



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Nina Liang*

Dimple Rana

Philjay Solar*

Haniya Syeda

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2022, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83421971270>

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

Present Commissioners are marked with a *.

Commissioners present: Commissioner Liang, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Bae Kupel, Commissioner G. Chu, Commissioner Huang, Commissioner R. Chu, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Chin

Staff present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Marketing & Communications Manager Sheila Vo, Development & Communications Coordinator Bonnie Chen

Members of the public: None

Meeting is recorded.

Attachments:

- Meeting minutes: November 16, 2021, December 14, 2021,
- FY22 state budget spreadsheet
- FY22 nonprofit budget spreadsheet
- Executive/Staff reports
- AAC Elections Policy
- EC Candidate Statements
- Description of Sub-Committees 2021
- Google Form for retreat dates

1. Call to order

- Meeting is called to order at 6:32 pm.

Commissioner Bae Kupel noted that the AAPIC Secretary, Commissioner Saksena, won't join us; therefore, Yasmin and Bonnie will fill in for her. Thank you in advance for that. Commissioner Bae Kupel apologies in advance if he might have any missteps here as we go through the schedule and get through all the agenda items.

2. Welcome & Introductions with New Commissioners

Dr. Leo L. Hwang, Assistant Academic Dean, UMass Amherst, introduced himself.



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Commissioner Hwang is the Assistant Dean of Academics at the College of Natural Sciences at UMass Amherst. Auditor Bump appointed him. He lives in Montague, Western Massachusetts, and is looking forward to serving everyone.

Dr. Richard Chu, Five College Professor of History, UMass Amherst. Commissioner Chu notes that Commissioner Bae Kupel was his student and now serves on the Commission. Commissioner Chu has been a history professor for the past 18 years, where he teaches a course on Asian American history.

In the past five years, Commissioner Chu added a civic engagement component for students to conduct oral histories of members of the different Asian American communities in Western Massachusetts. Commissioner Chu has been coordinating with Asian American groups, including the Bhutanese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino, Cambodian, and it was through Vera he got to know about the AAPIC. He hopes we can soon have in-person interaction with the community members and attend the presentation of the oral histories. Commissioner Chu is pleased to be here and for the support from AAPIC.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – VOTE

o November 16, 2021

Yes: Commissioner Liang, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Bae Kupel

No: NIL

Abstain: Commissioner G. Chu, Commissioner Huang, Commissioner R. Chu, Commissioner Lee

8 Yes and 4 Abstentions. Minutes passes.

o December 14, 2021

YES: Commissioner Liang, Commissioner G. Chu, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Bae Kupel

No: NIL

Abstain: Commissioner Huang, Commissioner R. Chu, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Bharath

7 Yes and 5 Abstentions. Minutes passes.



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4. Executive & Staff Reports

Commissioner Bae Kupel opens up the floor to anyone if there are any questions for Yasmin or the Staff team about their staff reports.

Commissioner Bharath notes that the staff report is an excellent summary, especially the Youth Council orientation, which was a fantastic job done. Commissioner Bae Kupel agrees, reflecting on the launch of our Youth Council. We got to see our new youth council members come on board, which is a big win. Commissioner Bae Kupel thanks Commissioner Bharath, Yasmin, the staff team, and Haseeb, our Youth Coordinator, for helping with getting the Youth Council up and running.

5. Executive Committee – VOTE

- Vote for Chair of AAPIC

Commissioner Bae Kupel reiterates that the Chair plays a vital role in the Commission. This role will serve on our executive committee as Chair, and the duties of the Chair are to help provide leadership and support to the Commission, Executive Committee, and staff.

Commissioner Bae Kupel notes that two outstanding commissioners are running for the Chair, and he has absolute trust in both. It's always tough; to select just one Chair when there's so much that both of them will bring to this role. It is a tough decision as many Commissioners have worked with both candidates, making this a difficult choice. He trusts that each Commissioner has reviewed the candidate's statements and what they will bring to the position of the Chair.

According to our election policy, I will allow each candidate a few minutes to make statements before conducting another roll call vote in the event of a tie. This policy is just to put it out there as a procedural note before we get going into our votes. Commissioner Bae Kupel thanked both candidates for their Commission work and leadership and moved into the voting.

Commissioner Bae Kupel says he will go down the roll call, and everyone will say who they're voting for, either Commissioner Prasad or Commissioner Bharath.

Commissioner Bharath: Commissioner Liang, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner R. Chu, Commissioner G. Chu, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Lee, and Commissioner Bae Kupel.

It is a unanimous vote for Commissioner Bharath as Chair of AAPIC.



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Commissioner Bae Kupel congratulates Commissioner Bharath as the new Chair of the Commission. He reiterates thanks to both candidates and their leadership to the Commission and is highly grateful for all they've done and all they'll continue to do for us.

Commissioner Bharath is congratulated on her newly appointed role as Chair of AAPIC. Commissioner Bharath thanks all the members of the Commission. Commissioner Bharath says she appreciates the vote from Commissioner Prasad. Commissioner Bharath said she did not anticipate so much support and looks forward to working with sincerity with the Commissioners help. She extends thank you to the entire Commission.

6. Sub-Committee Updates

Commissioner Bae Kupel asks for any sub-committee updates. Commissioner Solar reports that he plans to with the Unity gala subcommittee, and by the next AAPIC meeting, he will have updates.

In 2019, the Commission did not host the Unity Gala. For that Gala, the AAPIC had voted that Michael Liu would receive our Lifetime Achievement Recipient. The Yuri Kochiyama Cultural Center at UMass Amherst will be presented with a Leadership for Inclusion and Diversity Award. Carolyn Rubin was selected as the Community Awardee. These recipients will be awarded during our 2022 Unity Gala. We will have two speakers: Erica Moritsugu, the Deputy Assistant to the President and API under CA, Senior Liaison, and Sue Kim, Co-director for the Center for Asian American Studies and Associate Dean at UMass Lowell.

Commissioner Solar noted that the Unity Dinner is an annual gala for the AAPI community to celebrate the year. This year's gala will include a fundraiser, silent auction, and performances. Date: Friday, May 6th, 2022, at the UMass Lowell Convention Center.

Commissioner Bae Kupel shared that with the committee structure, there are various functions for helping with the Unity Gala, from PR marketing, the programming itself, assisting with attendance and its logistics, the awards, and sponsorship and VIP handling. Commissioner Bae Kupel invited Commissioners to join in this critical annual effort of the AAPIC and to please reach out to Commissioner Solar or Executive Director Yasmin.

7. AAPI Commission Retreat - VOTE

Commissioner Bae Kupel said that the AAPIC had a retreat in 2019 to hone in on some of our strategic priorities, assess the community's needs, and guide our work. The AAPIC usually holds retreats virtually as the Commissioners are based across



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MA. The concept behind this year's retreat is to get to know one another better. The retreat will be on Zoom, with an opportunity to get to know each other better, discuss our priorities, the issues we care about, and brainstorm on what we can do collectively to assist our communities. We've got a couple of dates and times for the retreat.

However, we will do this because commissioners not here today should participate; this poll will be live through next week, Monday, February 22. If you can complete it now while you're in the meeting, please do; if not, we will circulate it via email for you to complete by email and by the following Monday.

- Poll: 9 am start or 1 pm start on March 26, 2022, or April 9, 2022 (select by February 22)
- Retreat will happen virtually. The retreat will be approximately 3 hours.

Commissioner Kim asks whether the retreat would be virtual or in-person and how long were we anticipating it?

Commissioner Bae Kupel clarifies that it will be on Zoom and defers the latter question to Executive Director Yasmin. Executive Director Yasmin says the EC proposed a retreat at 9 am or 1 pm. One meeting time would be an AM start and have lunch at the end or lunch first and retreat after starting at 1 pm. The two days are March 26 and April 9, 2022.

Commissioner Bae Kupel adds, saying part of the rationale behind offering this retreat with options of in-person or remote is to provide opportunities for those who wish to join in-person and for others where it can be more convenient to participate via zoom.

8. Old and New Business

Commissioner Bae Kupel shares the importance of inviting our community members for the AAPIC meetings. The commission has done this in different capacities over the years since he has been involved. Commissioner Bae Kupel comments it's an important way for us to ensure that we're listening and offering the opportunity for community members to come and speak with us.

9. Next Commission Meeting: March 15th, 2022

10. Other community updates. Meeting adjourned

Commissioner Bharath wishes everyone a Happy New Year and Lunar New Year. Commissioner Bharath shares that we expect some new year's events to happen



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even within the Indian American community, and folks are happy that the case counts are coming down. Commissioner Bharath extends an invite to Commissioners who can join.

Marketing & Communications Manager Sheila Vo wanted to know if Commissioners appreciate Monthly Recaps of staff programming and updates. Commissioner Bae Kupel says yes and follows up with a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Liang motions, Commissioner Bharath seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Liang, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Bae Kupel

Meeting is adjourned at 7:05 pm.