



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chairperson

Pralhad KC

### Vice Chairperson

Mary K. Y. Lee

### Treasurer

Chung Liu

### Secretary

Anil Saigal

Jonjy Ananth  
Meenakshi Bharath  
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Mary Chin  
Vanna Howard  
Nate Bae Kupel  
Mabel Lam  
**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

Annual Retreat, Saturday, September 14, 2019 @ 11:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Tufts University, Burden Lounge  
Anderson Hall Science and Engineering Complex  
200 College Avenue, Medford, MA 02155

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

### Approval of minutes from August 5, 2019 - VOTE

- Mary motions, Philjay seconds
- Mabel has questions about minutes
- Mary Lee suggests to move discussion to next meeting
- Mabel motions to delay minutes for discussion at October meeting
- Bora seconds - motion passed
- Anil abstains

### History of AAC: Rep. Tackey Chan

- Modeled after Women's Commission
- Tackey filed bill in 2006, passed in 2007

### Rep. Tram Nguyen

- Expanding in legislation, visibility, population
- Vietnamese specialist for 2010 Census

### Nate Bae Kupel

- Motion to not give sub-committee updates until October 2019 meeting. Bora Chiemruom seconds - Motion passes

### Commission discussion – Strategic Planning

#### Anil & Mary L: Office Space

- Nate motions to defer sub-committee updates to October meeting due to time constraints. Bora seconds - Motion passes
- Mary Lee begins with DCAMM proposing a draft license agreement rather than a lease agreement. Mary stated that there if there are no questions or revisions, the agreement will be sent for approval from the legal counsel for DCAMM, once that is approved, the Commission will move forward for a vote at the next meeting to proceed on getting the office space. Anil and Mary clarifies that DCAMM is involved because AAC is using state funding for this office space, DCAMM ensures AAC is following regulations, meet state requirements, and the price is reasonable.



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- Anil states that this is a sub-lease from Cambridge Neighborhood Associates. Anil states that sub-lease is a one year lease but we have the option after six months to increase lease or get out of lease. DCAMM assigns their state employee to see the space in person. Anil states that unless there is a major flaw with the space, AAC will tell DCAMM on Monday 9/16/19 that this space is agreeable. If all goes well, AAC will be able to move in October 1st. There is a 30 day probation should AAC choose that this space does not work out, AAC can leave and not continue with lease. Rent is \$1400 a month plus utilities is \$1750.
- Vira proposes taking more time projecting into the future and taking steps into around supporting infrastructure in Western MA.
- Mabel expresses concern that there is nothing that shows the 30-day agreement to leave the space. There was no vote for a sub-committee to look for an office space.
- Mary Lee says this was the agreement from the most recent meeting and was recorded in the minutes. After the full commission approved of the search committee, Mary states that they had long discussions with Martha from DCAMM. Mary states that Martha fears that they will lose funding and she feels that AAC should go into the license instead of a lease which incorporates the 30-day exit option.
- Jenny states that DCAMM took the lease, drafted a license agreement, the draft was not yet sent out to the entire Commission because it was not emailed until late Friday 9/13/19 night
- Vira states there is nothing on the agenda that AAC is taking a vote.
- Mary Lee states that this is not a vote for whether AAC will obtain the office space or not, it is for DCAMM to review the license agreement. Mary Lee states that this is not about renting the space, that a consensus is needed.
- Bora states that anything needing a vote needs to be on the meeting agenda to not violate open meeting law.
- Anil states that AAC's final decision as it stands is to tell DCAMM that AAC is not pursuing the space.
- Philjay suggests to forfeit opportunity.
- Anil states that we are forfeiting opportunity.
- Vira proposes to have executive session to discuss staff/commissioner complaints at a future meeting.

### Upcoming Events

- Philjay updates Commission on YLS event on October 5th
- Keynote speaker - Tony Delarosa
- Sponsorships from YKCC and Enterprise Bank

Motion to adjourn meeting - motion passed unanimously