



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Executive Director

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Minutes

Agenda

October 19, 2021, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83421971270>

*Please note this meeting will be recorded

The meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19

Commissioners Present: Chair Sam Hyun, Commissioner Megha Prasad, Commissioner Meena Bharath, Commissioner Danielle Kim, Commissioner Ekta Saksena, Commissioner Cinda Danh, Commissioner Mary Lee, Commissioner Pralhad KC, Commissioner Mary Chin, Commissioner Betty King, Commissioner Bora Chiemruom, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Philjay Solar

Staff Present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Marketing & Communications Manager Sheila Vo, Youth Coordinator Abdul Haseeb Hamza, Development & Comms Coordinator Bonnie Chen, Policy Coordinator Derek Yuan

Attachments:

- Two meeting minutes: April 28, September 21
- 10th Annual Youth Leadership Symposium (working draft)
- FY21 state budget spreadsheet
- FY21 nonprofit budget spreadsheet
- Executive/Staff reports
- CVs of Interns

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Hyun calls the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. He welcomes the new coordinators of the AAC and notes that there will be time later in the schedule to hear from them.

2. Meeting Minutes – VOTE

Chair Hyun notes that we will be considering the minutes from the special meeting on April 28, which the Commission has not yet considered for a vote.

Commissioner Lee asks if we can check with the Open Meeting Law office to ensure compliance. Commissioner King asks what the reason for the delay was. Chair Hyun notes that it was an honest mistake and encourages everyone to bring any concerns to his attention. Commissioner King states that the delay is problematic and should be addressed.



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Commissioner Kim reiterates that this is an honest mistake and maybe because the Commission had a carry-over of 4 meeting minutes that we needed to approve in May, which may have fallen through the cracks.

Commissioner King recommends that there should be a task force to look into this issue. Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes said she realized the error when staff updated the website to ensure that all meeting minutes were posted correctly. She offers to contact OML and verify with them that no violation occurred.

Chair Hyun motions to table the meeting minutes from April 28 and notes that we will notify the full Commission regarding the response from the Open Meeting Law office. Commissioner Bharath states that the general guideline is to approve meeting minutes in a timely fashion, and this varies by municipality or state agency. Commissioner Bharath recommends approving the meeting minutes today, consulting with the Open Meeting Law office, and posting them once we hear back. Commissioner Lee states that we should check with the Open Meeting Law office before approving the meeting minutes. Commissioner KC agrees with Commissioner Bharath's suggestion to vote today, pending guidance from the Open Meeting Law office. Motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Bharath motions to approve the April 28 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Solar seconded.

Ayes: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Chiemruom

Nays: Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Chin, Commissioner King

Abstain: Chair Hyun

Motion passes with eight votes in the affirmative, three nos, and one abstention. Commissioner Hyun reiterates that the Commission will follow up with the Open Meeting Law office and report back to the Commission and the public for full transparency.

Commissioner Chu motions to approve the September 21 meeting minutes. Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Ayes: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Chiemruom, Chair Hyun, Commissioner Chin



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Nays: None

Abstain: Commissioner Solar, Commissioner King, Commissioner KC,
Commissioner Lee

Motion passes with nine votes in the affirmative and four abstentions.

3. Executive & Staff Reports

The Executive Director welcomes questions from the staff reports. Commissioner King asks about the program director's report about gathering institutional knowledge about the AAC and requests more clarification on the methodology. Yasmin states that she will follow up and ask the Program Director for more information.

Yasmin introduces Bonnie Chen, the new Communications and Development Coordinator Intern, Derek Yuan, the new Policy Coordinator Intern, and Abdul Haseeb Hamza, the new Youth Coordinator Intern. Bonnie, Derek, and Abdul introduce themselves.

Yasmin expresses excitement to work with these new talented young leaders. She mentions that we've received eight applications thus far from high school youth interested in joining the Youth Council. She encourages Commissioners to help share the word about the Youth Council opportunity. Chair Hyun welcomes the new Coordinators to the Commission.

Would you mind sharing the Youth Council application link:
<https://forms.gle/XkGvJPetNEVgN8Bh8>

Commissioner King expresses excitement for the new Coordinators.

Commissioner Bharath welcomed all the interns and said some of the initiatives for AAC are for youth and encouraged all to contribute.

4. Young Leaders Symposium (YLS) Background and Update

YLS Chair Commissioner Solar recognizes Filipino American Heritage Month and encourages Commissioners to support Fil-Am businesses listed at Pamana.org.

Commissioner Solar notes that the YLS this year is confirmed for November 6 from 12:30-3:30 pm. The theme is "[Amplifying Diverse AAPI Voices in the Movement for Ethnic Studies](#)"

Moderator: Commissioner Meena Bharath

Speakers:



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- Dr. Sue Kim, Co-Director, Center for Asian American Studies and Professor of English
- Mai Du, Community organizer of [CARE \(Commission on Anti-Racism, Equity, and Justice\) in Education](#) Coalition
- Billy Zheng, Youth organizer for CARE Coalition

Commissioner Solar noted that there are three youth scholarships this year:

1. the Young Leaders Scholarship for a college student demonstrating leadership,
2. the COVID-19 Scholarship for high school and college students who have been financially affected by the pandemic, and
3. The Community Advocacy Scholarship for high school and college students demonstrates strong community organizing skills.

Commissioner Solar is seeking additional Commissioners to join the Scholarship Review Committee. The Committee will meet to make recommendations before the next AAC meeting on November 16. Commissioner Saksena and Chair Hyun have volunteered to participate thus far.

YLS Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqf-CvqjMjGdw5CX6Ws23JpOGzkzdHYJsz>

YLS Facebook Event Page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/198305929106831/>

YLS Webpage (for working schedule, scholarship descriptions, etc.)

<https://www.aacommission.org/young-leaders-symposium-2021/>

5. Sub-Committee Updates

Commissioner Danh shares from the Arts & Culture committee meeting that the Subcommittee had their second meeting recently to discuss organizing an Open Mic event to feature AAPI artists, poets, musicians, etc., on the 1st or 2nd Friday of December. The long-term goal is to do a social media campaign on artists and feature their work.

Commissioner Solar notes that the YLS scholarships are now live and encourages all Commissioners to share the YLS scholarship opportunities with their networks.

6. Old Business

There is no old business.

7. New Business

No new business either.



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8. Next Commission Meeting: Nov 16, 2021

9. Other community updates & meeting adjourned

Commissioner Bharath motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chu seconds.

Ayes: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner King, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Chiemruom, Chair Hyun

Motion passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 7:11 pm.