



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Philjay Solar

Haniya Syeda

### Executive Director

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aapicommission.org

## Minutes

Nov 15, 2022, 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: Oct 18, 2022,
- FY22 state budget spreadsheet
- FY22 non-profit account info
- Executive/Staff reports
- Non-profit Tax 2021 invoice
- Budget of Unity Dinner 2021
- Western Mass program with JDs
- Information on closing CD
- Pacific Islanders listening session and Health Coordinator

**Commissioners Present:** Commissioner Meena Bharath, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Megha Prasad, Commissioner Philjay Solar, Commissioner Ekta Saksena, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Cinda Danh, Commissioner Mary Chin (8)

*Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner KC are unable to join.*

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Yasmin, Communications & Outreach Manager Jennifer Best, Program & Research Director Esther, Youth Coordinator Abdul Haseeb Hamza, Development and Communications Coordinator Bonnie Chen

### 1. Call to order

The meeting is called to order at 6:40 pm.

### 2. Commissioners Check-in: 5 minutes

### 3. Public Comment Period: 2 mins

### 4. Community Dialogue: 10 mins

- Mohan Nannapaneni, [TEAM Aid, Inc](#)

Mohan provides information about their organization, which provides aid to those traveling abroad and pass away, helping their families connect to funeral homes, afford culturally appropriate funerals, transport remains, and more. They also do work related to domestic violence, including with the organization Saheli, and mental health and criminalization issues.

- Pata Suyemoto, AWFH and [National AAPI Mental Health Association](#).

Pata provides information about their organization, focusing on a holistic, culturally appropriate approach to psychological and physical health. She requests aid in applying for



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a proclamation from Gov.-elect Maura Healey declaring May 10th as AAPI Mental Health Day.

- **Chien-Chi Huang, [Asian Women for Health \(AWFH\)](#)**

Chien-Chi provides information about their organization, which provides culturally-responsive and gender-specific programs and support for Asian women and their loved ones. They have collaborated with NAAPIMHA. They are doing [mental health first aid training](#), which Commissioners/staff are welcome to join in January. They are launching a workforce development program to train Asian women as community health workers in March. They are also asking for support in their [Asian American Mental Health Forum](#). They are also working to increase the representation of Asian women in health studies and research. They also have an [anti-racism page and resources](#).

Commissioner Chin joins at 6:50 pm.

### **5. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 3 minutes**

#### **a. Oct 18, 2022 (VOTE)**

**VOTE:** Commissioner Solar moves to approve the meeting minutes from October 18, 2022. Commissioner Danh seconds.

**YES:** Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Chin, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Bharath.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

### **6. Reports: 10 minutes**

#### **a. Executive & Staff Reports**

- **ED report - Yasmin**

Yasmin provides updates about new Commissioners, a new health intern, small grants sub-committee, a Lowell listening session, along with other key projects. If any Commissioners are interested in joining the small grants subcommittee, please reach out to Yasmin. Everyone who has not been officially sworn-in in-person will be invited to the Swearing-In Ceremony.

- **Programs - Esther**

Esther provides updates about the 2023 Unity Dinner. The location will be in or near Quincy. Esther welcomes more Commissioners to join the Unity Dinner Committee. The preliminary theme is health, and suggestions for keynote speakers are welcome.

- **Communications – Jennifer/Bonnie**

Jennifer provides updates about social media, hiring of interns, development of annual report, and planning of the 2023 swearing-in ceremony. She requests that all Commissioners fill out [this form](#) about the work they have done with the Commission this year.

- **Youth Council - Haseeb**

Haseeb provides updates about the hiring of the Youth Coordinator and Youth Council members. Commissioners are welcome to join the second round of interviews for the Youth Coordinator.



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### b. EC Report

Commissioner Danielle Kim has been working with the EC, her Youth Council mentee, staff, and coworkers at ACF to talk with the Asian Caucus about ethnic studies. Meena suggests these conversations happen in the Government Relations Subcommittee in the new year.

### c. Sub-committees

Commissioner Chin left the meeting at 7:15 pm.

### Old Business

#### 7. AAPIC Bylaws Change (from the previous agenda: Quorum and election date) (VOTE): 10 minutes

In the previous agenda, it was suggested to move elections to June from December. Commissioners discuss moving elections to January, not June, so more people can be involved. This would be implemented starting in January 2024.

**VOTE:** Commissioner Gary Chu moves to change the election date from every December to every January at the regularly scheduled Commission meeting. Commissioner Prasad seconds.

YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Danh, and Commissioner Bharath.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

Commissioners discuss quorum and Commissioner attendance, pointing out that it is difficult even to meet a 50% majority, let alone a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority. Bylaws require Commissioners unable to attend a meeting to notify the ED and EC, but there is no enforcement mechanism. This issue can be tabled in the future when there are more people.

**VOTE:** Commissioner Gary Chu moves forward to shift the election date from 2023 forward, making the next EC term 13 months. Commissioner Ekta Saksena seconds

YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Bharath.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

#### 8. Change the date of the AAPIC meeting to Thursday, Dec 8, or Monday, Dec 12, to accommodate holidays (VOTE): 5 mins

**VOTE:** Commissioner Solar moves to change the date of the AAPIC meeting to Monday, Dec 12. Commissioner Gary Chu seconds

YES: Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Chin, Commissioner Bharath.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

Commissioner Mary Chin rejoins at 7:42 pm.



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### **9. Information on upcoming EC elections and EC elected for fiscal year (extension as per agenda 9): 5 mins**

Commissioners can nominate themselves or other Commissioners to run for EC. There is a discussion about paying EC members so that all people can access serving on the Commission and the EC, but it seems that it likely is not allowed.

### **10. Close CD accounts at RocklandTrust and East-West Bank and transfer money to Eastern Bank or the most appropriate bank. Possibility of moving funds to the Treasury next year: 3 mins (VOTE)**

**VOTE:** Commissioner Solar moves to close CD accounts at Rockland Trust and East-West Bank and transfer money to Eastern Bank. Commissioner Danh seconds.

**YES:** Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Chin, and Commissioner Bharath.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

#### **New Business:**

### **11. Explanation of expenditures. Payment of \$1,600 to tax firm and \$17,000 for Unity Dinner expenses from the AAPIC non-profit account: 5 mins (VOTE)**

**VOTE:** Commissioner Solar moves to approve payment of \$1,600 to tax firm and \$17,000 for Unity Dinner expenses from the AAPIC non-profit account. Commissioner Gary Chu seconds.

**YES:** Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Chin, and Commissioner Bharath.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

Commissioner Mary Chin leaves the meeting at 8:20 pm.

### **12. Description of Western Mass Advisory group and JD of Intern**

Commissioner Richard Chu gives updates on the next steps following the Western Mass listening session and context for the Western Mass Coordinator proposal. The Western Mass Coordinator (intern) position will be an interim position until a more permanent position can be created with an increased budget.

Commissioner Danh leaves the meeting at 8:21 pm. Due to a loss of quorum, the meeting was adjourned.

### **13. Transfer \$6000 from subcommittee funds to pay for the stipend for the Western Mass Coordinator (Intern): 3 mins (VOTE)**

### **14. Future Agenda Items Suggestions: 2 mins**

### **15. Next Commission Meeting: TBC**



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*\*Anyone wishing to address the AAPI Commission during the Public Comment section of the agenda may indicate that by "raising their hand" virtually and will be recognized by the Chair. Speakers are asked to identify themselves and provide an address, and each speaker is limited to not more than three (3) minutes.*

*Although the public comments should, whenever possible, address one or more items on the agenda for that particular meeting, if time permits, the Chair may allow a speaker to comment on matters that may not directly address an item on the agenda but do concern the Commission or AAPI matters in MA.*



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