

Ad Hoc Committee for an Asian Center
Summary of June 7, 1972 Meeting

1. After the reading of the minutes of the previous community-wide meeting of June 4 discussion was opened once again on the idea of the Center and its possible direction. Reactions were asked from those who had not previously attended the meetings.
2. Harold Lui of Hamilton Madison House pointed out that existing Chinatown groups are doing many of the same things being suggested for the Asian Center. He felt that getting people to work on the Center from Chinatown would be difficult for this reason. It was brought out also that the duplication of existing programs be avoided.
3. Chris Iijima stressed the importance of defining what the Center would offer concretely to prospective supporters. To attract support and interest he felt the Center should focus on those programs or services not being offered already by other organizations and filling needs not being met. One of the unique qualities of such a Center would be the intermingling of Asians of different backgrounds which would enable us to learn from each other.
4. Lisa Abe pointed out that we should go with the immediate needs. If the need for a Center is stronger in the Japanese community, we should perhaps go with that need rather than channeling our energies to attract all the other groups.
5. Yoshio Kishi expressed his opinion on the idea of the Center providing services and programs not being provided already. He felt it would be a narrow approach in light of the number of people to be reached.
6. Chris pointed out that to get people interested from the beginning the plans had to be more concrete and specific. This would act to draw people in rather than the Center spending its energies trying to attract people. Concentrating on services not being provided elsewhere in the City would have more drawing power than the duplication of existing programs and services.
7. The plan to become incorporated as a non-profit organization was brought up. Harold Lui said that though it is a simple process it may take anywhere from 2 months to a year. Peter Kwong suggested contacting movement lawyers and consult with them on how to get incorporated.
8. It was agreed that the immediate tasks would be three pronged with equal emphasis on finding space, getting financial support, and defining concrete programs and aims of the Center.
9. The high school age people were asked what they would want from such a Center and what the reactions were from others of their age. They saw the Center as a place where they could get together with other Asians of their age from different backgrounds. Also the Center

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would afford them the opportunity to plan their own activities, such as trips, rather than having them planned for them by parent groups. Interest from classmates was sparse. Most did not feel the need to associate with a specifically Asian group. They were more closely identifying with classmates at school.

10. Bill Kochiyama suggested breaking up into specific committees. The following were set up:

Building Committee: George Naito, Chairman
Karen Asakawa
Karl Matsuda

Legal Committee: Dr. Kahng would be asked to be Chairman

Finance Committee: Chris Iijima
Minn Matsuda

Perspectus or Program Committee: Bill Kochiyama
Chris Iijima
David Kitazono
Teddy Yoshikami
Bun Yoshikami
Lillian Ling
Hoyt SooHoo
Lori Kitazono
Yoshio Kishi
Don Yee or Sasha Hohri Yee (to be asked)
Peter Kwong or Barbara Tsao

Coordinating or Steering Committee: Bill Kochiyama, Chairman
plus chairmen of all the other
committees.