



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chairperson

Vira Douangmany Cage\*

### Vice Chairperson

Mabel Lam\*

### Treasurer

Bora Chiemruom\*

### Secretary

Philjay Solar\*

Jonjy Ananth\*

Meenakshi Bharath

Mary Chin\*

Gilbert Ho

Vanna Howard

Samuel Hyun\*

Pralhad KC\*

Danielle Kim\*

Betty King\*

Nate Bae Kupel

Wingkay Leung

Mary K. Y. Lee\*

Nina Liang

Dimple Rana

Haniya Syeda

Ying Wang

### Executive Director

Jenny Chiang

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

www.aacommission.org

## Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2020, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/98952990575>

Meeting ID: 989 5299 0575

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,98952990575# US (New York)

+13126266799,,98952990575# US (Chicago)

Meeting held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19

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

### Attachments:

- Executive Committee Report
- Staff Report
- Meeting Minutes, March 27, 2020
- Meeting Minutes, March 31, 2020
- 2020 Nonprofit Budget / FY20 State Appropriation
- Proposal to Reorganize Committees
- Website Design Quotes
- COVID-19 Grant Application Draft

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm

Staff present: Jenny Chiang, Jay Wong, Brooke Yuen

### 1. Approval of minutes from March 27, 2020 and March 31, 2020

#### March 27, 2020 Minutes

- Vira asks if there's anything that needs to be changed. Betty states that OML was not abided as less than 48 hours notice was given. Mabel states on March 27, the Governor declared a State of Emergency and suspended requirements for open meeting law.
- Danielle moves to approve the minutes from March 27, 2020, Sam seconds.
  - o Vote
    - Yes – Vira, Sam, Mabel, Danielle, Bora
    - Abstain – Betty, Mary L, Pralhad
  - o Motion passed

#### March 31, 2020 Minutes

- Betty moves to amend the minutes and make corrections per a previous email correspondence to Commissioners regarding MOU for Bhutanese



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Society of Western MA, acting on proposal from an auditing firm, and FY20 budget.

- Betty moves to amend the meeting minutes.
  - o Vote
    - Yes - Betty, Mary L, Jonjy, Mary C.
    - No - Mabel, Vira, Danielle, Bora, Philjay, Sam
    - Abstain – Pralhad
  - o Motion did not pass

- Philjay motions to table approval to next meeting, Betty seconds. Betty will work with Jenny and Philjay to correct the minutes. Vira called for any objections - None heard. Approval of minutes will be tabled.

## 2. Executive Committee & Staff Report

- Jenny provided an overview of the Executive Committee report
- Jay and Brooke provided an overview of the staff report

## 3. Proposal to Reorganize Committees

Vira provided an overview of proposed committees at the meeting on March 31, 2020 with the following Chairs.

- Governance Chair: Sam Hyun
- Finance Chair: Bora Chiemruom
- Communications Chair: Danielle Kim
- Civil Rights Chair: Bora Chiemruom
- Development Chair: Vanna Howard
- Leadership Development Chair: Philjay Solar
- Education Chair: Meena Bharath
- Health & Human Services: Mabel Lam
- Small Business & Economic Development: Nina Liang

Danielle notes that the previous minutes need to be corrected to add Sam Hyun and Nina Liang as Chairs. Jenny clarifies that at the last meeting, proposed changes to the committees was introduced. This meeting will vote on accepting the changes and updating our bylaws. Mary L asks for discussion on additional committees. Vira proposes to have a discussion at a future meeting.

- Vote to approve changes and update our bylaws
  - o Yes – Mabel, Mary L, Danielle, Jonjy, Philjay, Bora, Vira, Sam
  - o No – Mary C, Betty
  - o Abstain – Pralhad
- Changes were accepted

## 4. COVID-19 Next Steps

- Sam and staff have been in contact with the Attorney General’s office to ensure there are multilingual hotlines for reporting
- There have been discussion in the committee to bring a proposal to DESE for teaching and learning tools for anti-Asian discrimination in schools.



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Still working on the development and it will be shared with the Commission for input.

- Betty asks if there are any reports from the Attorney General or DA. Sam states that those records are confidential. Betty asked if there are statistics of incidents. Sam states that there was no formal request for statistics. Mary C asks if AAC can ask for these statistics. Sam agrees that the request for a general overview would be an appropriate ask.
- Sam states that in New York, the Attorney General created a hotline to report hate crimes against Asian Americans
- Bora suggests adding hotline information to AAC newsletter and social media. Bora commends Sam's work on anti-Asian discrimination, which has elevated AAC tremendously.

## 5. COVID-19 Emergency Grant Application

- Jenny provided overview of the adjusted State budget to allocate funding towards the COVID-19 grant.
- Mary C suggests Bora organize the finance committee to meet weekly.
- Betty states that the OIG suggests an auditing committee
- Betty states that the original budget did not allocate \$5000 to Western MA

### Discussion on application draft

- Danielle states that the grant specifies that applicants must be 501(c)3 and asks that we allow for small businesses to also apply.
- Betty suggests creating a task force to have representative way to support the community. Betty proposes dividing funds among the Commissioners to distribute funding to those they feel are in need to empower the Commissioners and engage them with the community.
- Danielle state that there is an Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund run by the Asian Community Development Corporation. The AAC grant is meant to not duplicate their efforts as they provide individual relief and this grant is directed towards nonprofits and small businesses.

Philjay motions to close the debate, Bora seconds.

Danielle moves to approve the amended grant application criteria to include small businesses in addition to nonprofits. Philjay seconds.

- Vote
  - o Yes – Bora, Sam, Mabel, Mary L, Vira, Danielle, Philjay, Jonjy, Betty, Mary C, Pralhad
- Motion passed

### Formation of committee to review applications

- Jenny will email Commissioners sign up for new committees added today, including the application review committee.

## 6. AAC Website Development (Jenny, 10 mins)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion.



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## 7. Subcommittee updates (if any)

Unity Dinner/Fundraiser (Vanna, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion.

Legislation Committee (Nate, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion.

PR Committee (Mary L., Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion.

Finance/Admin (Bora, Chair)

- Mary C suggests the committee convene to see if we want to change it to an audit committee. Betty and Mary C are interested in joining the finance committee

Health and Human Services (Mabel, Chair)

- Mabel introduces that the MPA is interested in collaborating with AAC
- Mary C expressed that she is not comfortable to have a standing relationship with the other organization. She suggests bringing proposed events for the Commission to approve.
- Mabel expresses that she is introducing the idea for comment
- Danielle supports seeing what a future collaboration could look like.
- Vira encourages Mabel seek out what a collaboration would look like.

Young Leaders Symposium (Nina & Philjay, Co-Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion.

Economic Development (Mary C., Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion.

## 8. Old business

### 9. New Business

- Sam proposes to follow Roberts Rules to enforce time limits for Commissioners. Mary suggests having two meetings a month rather than to meet monthly and requests a vote at the next meeting.

## 10. Next Commission meeting

## 11. Other Community updates & Meeting adjourned

Vira calls for the meeting to adjourn at 8:41pm.