



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Chairperson
Pralhad KC

Vice Chairperson

Treasurer
Chung Liu

Secretary
Anil Saigal

Jonjy Ananth
Meenakshi Bharath*
Vira Douangmany Cage
Bora Chiemruom
Mary Chin
Vanna Howard
Nate Bae Kupel
Mabel Lam
Mary K. Y. Lee
Nina Liang*
Dimple Rana
Philjay Solar
Ying Wang

Executive Director
Jenny Chiang

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

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 4:30pm to 6:00pm
Asian American Civic Association, 87 Tyler St, Boston, MA 02111

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

1. Approval of minutes from June 12, 2019 – **VOTE**
 - Minutes approved - Meena abstains
2. Executive Committee Report
 - The Executive Director was asked to write a report on activities done in the past year
3. Salary review for Jessica Wong – **VOTE**
 - Jessica will be converting from part time of 30 hours to full time of 37.5 hours.
 - Discussion on 10 hours taken from AAC to supplement AAPI Civil Rights Forum; \$4000 will be provided by Ken from the EEOC AAPI Civil Rights Forum MOU
 - Anil motions for a salary of \$36,000 for Jessica to be converted to a full time exempt employee effective July 1, 2019, Vira seconds – motion passed unanimously
4. Annual Retreat Planning
 - Proposed dates (Sat. 9/14/19 or Sat. 9/21/19)
 - Proposed locations
 - Chung proposed a location in Springfield, MA. The Chinese restaurant (Four Seasons Buffet) will provide meeting space for free, food is served buffet style and will be at a per person cost. Parking is free.
 - Capital One on Boylston St in Boston offers nonprofits space for free
 - Jenny to provide a survey to Commissioners on possible dates & locations
5. Vice Chair Election – **VOTE**
 - 3 candidates were nominated as Vice Chair (Jonjy, Vira, Mary Lee)
 - The candidates provided remarks for why they were interested in running
 - Mary Lee – 6 votes
 - Vira Douangmany Cage – 3 votes
 - Jonjy Ananth – 1 vote
 - Mary Lee elected as Vice Chair for the remainder of the 2019 term
6. Subcommittee updates (if any): max time 3 mins each
 - Unity Dinner/Fundraiser (Anil, Pralhad, & Vanna, Co-Chairs)
 - Discussion on new Chairs needed for the next Unity Dinner
 - Vira nominated Vanna to Chair again
 - Legislation Committee (Nate, Chair)
 - Nate is working on scheduling a meeting with the Asian Caucus to discuss the census and educational work being done in the community



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PR Committee (Mary L., Chair)

- Mary L. clarified that the event will invite all Asian American performance categories, not just lion dance.
- \$5000 seed money will be for marketing (large posters and programming for final competition)
- Mary proposed setting up an escrow account for sponsorship money to award winning performers. Jenny has been tasked with contacting the Ethics Commission to see if we are able to use this process.
- Nate raised concerns regarding liability for performers. Discussion on whether insurance may be provided by MIT.
- Vira proposed reaching out to nonprofits to co-sponsor to handle funds. Mary stated that Rep. Tackey Chan is a co-sponsor for the event.

Finance/Admin (Chung, Chair)

- Jenny reached out to the Auditor's office to inquire about auditing. The Auditor's office explained that since AAC is considered under purview of the Treasury, they would have to audit the entire Treasury.
- Anil proposed getting approval from the Treasury to get audited
- Proposal for internal audit for AAC before hiring an external auditor
- Vira asked what checks and balances are in place. Jenny stated that our tax preparer found no discrepancies and we file an annual report with the state.
- Jonjy asked who the current signatories are. Jenny stated that signatories are the Chair and Treasurer, as well as the ED for up to \$500.
- The EC will look into CPAs to work on an audit

Health and Human Services (Mary C. & Vanna, Co-Chairs)

- Vanna was ratified as a Co-Chair
- Commissioners asked to let Jenny know if they are interested in joining the committee
- The committee is looking for hold a meeting soon

Young Leaders Symposium (Nina, Chair)

- Nina will hold a meeting soon
- A survey was sent out to help structure the next YLS meeting. A winner for the \$25 Visa gift card was picked at the meeting
- Sumachala123@gmail.com was picked as the survey winner at random. Jenny will be in contact with the individual for pickup of the gift card.

Economic Development (Mary C., Chair)

- Mary C. held a meeting yesterday with Nate and Bora. Nate mentioned that GMAACC became aware of a report by ACDC on affordable housing in Malden. Nate was asked to reach out to GMAACC to see if AAC can be involved in a possible event.
- City of Malden is interested in looking at the next steps on affordable housing. GMAACC is interested in advocacy steps for seeing what possible next steps are for developing affordable housing.



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7. Old business
 - No additional old business at this time
8. New Business
 - Survey results for the new monthly meeting time were compiled and sent to all Commissioners. The best meeting dates are the first Monday of the month from 5:30pm – 7pm.
 - Pralhad will be featured in MIRA
 - Philjay has been contacted by the Northshore Filipino Festival in Salem on August 24 to represent AAC.
 - Annual Southeast Water Festival in Lowell on August 17. AAC tabled last year. Vanna proposed that we table again, the deadline is July 20.
 - Sara Ting from World Unity Inc. shared a poem addressing discrimination. Asked that the poem be used internally by all State employees as a tool to promote inclusion. Asked AAC to help move the tool to the Governor's office.
9. Next Commission meeting: Every second Wednesday, August 14, 2019
 - The next meeting will take place on Monday, August 5 in Chinatown.
10. Other Community updates & Meeting adjourned
 - Motion to adjourn meeting – Motion passed