



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson

Meenakshi Bharath

Vice Chairperson

Nate Bae Kupel

Treasurer

Megha Prasad

Secretary

Ekta Saksena

Jonjy Ananth

Mary Chin

Gary Chu

Richard Chu

Cinda Danh

Leo L. Hwang

Samuel Hyun

Pralhad KC

Danielle Kim

Betty King

Mary KY Lee

Nina Liang

Dimple Rana

Philjay Solar

Haniya Syeda

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2022, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

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

*Please note that 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: Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Chin

Commissioner Kim and Commissioner Liang are not able to join today.

Staff Present: Development, Communications & Marketing Coordinator Bonnie Chen, Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Youth Coordinator Abdul Haseeb Hamza

Attachments:

- Draft meeting minutes: April 19, 2022, June 6, 2022
- FY22 state budget spreadsheet
- FY22 nonprofit account info
- Executive/Staff reports

1. Call to order

The meeting is called to order at 6:36pm.

2. Commissioners Check-in: 5 minutes

Commissioners' check-in and share how they are feeling.

3. Public Comment Period

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 5 minutes

a. April 19, 2022 (VOTE)

VOTE: Commissioner Hyun motions to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lee seconds.

YES: Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Danh

NO:

Abstain: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Hyun

6 votes in the affirmative. 4 abstentions. Motion passes.

b. June 6, 2022 (VOTE)

VOTE: Commissioner Gary Chu motions to approve the minutes. Commissioner Hwang seconds.

YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Hwang

NO:



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

Abstain: Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Lee
7 votes in the affirmative. 3 abstentions. Motion passes.

Commissioner Chin joins at 6:48pm.

5. Reports: 5 minutes

a. Executive & Staff Reports

Executive Director Forbes shares highlights from the last few weeks, including updates around hiring, grants, operations, next steps from the retreat and website translation.

b. EC Report

Chair Bharath shares highlights from the last few weeks, including updates around budget and hiring.

6. 2021-22 AAPIC Funds Report & Expenses: 15 mins

Executive Director Forbes provides a brief update on remaining expenses for the fiscal year. She shares that she has submitted all the paperwork for employee compensation, moved forward with a hiring consultant, and is working with the facilitator on next steps from the retreat. She shares that there is still some leftover budget for FY22.

Chair Bharath shares that the prior Executive Committee worked hard to increase our budget and we need to be mindful of fully leveraging our funds to support our community.

Commissioner Hwang states that some communities in Western Massachusetts had shared ideas on how they would like to be supported and suggests this as a possibility for next fiscal year.

Commissioner Lee suggests the idea of a talent show. Chair Bharath suggests that she put together a proposal.

Commissioner Hyun states that getting community input moving forward may be interesting. He also recognizes limitations in bandwidth and resources.

Commissioner Chin asks clarifying questions about why we have leftover budget for this fiscal year. Commissioner Prasad shares that the surplus budget is largely due to the fact that we lost two full-time staff members. She shares that much of the surplus budget was distributed in the form of grants to community organizations. Chair Bharath also states that subcommittee budget allocations were not spent.

7. Hiring subcommittee update: 15 mins

Commissioner Kupel provides a brief update on the Hiring Advisory committee. He expresses gratitude for the Advisory committee members, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Prasad, and Commissioner Bharath. Commissioner Kupel shares that the Advisory Group has selected Carolyn O'Brien LLC to be the consultant tasked with assisting hiring efforts. Carolyn's current scope of work includes



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

the finalization of two job descriptions: (1) Outreach & Communications Manager and (2) Program & Research Director. For both roles, there will be an increase in oversight of our intern staff who will be driving forward the work of our subcommittees. Commissioner Kupel shares that we are now waiting on the new appropriation for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Kupel requests Commissioners to share job boards and networks so that the job postings can be promoted once they are publicly posted.

Commissioner Chin left the meeting at 7:31pm.

8. [COI Update](#)

Executive Director Forbes thanks Policy Coordinator, Billy Zeng for helping with the COI efforts. She requests Commissioners to complete this by July 15, 2022.

9. **New Business: 10 mins**

- a. Youth Council Intern's additional hours: VOTE

Executive Director Forbes shares a proposal to increase the hours of our Youth Council Intern, Abdul Haseeb Hamza, by an additional 10 hours a week until the end of September 2022. He will work with the Youth Council on various programming efforts, fully develop the mentorship program, and a detailed plan on how the Commission is going to develop the Youth Council for 2023.

VOTE: Commissioner Lee motions to approve Youth Council Intern's additional hours. Commissioner Gary Chu seconds.

YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Lee

NO: Commissioner Bharath

Abstain: Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Prasad

7 votes in the affirmative, 1 vote in the negative, 2 abstentions. Motion passes.

10. **Sub-Committee Reports: 5 minutes**

Commissioner Kupel shares a brief update about the Government Relations Sub-Committee.

Commissioner Solar shares that he will be scheduling a meeting to debrief the 2022 Unity Dinner. He also shares an update about the Young Leaders Symposium.

11. **Future Agenda Items Suggestions**

Chair Bharath shares that the Executive Committee and Executive Director are keeping an eye on remote meeting policy. She shares that there is a chance that monthly Commissioner meetings may return to in-person.

Commissioner Hwang suggests that we may need to reassess meeting times if traveling is required.

12. **Next Commission Meeting: July 19, 2022**

VOTE: Commissioner Kupel motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Danh



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

seconds.

YES: Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Bharath

NO:

Abstain:

Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting is adjourned as of 8:01pm.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

