Chowdhury

We have several interested in becoming members.

➤ Nominating Committee/Elections

No report.

➤ Scholarship Committee

No report.

➤ Treasurer Report – Wen Raiti

Wen Raiti stated nothing has changed since last month but encouraged everyone to be thinking of ways to raise funds.

VII. Unfinished Business

There has been no decision on the Chair for the May event.

VIII. New Business

- Member Attendance – Radwan Chowdhury stated the attendance for the current MAAAB year is attached to the agenda packet. Mr. Chowdhury reminded everyone of the absence policy and requested last year's attendance be forwarded to members. Previous year attendance will be provided at next meeting.
- APIVote2014 – Board members attended the event in Orlando to learn how to register non-partisan voters vote. Radwan Chowdhury stated that as an Asian community we need to exercise our right to vote.
- MAAAB Website – Radwan Chowdhury discussed changes to the webpage. The Asian Community Events/Useful Links has events that are scheduled throughout the community. Click on the event and it will forward you to the website for more information on the event.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment

X. Announcements

Reminder that the Indian Independence Day is Saturday, August 16, 2014 and the admission is free.

XI. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p. m.