



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Ying Wang

Executive Director

Jenny Chiang

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

www.aacommission.org

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Asian American Civic Association, 87 Tyler St, Boston, MA 02111

1. Approval of minutes from January 9, 2019 – **VOTE**

- Accepted meeting minutes

2. Executive Committee Report

- Pralhad provided an overview of the Executive Committee report

3. Subcommittee updates (if any): max time 3 mins each

Legislation Committee

- No updates to report at this time

PR Committee

- Mary initiated conversation with Donald Wong (Asian Caucus) and outreached to community members to volunteer for a possible music/lion dance fundraiser
- Propose vote to utilize AAC website
- Mary to create a proposal and budget for next meeting's discussion
- Jenny and Nate to look into possible conflict of interest in awarding prize money and ticketing event.

Unity Dinner/Fundraiser

Theme – UD Committee to vote on theme at tonight's meeting

- CelebrASIAN: Rock Your Multidimensional Identities
- Forward Together: A CelebrASIAN of Our Heritage, Diversity, and Collective Identity
- Discussion on alternative themes: phrasing on "being counted," strike out "CelebrASIAN" in 'Forward Together: Our Heritage, Diversity, and Collective Identity'

Finance/Admin

- No updates to report at this time

Program - Health and Human Services

- Sponsorship request: Asian American Mental Health Forum – **VOTE**
- Motion to support Asian American Mental Health Forum at \$500 – motion passed

Program - Young Leaders Symposium

- Jenny and Kim will meet with Erin from CPA to see if a collaboration is possible

Program - Economic Development

- Proposal on collaboration with East West Bank
- Discussion to include language that AAC does not endorse or recommend products at East West Bank

4. Summary of Retreat

- Loan submitted and provided overview of summary from 2018 retreat notes
- Discussion to think about how to integrate these into future meetings



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- Utilize future events as potential opportunity to gather data from stakeholders
 - Further discussion tabled for next meeting
 - AAC Commissioner Committee Assignments - **VOTE**
 - o Mary Chin motions for Commissioners to have 1 committee commitment
 - Mary Lee seconds, Kim abstains – motion passed
5. Boston API Report & 2020 Census
 - Boston foundation report last year released hardest to count communities – included Asian communities among hardest to count
 - How can AAC support
 - Boston API report – AAC was approached to help in outreaching
 6. Meeting with Northwest District Attorney
 - Incident in Western MA – Belchertown High School regarding a hate crime
 - Vira initiated request to District Attorney’s office to hold a meeting as a community leader – AAC will be invited as a guest
 - Proposal to invite GBLS Asian Outreach Unit and Cindy Mark from Attorney General’s Office
 7. MOU on Small Business Workshops with EEOC
 - Proposal for Economic development committee to discuss further
 8. 150 Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad
 - AAC will continue to participate in planning meetings
 - Proposal to showcase the exhibit at the Unity Dinner
 - Discussion to have AAC help get recognition from state officials
 9. Inviting Guests to AAC Meetings
 - Discussion to invite legislators and AAC partners to monthly meetings to have conversations
 - Discussion to invite Rep. Tackey Chan to the next meeting
 - Discussion to invite someone from Census Bureau – Vanna will connect contact with Jenny
 - Discussion to plan strategic dates to invite certain individuals
 - Utilize the time as an opportunity to learn more of one another’s communities
 10. Old business
 11. New Business
 12. Next Commission meeting: Every second Wednesday, March 13, 2019
Discussion to poll dates that work best for future meetings
 13. Other Community updates & Meeting adjourned

AAC Executive Committee Report – Wednesday February 13, 2019

Submitted by Chairperson, Pralhad KC and Executive Director, Jenny Chiang – Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission.

The following activities and discussions have been made by Commissioners and ED since the report on January 9, 2018.

- 1) **Problem Gambling** – Pralhad and Jenny attended the Public Health Trust Fund Executive Committee meeting on January 23. Ivy and Jenny attended the Stakeholder Listening Session hosted by the Department of Public Health Office of Problem Gambling Services on January 24. The HHS committee will work to focus on problem gambling as a behavioral health issue this year.
- 2) **Boston Trolley Tours** – AAC was recently approached to find opportunities to work with the Boston Trolley Tour group. Kim connected them with groups in Chinatown that conduct walking tours to see if there was interest introducing a social justice tour in Chinatown to their program.
- 3) **Part Time Staff** – The AAC welcomes 2 new part time staff joining in February; Jessica Wong as the Administrative Coordinator in Boston and Yilu Jin as the Community Engagement Coordinator in Western MA.
- 4) **Unity Dinner, Friday, May 3, 2019** – The 2019 Unity Dinner will take place on Friday, May 3, 2019 at the Crown Plaza Boston in Woburn, MA. Further updates may be provided during the subcommittee updates.
- 5) **Small Business Seminar with East West Bank** – Jenny and Pralhad met with Irene Chan from East West Bank to discuss partnership for a small business seminar at their Boston branch in Chinatown. The seminar will take place either 3/28 or 3/29 and have an opening ceremony either 3/27 or 3/28. The seminar will inform the public on SBA loans available to small businesses. AAC's role is to help promote the event and invite speakers to the opening ceremony.
- 6) **Ways & Means Workbook Submission** – Jenny, Pralhad and Chung worked with both the House Ways and Means and Senate Ways and Means to submit a Joint Ways & Means Workbook for FY 2020 State appropriation. The Governor's budget was released to the public on Jan 4 with AAC level funded at \$80,000. A public hearing date is to be determined and Commissioners are strongly encouraged to attend to support AAC's request for additional funding.
- 7) **Nonprofit Learning Institute** – Jenny attended the second session of Philanthropy MA's (previously Associated Grant Makers) Nonprofit Learning Institute. Three additional monthly sessions will take place the first Tuesday of the month. Sessions are hosted at Bank of America (225 Franklin Street, 5th Floor, Post Office Square Room, Boston, MA). Participation in the program requires that one senior staff member must commit to attending all sessions of the program. It is strongly encouraged that a second representative be present (either a board member or additional senior staff member).

Upcoming Community Events

Eastern Bank - Housing in our Asian Communities
Tuesday, February 26, 5 – 8pm
265 Franklin St, 2nd Fl, Boston, MA