



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Ekta Srinivasa
Gary Yu

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place
12th Floor
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aapicommission.org

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2024, 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.

Commissioners in Attendance: Gary Chu, Ekta Srinivasa, Richard Chu, Moana Bentin, Emma Chen-Banas, Karen Chen, Danielle Kim, Jennifer Rubin, Marilyn Park, Amy Goh, Christopher Huang, Tuyet Tran, Gary Yu

Staff in Attendance: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Policy & Communication Director Jennifer Best, Executive Communications Specialist Lizette Sta. Maria, Program & Research Director Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Youth Council Coordinator Ashley Shan (intern), Sea Kay Leung (intern).

New Business

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Commissioner Gary Chu calls the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

2. Commissioner Check-In

3. Public Comment

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes May 21, 2024 (VOTE)

Commissioner Moana Bentin moves to approve the meeting minutes from May 21, 2024. Commissioner Danielle Kim seconds.

Yes: Moana Bentin, Danielle Kim, Ekta Srinivasa, Richard Chu, Emma Chen-Banas, Karen Chen, Marilyn Park, Jennifer Rubin, Gary Chu

The motion passes unanimously.

5. Governance and Finance Update

Commissioner Amy Goh joins at 6:39 PM.

Commissioner Christopher Huang joins at 6:40 PM.

Commissioner Tuyet Tran joins at 6:41 PM.

Commissioner Gary Yu joins at 6:46 PM.

Commissioner Gary Chu provides an update about Governance and Finance. Remaining money will go towards applicants from the Fall 2023 Small Grants Fund who either did not receive funds or did not receive their full requested amount.



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Organization Name	Do we want	Amount Requested	How much funded	1st installment	2nd installment	Total 1+2	Application Link
Western New England School of Law Asian Pacific American Law Student	Yes	\$ 5,000.00		\$3,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Wah Lum Kung Fu + Tai Chi Academy	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Volunteering for Seniors Inc.	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Vietnamese American Volunteer Association of Boston, Inc. VAVA of Boston	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Philippine-American Mainstream Advocacy for Nonpartisan Association	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries, Inc. MBMM	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Massachusetts Asian and Pacific-Islander (MAP) for Health	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, Inc.	No	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$3,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center, Inc.	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Commonwealth Seminar	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Boston Korean Adoptees	Yes	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$600.00	\$2,600.00	Link
ASPIRE	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
ARISE	Yes	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00	Link
American Chinese United Association MA Chapter Incorporated	Yes	\$ 5,000.00		\$3,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,500.00	Link
		\$ 241,330.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$29,000.00	\$13,100.00		

6. Budget reallocation to small grants (VOTE)

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to pass option 2 with authority given by the Commission for the EC to prioritize based on the surplus that will remain after consulting with the Treasurer's Office. In addition, the priority will be based on organizations that have not received funding in the first round. Commissioner Richard Chu seconds.

Yes: Moana Bentin, Richard Chu, Ekta Srinivasa, Emma Chen-Banas, Karen Chen, Marilyn Park, Christopher Huang, Jennifer Rubin, Gary Chu, Gary Yu, Amy Goh
Abstain: Tuyet Tran, Danielle Kim

The motion passes.

7. Youth Council update

Youth Coordinator Ashley Shan gives a presentation to introduce the Youth Council and its program objectives, then answers questions from Commissioners. Applications for the 2024-2025 cohort are due July 5th.

Commissioner Gary Yu leaves the meeting at 7:10 PM.
Commissioner Amy Goh leaves the meeting at 7:15 PM.

8. Unity Dinner update

Unity Dinner Chair Moana Bentin invites Commissioners to the first Unity Dinner subcommittee meeting on Thursday 6/13 from 5-6 PM.

Commissioner Tuyet Tran makes a motion to hold the Unity Dinner in Central Massachusetts. Commissioner Emma Chen-Banas seconds the motion.

Yes: Tuyet Tran, Richard Chu, Ekta Srinivasa, Moana Bentin, Emma Chen-Banas, Marilyn Park, Christopher Huang, Jennifer Rubin, Karen Chen, Gary Chu

The motion passes unanimously.



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Commissioner Danielle Kim leaves the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Commissioner Tuyet Tran makes a motion to select May 3rd as the first option and May 10th as the second option for the date to hold the Unity Dinner, and to give the subcommittee the authority to decide on an ideal date and venue. Commissioner Marilyn Park seconds.

Yes: Tuyet Tran, marilyn, Ekta Srinivasa, Richard Chu, Moana Bentin, Emma Chen-Banas, Christopher Huang, Karen Chen, Gary Chu

No: Jennifer Rubin

The motion passes.

Old Business

9. Reports

a. Sub-committees

Commissioner Richard Chu reports that the Western Mass Quarterly Meeting was held on June 1st, and it was very successful, thanks in part to the Western Mass Coordinator Evan Owens.

Chair Gary Chu provides an update that there will be future discussions about programming for refugees, as well as staff salary equity in the FY25 budget.

b. Staff reports

10. Future Agenda Items Suggestions

Commissioner Tuyet Tran invites everyone to the Asian Festival at Worcester State University.

11. Next Commission Meeting: July 16, 2024

Commissioner Tuyet Tran makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

Yes: Tuyet Tran, Moana Bentin, Ekta Srinivasa, Richard Chu, Emma Chen-Banas, Marilyn Park, Christopher Huang, Karen Chen, Gary Chu

The motion passes.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:45 PM.



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