



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chairperson

Elisa Choi

### Vice Chairperson

\*Sophy Theam

### Treasurer

Wingkay Leung

### Secretary

Nick Chau

\*Yan Jennifer Cao

Chris Chanyasulkit

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John Naranja

Uyen-Sa Nguyen

Dimple J. Rana

Lydia Schroter

\*Evelyn Tang

Karen Tseng

Guests: Monica Long

Bora Chiemruom

Executive Director

One Ashburton Place

12<sup>th</sup> Floor

Boston, MA 02108

[www.aacommission.org](http://www.aacommission.org)

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### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 4:30pm  
McCormack Building, One Ashburton Place, 12<sup>th</sup> floor

Absent Commissioners are highlighted and remote participants are indicated by an asterick\*. Quorum was reached by attendance.

- Accepted 7/20/2016 meeting minutes
- Gilbert motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Kay

Item #2 – Bora gave an overview of the AAC's past 1 month:

- Southeast Asian Water Festival on August 20: we will pay \$300 to be included in an ad, which will include the Commissioner's names and congratulate them on their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- US CIS: invited to attend their meetings as their field director has directly spoken out about wanting to be more involved in the AAPI community
- Problem Gambling Initiative: learned about two upcoming programs, "Play my Way" and "Game Sense" that will be implemented at the Plainfield Casino
- Intern Updates: Wendy Ng will be leaving at the end of August; Minica Long just started as a new intern
- AAC Website Update: please send commission bio to Bora
- AA Civil Rights Conference: change the name to AAPI Forum

Item #3 – Elisa gave overview of Executive Committee report

- Unity Dinner 2017
  - Agreement that we should start planning ASAP for Unity Dinner 2017, in either May or June
  - We should start looking into locations and venues
  - Possibly create a Planning subcommittee?
- Problem Gambling Services
  - Executive Committee members met with the Director of Problem Gambling Services on 7/25/2016 and will continue to meet quarterly with them.
- Commissioner Appreciation Event
  - This can be thought of as an informal gathering for the commissioners as a way to get to know one another.
- Strategic Planning Retreat Follow up
  - Discussed ways in which we can act as stronger advocates and be more politically engaged.
  - Discussion of how we can incorporate elected officials into our meetings or how we can coordinate the convening of other AAPI organizations
  - We also discussed thinking of personal policy or advocacy issues that we feel personally connected to and voting to tackle a few of these issues



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- Commissioners are encouraged to fill out the Google Docs inventory in regards to their skills, interest, and networks available
- California Commission on AAPI Affairs
  - Executive Committee members had a meeting with the members of the California AAC, and learned about the structure and missions of their organization.

#### Item #4 – Post Strategic Retreat Follow Up

- We discussed enlisting additional staff to help with more logistical things so that Bora can focus at least 1 day a week on writing grants and another day to research legislatures or bills that relate to the missions of the commission
- We also discussed commissioners taking more responsibilities

#### Item #5 – By-Laws: Reappointment of Commissioners and Term Limits

- Discussed the need to re-word the by-law from Article 5, item 6 so that newly appointed commissioners can serve for two consecutive three-year terms, should they choose to do so.
- It was also suggested that another amendment should be drafted to encourage more commissioner involvement or enforce some rule that commissioners should participate in at least 75% of the meetings. Also suggested that commissioners should join at least 2 subcommittees.
- Commissioners will look over the by-law amendment and will vote at next meeting

#### Item #6 – Problem Gambling Initiative updates

- Wingkey and Bora met with the Director of Problem Gambling Services at the Plainfield Casino and discussed two new initiatives to tackle problem gambling:
  - “Play My Way”: this program allows patrons to set a limit to how much they can lose in a slot machine game. Once this limit is reached, a warning will pop-up in the machine that notifies the patron. This, however, does not stop them from playing but does make them aware of their limit.
  - “Game Sense”: this is a counseling program from the Mass Council of Impulsive Gambling that is available to patrons for when they feel the need to speak to a counselor about their gaming habits
- In terms of the 2018 fiscal year, the AAC will be able to have more input on how we can address problem gambling
- We will continue to meet with the Department of Public Health quarterly. Discussed setting up an advisory group to advise the DPH on the ways problem gambling is related to the AAPI community

#### Item #7 – Subcommittee Updates

- This was addressed sporadically throughout the meeting

#### Item #8 – BAAFF Proposal Request: approval of \$1000



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- The BAAFF has asked the AAC to collaborate and act as a co-presenter for a film, to be determined
- We have worked with them previously in the past two years and it would be a good idea to keep this relationship since they are actively engaged in communities like Quincy, Malden, Lowell
- Nick motioned to accept the proposal, Pralhad seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## Item #9 – Upcoming Events

- Young Leader Symposium
  - Scholar of \$1000 will be awarded at the beginning, scholarship application will be posted
  - Panel of speakers confirmed and confirmed guest of Michael Dukakis
  - Lunch from Chicken and Rice Guys
  - Cap is at 95 people. Commissioners must also register
- Southeast Asian Water Festival on August 20
- Film Screening / Community Listening in Worcester in September (tentatively 9/24)
- Asian Traditional Medicine in Lowell General Hospital on November 5

Next meeting: September 14, 2016

**Meeting adjourned!**