



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson

Gary Chu

Vice Chairperson

Richard Chu

Treasurer

Megha Prasad (ai)

Secretary

Saatvik Ahluwalia

Nate Bae Kupel
Meenakshi Bharath
Mary Chin
Cinda Danh
Amy Goh
Christopher Huang
Leo L. Hwang
Pralhad KC
Danielle Kim
Mary KY Lee
Bethany Li
Marilyn Park
Jennifer Rubin
Ekta Saksena
Philjay Solar

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place
12th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
aapicommission.org

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023, 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.

Attachments:

- Draft meeting minutes: February 21, 2023
- Reports, CALL graphic, Survey proposal, Bonnie extension, Exhibition concept • Budgets/Finance
- Nominations for Unsung Heroes
- Finance and Communications additions to bylaws

Commissioners present: Commissioner Danielle Kim, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Bethany Li, Commissioner Marilyn Park, Commissioner Christopher Huang, Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Leo Hwang, Commissioner Jennifer Rubin, Commissioner Amy Goh, Commissioner Pralhad KC

Staff present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Program & Research Director Esther Kim, Health Coordinator Siale Teaupua, Policy Coordinator Benjamin Wang, Regional Coordinator Hannah Ku, Youth Council Member Maggie Sun, Youth Council Member Talvin Dhingra

1. Call to Order
2. Commissioners Check-in
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. February 21, 2023 (VOTE)

VOTE: Commissioner Kim motions to approve the minutes. Commissioner Park seconds

Yes: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Park, Commissioner Li, Commissioner Huang, Commissioner Ahluwalia, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Gary Chu

Abstain: Commissioner Hwang

8 votes in the affirmative. The motion passes.

4. New Interns and YC introduction

Hannah Ku is our new Regional Coordinator. Maggie Sun and Talvin Dhingra are two members of our 2023 Youth Council.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

New Business:

5. Changes in Budget FY 23 (VOTE)

ED Forbes presents the FY23 budget. The AAPIC has excess funds that need to be spent before the end of the FY22 fiscal year. A proposal to add an AAPI survey to our programs is made. The AAPI survey was previously approved within the program budget. Dr. Wong, faculty at UCSD, was contacted due to his prior work in administering an AAPI survey in Texas.

ED Forbes and Chair Gary Chu compare budgets (i.e. with and without proposal).

A suggestion was made for future Commission meetings to add a separate column that delineates what is being voted on, i.e. from which line items the proposal expenses are being drawn.

Caution was shared about surveys potentially telling nonprofits what to do. The Commission should add to the landscape of what's out there already, not duplicate/impede work being done.

A suggestion was made to explore researchers based in Mass. (ex. UMass Boston, UMass Lowell). Several Commissioners showed support for this suggestion. Another suggestion was made to put out an open call/request for proposals.

A smaller group of Commissioners working with staff to decide next steps, including a list of proposals of potentially more urgent/time-sensitive funding opportunities.

Commissioner Amy Goh joins at 7:03pm. Commissioner Pralhad KC joins at 7:05pm.

Regina Au (public comment, invited guest) shared from a market researcher perspective about the need to start with what one wants to find out before putting out a call for proposals. Surveys are tough; answers are not in-depth. Conducting one-on-one interviews or in groups 2-3 people first can help inform what questions should be asked via survey.

A Commissioner noted that there is data available; the Asian American Institute has done several reports. However, there isn't disaggregated data that is readily available. What would it mean for the Commission to show how disaggregated data can be helpful for understanding the needs of the AAPI community? A snapshot can be given of how the larger Data Equity bill will be more helpful (real value added).

Commissioners are asked to volunteer to meet in a smaller group to discuss next steps. Commissioners should speak with different researchers and agree upon a maximum amount to spend on this survey/research initiative. Group members: ED Forbes, Commissioner Ahluwalia, Commissioner Li is a maybe, pending if this work can be folded into the Government Relations committee.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

Commissioners raised questions about finding a way to review prior year's budgets in order to determine good use of budget funds, and whether or not this survey is the best and most immediate use of remaining funds. These points will be addressed in next month's meeting.

The Governance/Finance/Communications subcommittee was encouraged to meet to review further and compile a list of proposals regarding more urgent/time-sensitive funding opportunities.

Public comment: Regina gives a self-introduction. Regina works in biomarketing insight/market research and founded AAPIEC Inc. (nonprofit). The goal is to bring the AAPI community together for celebration. Their annual AAPI Festival's goals include bringing all the AAPI communities together and dispelling prejudice by building awareness and education. The first AAPI Festival came together in response to the Atlanta shootings and anti-Asian hate during COVID-19. The group is also involved in advocacy for AAPI history being taught in schools, and they also created an AAPI history exhibit.

6. Change Finance Bylaws to develop better systems to ensure budget appropriations are spent within a timeframe.

Language will be clarified and put to vote for the next meeting.

7. Communications Policy to ensure that the Commission can publish press releases.

A suggestion was made to give more context in order to understand policy/bylaw changes. Special Emergency meetings were held in the past to discuss response to significant incidents. There is a need to develop language in order to specifically mention which instances are okay or not okay to send press releases without Commission approval.

8. Unsung Heroes award (VOTE for 6 candidates)

6 people were nominated by Commissioners for the Unsung Heroes Award.

VOTE: Commissioner Rubin motions to approve all 6 candidates. Commissioner Ahluwalia seconds.

YES: Commissioner Huang, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Park, Commissioner Ahluwalia, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Goh, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Li

The motion passes unanimously.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

9. Follow up on retreat: Connect/Advocate/Listen/Learn (CALL)

Speaker: Regina Au, Pres. AAPIEC Inc and Chair, AAPI Heritage Festival

10. Unity Dinner

Program & Research Director Esther Kim gave an update that all performances have been confirmed. One Keynote speakers are confirmed - Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui. Possible second and third speakers will be confirmed soon. The Commission is hoping to contact Boston Mayor Michelle Wu to give a keynote speech as well.

The Unity Dinner will include a series of exhibits showcasing a Youth Council-led photo voice project, AAPIC's community and grant partners, and AAPI histories in Massachusetts.

VOTE: Commissioner Li motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kim seconds.

YES: Commissioner Huang, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Li, Commissioner Park, Commissioner Ahluwalia, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Goh, Commissioner Gary Chu

Old Business:

10. Introduction of Commissioner's work, interests, and hobbies.

11. Western Mass meeting on March 25

12. Upcoming Listening sessions: Older Adults, Mental health, and Tongan Dance.

13. Reports

a. Commissioners Report

b. Staff reports

c. Sub-committees (including Unity Dinner)

14. Future Agenda Items Suggestions

15. Next Commission Meeting: April 18, 2023

The motion passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 8:01pm.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

