

Hapa, Asian, and Pacific Islander Affinity Group

Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 19, 2016

12:00 – 1:00 PM

City Hall, Pettygrove

Attendees

Pooja Bhatt, Baron Howe, Jimi Joe, Matt Lim, Erika Nebel, Jeff Selby, Theresa Suico, Kalei Taylor, Ashley Tjaden

DEEP Executive Committee Attendees

Jim Fairchild (briefly to welcome our group)

HAPI Leadership Committee Attendees

Matt Lim, Erika Nebel, Jeff Selby, Theresa Suico, Lynda Viray

Meeting Facilitator

Lynda Viray

Minutes

Erika Nebel

Welcome and Introductions

- Jim Fairchild on the DEEP Executive Committee said hello and good luck to the group. He is looking forward to working with us. Please let them know if we need any financial support for events.
- Lynda welcomes the group and asked people to introduce themselves.

Upcoming events

- Jade Market Field Trip
 - Lynda announced that the field trip will take place next Saturday the 27th.
 - Erika drafted an email and elevator announcement that she will send to Debbie.
 - We will meet at APANO at 6:00 PM before walking over to the event.

Activities

- On website, the group put together an events calendar and a resource page.
- If events want to be shared with the larger group, please send details to Lynda Viray and the website will be updated.
- There is also a book list on the website, and if anyone wants to make recommendations, please let the leadership committee know.
- Matt Lim wants to do a dashboard on the website to make it more interactive.
- Jeff Selby taking photos for the website.

Logo

- Jeff created three logos for the group to choose from. Want feedback and vote which we should use.

- The leadership committee liked the design with the bamboo the most.
- Matt Lim said it's representative of what the group stands for and represents many Asian and Pacific Islander cultures.
- Erika Nebel's initial reservation about bamboo was that she associated it more with east Asian cultures. Upon further research, bamboo grows and plays a significant role in many different cultures.
- Jeff Selby commented that bamboo is a universal image that would complement cultures across the board. Hard pressed to find a community that didn't have bamboo as part of their culture.
- Ashley Tjaden liked the design with the brushstroke and the bamboo. She asked whether the bamboo could be done in brushstrokes.
- Matt Lim further elaborated on a potential brushstroke design for the bamboo.
- Jeff Selby expressed concern that the brushstrokes might not make the design clear enough to easily distinguish it as bamboo. He was also concerned about whether small details can be seen if the logo is small.
- Ashley Tjaden asked whether HAPI could be written in brushstrokes.
- Erika Nebel asked if Jeff Selby had time to put together a few variations.
- Jeff commented on timing since we wanted to vote on a logo now rather than later.
- Jimi Joe asked whether we needed to limit ourselves to one logo.
- Jeff Selby said that it's better to have one so people don't get confused.
- Kalei Taylor mentioned that there needs to be commas after Hapa and Asian in our logo.
- The group decided unanimously to adopt the third design but four members asked to see if variations would work.

HAPI Group Name and Acronym

- Since the large planning meeting in June, there have been continued conversations about our group name, specifically about the use of Hapa.
- Lynda Viray mentioned that Stefanus Gunawan spoke with Mac, PSU's new API Program Coordinator, about his feelings about the term Hapa and the difference between our group acronym HAPI and the "Happy People" of Samoa.
 - Mac had concerns about the use of Hapa away from its Hawaiian context and the derogatory use of the term at some points in history.
- Lynda Viray suggested that if the group wanted to continue learning about the term Hapa, that the group should invite him to speak at a future meeting.
- Matt Lim suggested that we pronounce the acronym closer to "HOPPY," rather than "HAPPY," to avoid confusion. He added that it's important to represent multiracial people in our group name. The term Hapa continues to evolve and it is significant to many people. He believes the group should keep Hapa in the group name.
- Theresa Suico commented that the group should be deliberate about creating space for multiracial people. No other affinity group has done this and the group should be inclusive. She felt that today's context justifies using the term in the group name. gives space for using the term in our name.
- Jeff Selby commented that in the Japanese American community, that word has been used in a negative way. He said he has less familiar with the term but after doing research the use of the term in the group name doesn't bother him, for the most part.

- Erika Nebel said that too often multiracial people are forced to choose one identity over the other and that this group should be deliberate about helping to create space for everyone. She identifies as Hapa and did research about the terms original and contemporary use. Conversations moving forward should be honest about its positive and negative history. She supported using Hapa in the title because it has become an important term to many multiracial or multicultural people.
- Kalie Taylor said that she identifies as Hawaiian but was born on the mainland. She said the original use of Hapa was for Native Hawaiians but didn't have an issue with others using the term. After doing research, however, she was torn. Some authors expressed the desire to keep the term in its Hawaiian context that shouldn't be appropriated by the broader Asian and Pacific Islander communities. While other authors pointed out how the broader use of the term has given many multiracial people a prideful space of their own. She commented that Hawaiian Pidgin borrows words from other languages a lot, and it's important that multiracial people have a space of their own. She appreciated all of the articles shared by other members so that we could think deeper about it. Language evolves and she liked that the group is owning the term and being inclusive.
- Pooja Bhatt said she appreciated all the research that informed our collective conversation. She was supportive of keeping Hapa in the group name.
- Ashley Tjaden said that she was initially concerned about the terms use because there's a negative connotation. After doing some more research, she is more in favor of its use here.
- The group unanimously voted to keep Hapa in the group name.
- Lyndra Viray also asked whether the group would be okay with including information on the website about the distinction between the group acronym and the "Happy People." The group unanimously voted yes.

DEEP Liaison

- The group skipped this item, as Debbie picks the liaison for us.

Next meeting

- An email blast will be sent Monday about the Jade market field trip. If members want copies to post, let the leadership committee know. The group will take pictures there, which will be posted on the website.
- Event planning for AAPI heritage month next May.
- Professor Umemoto is coming to Portland to speak with our group in November. Details coming soon.
- October is Filipino heritage month. HAPI would like to assist if FACE would like the group involved.
- There is a desire to connect with other affinity groups in and outside City government. Keep in mind ways we can get involved with other groups.