



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chairperson

Gary Chu

### Vice Chairperson

Richard Chu

### Secretary

Saatvik Ahluwalia

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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

May 16, 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: April 18, 2023
- Budgets/Finance and Grant decision rubric
- Roles of Commissioners and Staff
- Suggested Bylaws changes
- EC Elections with JD of Treasurer
- Subcommittee selections and survey for Chair
- Subcommittees Functions, Roles & Responsibilities
- Report from Chan School
- Staff reports

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**Commissioners present:** Commissioners Gary Chu, Marilyn Park, Cinda Danh, Danielle Kim, Philjay Solar, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Amy Goh, Christopher Huang, Jennifer Rubin, Christopher Huang, Meena Bharath

**Staff present:** Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Program & Research Director Esther Kim, Communications & Outreach Manager Jennifer Best, Policy Coordinator Benjamin Wang, Policy & Communications Coordinator Diana Li, Regional Coordinator Hannah Ku, Communications Coordinator Bonnie Chen, Health & Pacific Islander Coordinator Siale Vaitohi Teupa

Guests: Yarlennys Villaman, Elaine Jeon, Bryan Decker, Arista Jhanjee

### 1. Call to Order (6:35pm)

Chair Gary Chu calls the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

### 2. Commissioners Check-in

Unity Dinner went well. In future years, it might be nice to have awardees speak.

Commissioner Huang joins at 6:36 PM.

Chair Gary Chu participated on the City Line program; two Unsung Hero awardees were interviewed.



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Commissioners Philjay Solar and Christopher Huang attended Harvard May fair; AAPIC was a cosponsor of the AAPI section. Commissioners Philjay Solar and Megha Prasad were recognized as part of AAPI Night at Red Sox game.

Yarlennys Villaman promoted the Governor's event for AAPI Month tomorrow.

### 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### a. April 18, 2023 (VOTE)

**VOTE:** Philjay Solar motions to approve the meeting minutes. Cinda Danh seconds.

**YES:** Danielle Kim, Christopher Huang, Marilyn Park, Cinda Danh, Philjay Solar, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Amy Goh, Jennifer Rubin, Gary Chu

The motion passes unanimously.

### New Business

#### 4. Discussion on OML Violation

ED Yasmin Padamsee Forbes provides an update on OML Violation regarding executive session process and posting timeline of meeting announcement. The Attorney General's office considers this case closed, and the notice has been posted on their website.

#### 5. Subcommittee Chairs

Chair Gary Chu overviews subcommittees. Commissioners discuss bylaws concerning subcommittee membership and chair appointment. Commissioners should tell Gary and Yasmin if they are interested in joining or chairing a subcommittee.

Diana Li introduces herself as the new Policy & Communications Coordinator.

#### 6. Budget and allocation discussion (VOTE)

ED Forbes overviews remaining FY2023 budget (\$25,595.10). Governance subcommittee proposes giving previous grantees the full amount they had initially requested (totaling \$21,000). The subcommittee also discussed giving funds to new organizations, though the Treasury has informed us that they are understaffed, leading to delays of almost one month for new organizations, meaning that there would not be enough time to award funding to new organizations before the end of FY2023.

*Commissioner Meena Bharath joins at 7:09PM.*

**VOTE:** Commissioner Meena Bharath motions to use the surplus to support AAPI organizations in Massachusetts, including 2022 selected grantees that did not receive the full requested amount as well as new organizations identified by Commissioners. Commissioner Cinda Danh seconds.



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Jennifer Best provides context on the 2022 grant review process.

Commissioners think it could be helpful for future years to have a list of organizations to fund with any potential surplus at the end of the year. It also could be helpful to do more outreach to organizations whose applications are not fully understood.

**VOTE:** Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia motions for a group of Commissioners (Jennifer Rubin, Christopher Huang, Cinda Danh, and Saatvik Ahluwalia) to meet together and work within the next two weeks to draft a list of groups to receive grants, and an emergency meeting will be held during the week of May 29th to make a final decision. Commissioner Meena Bharath seconds.

**YES:** Jennifer Rubin, Cinda Danh, Danielle Kim, Christopher Huang, Marilyn Park, Philjay Solar, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Meena Bharath, Amy Goh

The motion passes unanimously.

### **7. Bylaws discussion**

This will be postponed to the next meeting.

### **8. Youth Council visit State House on May 18**

ED Forbes gave a brief overview of the upcoming YC meeting with the Asian Caucus.

### **9. Chat & Learn for Commissioners**

Skipped for time.

### **10. Increase Youth Council to 10 members (including one PI candidate) (VOTE)**

**VOTE:** Meena motions to increase the YC to 10 members. Amy Goh seconds.

**YES:** Jennifer Rubin, Cinda Danh, Danielle Kim, Christopher Huang, Marilyn Park, Philjay Solar, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Amy Goh, Meena Bharath, Gary Chu

The motion passes unanimously.

### **Old Business**

#### **11. Update from Harvard Chan students**

A group of students from the Harvard Chan School gave an update on their conversations with community groups about the Commission, and how the Commission can better serve them. Some of the needs that were brought up were language access, data disaggregation, immigration/deportation concerns, culturally competent mental health, small business owners, housing issues, employment/workers' rights, and additional issues. Strengths of the Commission include breadth of geographic focus and access to legislators. Further considerations include more clarity around the Commission, more CBO engagement,



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revamp of listening sessions, more budget/funding transparency, grant size reconsideration for larger grants, and centralization among AAPI CBOs already done. Recommendations include coordination across the AAPI ecosystem, legislative and policy advocacy role. The Commission is grateful for the students' work!

*Commissioner Cinda Danh leaves at 7:59 PM.*

*Commissioner Danielle Kim leaves at 8:00 PM.*

**VOTE:** Commissioner Philjay Solar motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Marilyn Park seconds.

**YES:** Commissioners Jennifer Rubin, Christopher Huang, Marilyn Park, Philjay Solar, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Amy Goh, Meena Bharath, Gary Chu

**The motion passes unanimously.**

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.*

- 12. Update on Western Mass meeting**
- 13. Future Listening sessions: Youth, South East Asian groups, college students**
- 14. Sub-committees updates (including Unity Dinner)**
- 15. How bills are passed**
- 16. Future Agenda Items Suggestions**
- 17. Next Commission Meeting: June 20, 2023**



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