



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Betty King*

Nate Bae Kupel*

Mary K. Y. Lee*

Nina Liang*

Megha Prasad*

Dimple Rana

Ekta Saksena*

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

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Minutes

Nov 16, 2021, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

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

*Please note 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

Commissioners Present: Chair Sam Hyun, Commissioner Danielle Kim, Commissioner Pralhad KC, Commissioner Bora Chiemruom, Commissioner Philjay Solar, Commissioner Nina Liang, Commissioner Ekta Saksena, Commissioner Nate Bae Kupel, Commissioner Mary Chin, Commissioner Meena Bharath, Commissioner Betty King, Commissioner Megha Prasad, Commissioner Mary Lee

Staff Present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Marketing & Communications Manager Sheila Vo, Development & Comms Coordinator Bonnie Chen, Policy Coordinator Derek Yuan

Attachments:

- Meeting minutes: Oct 19, 2021
- Election Policy doc
- FY21 state budget spreadsheet
- FY21 nonprofit budget spreadsheet
- Executive/Staff reports

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Hyun calls the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Chair Hyun recognizes the vital milestone today with the first Asian American being sworn in as Boston's Mayor. He congratulates Commissioner Nina Liang for her reelection to Quincy City Council and thanks Commissioners Nate Bae Kupel and Vira Douangmany Cage for their courageous runs for office.

2. Meeting Minutes – VOTE

- Oct 19 Monthly meeting

Commissioner Liang motions to approve the Oct 19 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kim seconds.

Ayes: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Chiemruom, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Chin, Chair Hyun

Nays: None

Abstain: Commissioner Bae Kupel, Commissioner Liang, Commissioner Bharath

Motion passes with seven votes in the affirmative and three abstentions.



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3. Executive & Staff Reports

The Executive Director welcomes questions on Executive and staff reports. The Executive Director invites the Marketing & Communications Manager to give an update on the AAPIC's name change, with everyone's email being @aapicommission.org. The Marketing & Communications Manager shares that she will work with everyone with an AAC email address to transition to the new AAPIC name formatting. She will also make sure everyone who has an AAPIC email will get the signature template and update the website and social media channels. The Executive Director expresses appreciation for Sheila and Bonnie for their hard work on the name change.

Commissioner Bharath commends the staff on organizing an excellent program for the Youth Leadership Symposium. She also applauds the team for their hard work identifying diverse Youth Council members. Chair Hyun thanks Commissioner Bharath for moderating an excellent panel at YLS.

4. Executive Committee Elections Information

Chair Hyun reviews the Executive Committee elections policy and upcoming deadlines, noting the following points:

- Third week of November. At the (AAPIC) meeting, the call for nomination will be initiated. All interested Commissioners can nominate themselves or can be nominated by other Commissioners.
- During this week, the Executive Director (ED) will confirm with all nominees their willingness to serve and to submit a candidate statement.
- By the First week of December, all nominees (self and by others) must submit a brief candidate statement to the ED.
- State position to which the nomination is made: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- Write two brief 250-word limit statements, each responding to the following questions: "Why do you want to run?" and "What do you envision for the AAPIC next year?"
- The ED will compile all the candidate statements and send out all complete nominations with the supporting materials to Commissioners for review by the second week of December.
- Third week of December. Commissioners will vote during the AAPIC meeting. All candidates must be present in person for the voting; otherwise, you will be disqualified from consideration.



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Chair Hyun opens the floor for discussion. Commissioner Bharath raises questions about the timing of the elections process, noting that other bodies initiate the process once the newly elected Commissioners are on board.

Chair Hyun expresses appreciation for Commissioner Bharath's comments. Commissioner Kim notes that the new commissioners are not sworn in until later in January. The nomination process would need to be introduced in February, and the elections could not happen until March. She acknowledges the complexity of the issue and recommends that the Governance sub-committee look into this issue further, given there are several complex matters with this.

Commissioner Bae Kupel highlights that the December timeline is written into our bylaws; therefore, if we were to consider this change, we would also need two months to initiate any potential bylaw change.

Commissioner Kim noted that the same issue was brought up last year. The new EC was posted to the public at the end of December. Commissioner Bharath said that the ED takes ownership and follow up for moving the elections to Jan 2022. Commissioner Kim noted that it is good to follow up in the governance sub-committee. The elections should be brought up in September or October, and we will need to change the election policy and review.

Chair Hyun expresses appreciation for everyone's suggestions and commits to ensuring that the Governance sub-committee works with the Executive Director to review the bylaws and the approved elections policy.

Commissioner KC notes that he recalls that elections used to be in January, but the Commissioners decided in November 2018 to move it to December. It was changed as the new commissioners were not sure about the procedure. Commissioner King asked if the bylaws were changed, and elections were held. Commissioner KC responds yes.

Commissioner Kim asked if newly appointed commissioners could participate in the previous January executive commission elections. Commissioner KC noted that only commissioners who were sworn in at the time could participate, not the newly appointed commissioners.

The Executive Director asks if commissioners seeking to be reappointed to a second term can run for the Executive Committee without being sworn in for a second term. Chair Hyun states that his understanding of the bylaws is that this is permissible.

Chair Hyun suggested that we can have a special election if any of the elected executive committee members were not reelected to a second term. This will be a priority to look at within the governance committee.



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Commissioner Bae Kupel notes that since our bylaws state that our officers are on the calendar year, our current Executive Committee's terms end in December. He notes that it takes two months to amend the bylaws, and the timing is such that the current EC members' terms will elapse. He recommends proceeding with the election in December and tasking the Governance Committee to review the feasibility of the changes to the bylaws in the upcoming calendar year.

Commissioner King reiterates Commissioner KC's question about the viability of a Commissioner seeking a second term to run for the Executive Committee. Commissioner King states that a dilemma is that there are commissioners who are seeking reelection who are not yet confirmed for a second term.

Commissioner Chiemruom expresses support for Commissioner Bae Kupel's proposal. According to our bylaws, all changes require two months of consideration. In the interest of time, she recommends holding off for next year. Commissioner King agrees that it is too late to defer the election for this year. Chair Hyun said that you can technically still run for the EC as long as you are on the Commission.

Commissioner Kim asked Commissioner Solar if he experienced it was an issue when he stood for elections. Commissioner Solar said he was aware that he would be able to be nominated before he stood for elections.

Commissioner Bae Kupel noted in chat that "Perhaps a way to address this offline is to seek legal counsel. I can't imagine we are the only Commission who has dealt with an issue like this. It would ensure we are not violating laws which I believe is what Commissioner Chin is getting at."

Commissioner KC asks whether newly elected Commissioners would be allowed to vote in the election if they were moved to January.

Commissioner Chiemruom states that we should first see who is looking to run for executive Committee and whether there are any Commissioners seeking reappointment who are interested in running.

Commissioner King states that if a Commissioner who is seeking reappointment runs for executive Committee and wins, this could potentially force the hand of the appointing authorities to select them for a second term.

Commissioner Bae Kupel responds that other Commissions have addressed the issue of Commissioners seeking a second term running for executive office. He encourages the Executive Director to consult for legal advice. He asks for clarification on how to nominate someone for the Executive Committee.

Chair Hyun reiterated the process of elections. Commissioner Bae Kupel asked how to submit the nomination. Commissioner Kim noted that the ED sent out an



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email on the exact method on every step of the process to the full Commission on how to apply the EC.

Commissioner Liang supports Commissioner Bae Kupel and Commissioner Chiemruom's suggestions to move forward with the election timeline this year and have the Governance Committee explore this matter further over the next couple of months for consideration for 2022-2023.

Chair Hyun will report to the full Commission on updates on the elections process.

5. Sub-Committee Updates

Chair Hyun asks Commissioner Solar to provide updates on YLS. Commissioner Solar expresses appreciation for the great speakers. He states that the YLS scholarships are delayed for a few weeks. Commissioner Solar says that voting on the recommendations for scholarship recipients will happen at the December meeting.

Commissioner Solar also proposes holding a hybrid or in-person Unity Gala in May. He notes that the UMass Lowell Convention Center is still reserved. He suggests the following dates: Fri, May 6; Fri, May 13; or Fri, May 20. (will be voted on at the next AAPIC meeting). He offers to assist the transition to the next Vice-Chair, who will oversee the Unity Gala. Attendees will need to show proof of vaccination if attending in person.

Commissioner Prasad asks when we should decide on the new date. Chair Hyun says we will vote on the Unity Gala date at the December meeting.

Commissioner Bae Kupel asks for clarification on the YLS scholarships. Commissioner Solar notes that the process was delayed this year, and the Commission will vote on the recommendations at the December meeting. Commissioner Bae Kupel asks that the recommended names be sent ahead of the December meeting so that Commissioners can file a Conflict of Interest form if applicable. Commissioner Solar agrees.

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

Commissioner Solar notes that the Arts & Culture Committee was initially planning to host an Artist Open Mic in December. Still, given the holidays, they recommend postponing this to the new year.

8. Next Commission Meeting: Dec 21, 2021 *(Hold the monthly meeting on Dec 14 if Commissioners agree)*

Chair Hyun explains that the next monthly meeting is currently scheduled for Dec 21, but many Commissioners may be traveling for the holidays that week. He



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proposes the suggestion of moving it to Dec 14, one week ahead.

Commissioner King asks if this would coincide with the Executive Committee election. Commissioner Kim responds yes since our current bylaws state that the election must happen in December. Commissioner Kim clarifies that the Executive Committee intended to ensure that as many Commissioners could attend the December meeting as possible given the election. The Executive Committee recommended moving the meeting to Dec 14 to avoid holiday travel and maximize Commissioner attendance.

Commissioner Liang motions to move the December meeting to **Dec 14**.
Commissioner Prasad seconds.

AYS: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Chiemruom, Commissioner Bae Kupel, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Liang, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Chin, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner King, and Chair Hyun.

Motion passes unanimously.

ED to send an email to the full Commission of this new date.

Commissioner Bharath gives an update on the Education Committee. She notes that the Committee has been working to ensure that the Youth Council represents the broader AAPI community both regionally and ethnically. Will include all the YC members in various activities. Have formal orientation in the first week of Dec and with the Youth Council.

Chair Hyun commends Commissioner Bharath for her leadership.

Commissioner King asks for a breakdown of administrative and professional fees in the nonprofit budget. The Executive Director notes that this line item covered intern salaries for Lily and Sarah and is a constant recurring expense. The Executive Director offers to give a more detailed breakdown and send that to all Commissioners.

ED to provide a breakdown on the Admin/Professional fees to full Commission.

9. Other community updates & meetings adjourned

Commissioner Bharath motions to adjourn. Commissioner Bae Kupel seconds.

AYS: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Bae Kupel, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Liang, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner King, Chair Hyun, and Commissioner Prasad

Not recorded: Commissioner Chin

Motion passes with ten votes in the affirmative. Commissioner Chin's vote was not recorded.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:37 pm.