



**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**  
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**Webpage**  
**www.coj.net/maaab**

**Board Meeting**  
**Monday, September 8, 2014 at 6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Sophal Archard, Ed Callao, Radwan Chowdhury, Jay Gogaliya, Do In Kim, and Rajat Sharma

**Board Members Excused:** Sang Phouansouvanh and Wen Raiti

**Board Members Unexcused:** Lorelie Papel

**Liaison to Board:** Johnnetta Moore

**Prospective Members/Guests/Volunteers Present:** Debbie Ansbacher, Greg Bruce, Brenda Boydston and Thong Dal

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**I. Call to Order**

The Chair, Radwan Chowdhury called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**II. Pledge Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated.

**III. Introductions**

Introductions were made around the room.

**IV. Liaison to Board Update**

Johnnetta Moore stated the Budget process is continuing with no current updates. Ms. Moore will get with the Account Technician for the routing numbers for deposit.

Mia Jones sent a response stating MAAAB is not able host a Candidate Forum. The hosting can be by someone else but MAAAB cannot be a participant.

Laura Davis stated to the Board to spend the rest of the Copy Center money for business cards. Business cards will be made for Executive

Board Members and general cards for Board members. Radwan Chowdhury made a motion to approve, seconded by Rajat Sharma and the motion carried without further discussion.

**V. Guest Speaker –**

Debbie Ansbacher, Community Liaison, Refugee Services, Florida Department of Children and Families, [debbie.ansbacher@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:debbie.ansbacher@dcf.state.fl.us)

Ms. Ansbacher discussed the Department of Children and Family Services Refugee Program. The Program assists 1,000 refugees that come to Jacksonville. The Burma and Ethiopians refugees are decreasing and the Sudan, Congo, Iraqi, Columbian, Cuba and Iran refugees are on the increase. The Refugee Program tries assisting the whole family including families that stay at home that may not know how to speak English or have any skills. The Program also has contracts with the communities for interpreters to better assist the families.

Brenda Boydston, Development Coordinator/Internships, World Relief, [bboydston@wr.org](mailto:bboydston@wr.org)

Ms. Boydston stated World Relief assists refugees for 90 days and in that time they must find a job, a place to stay and be able to purchase food on their own. Ed Callao said the Nurses Association used to volunteer at Christ the King and would assist if a place was given. World Relief wants to partner with more communities to be able to assist refugees adjusting to living in the Jacksonville area. The communities contribute by showing refugees where the ethnic food store is located, where they can get services such as a lawyer, interpreters, etc.

Ms. Boydston asked everyone to ask their communities how they could assist the incoming refugees and to forward any communications where they can improve their services.

Greg Bruce, Organizer MEDEC

Mr. Bruce has worked with Community groups and the Minority Chamber of Commerce. There will be a Multicultural event held on September 24 -25, 2014 with 40 speakers at the FSCJ Advanced Technology Center.

**VI. Committee Updates**

➤ Asian Sports Day – Rajat Sharma

Rajat Sharma will be contacting the two groups to get the event process moving.

➤ Awards

Radwan Chowdhury stated he would forward the forms to Board members.

➤ Candidate and Gubernatorial Forums – Radwan Chowdhury

Cancelled, not able to participate.

➤ Executive Committee – Radwan Chowdhury

No report.

➤ Finance Committee – Wen Raiti

No Report.

➤ Leadership Forum – Ed Callao

No report.

➤ May Event

Radwan Chowdhury stated the template has been created and the Board can solicit funds for the magazine. Possibly get Night of Asia to sponsor the event and donate towards a scholarship. A motion was made by Radwan Chowdhury that when a person donates to the scholarship fund they have the option of picking the recipient or MAAAB will pick the recipient, Jay Gogaliya seconded and the motion passed without further discussion.

➤ Membership/Nominations – Radwan Chowdhury

We have several people interested in becoming members.

➤ Nominating Committee/Elections

No report.

➤ High School Senior Scholarship Committee

Mai Keisling requested the Board to decide if on the application the applicant could have either the ACT or SAT score but not both. Board will consider.

➤ 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**

Radwan Chowdhury stated he will recreate the logo and design the banner. Board will have final decision.

**VIII. New Business**

None.

**IX. Public Comment**

No public comment

**X. Announcements**

Sophal Archard announced a Service for the Departed with vendors and outreach services. Please contact Ms. Archard for more details. Flyer attached.

Night of Asia will be held on September 6, 2014 from 5:00pm to midnight at the Baymeadows Celebration Church. Flyer attached.

**XI. Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p. m.