



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place
12th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
aapicommission.org

Meeting Minutes

Nov 19, 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 Present: Gary Chu, Emma Chen-Banas, Meena Bharath, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Marilyn Park, Danielle Kim, Gary Yu, Rakashi Chand

Staff Present: Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Jennifer Best, Lizette Sta. Maria, Shubhecchha Dhaurali

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Gary Chu calls the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

2. Commissioners Check-in

The Diwali Celebration at the State House was a success. Chairperson Gary Chu thanks Commissioners Rakashi Chand and Meena Bharath, ED Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, and staff. *Commissioner Danielle Kim arrives at 6:33 PM.*

3. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes – October 15 (VOTE)

Commissioner Tuyet Tran motions to approve the October 15, 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ekta Srinivasa seconds.

Yes: Tuyet Tran, Ekta Srinivasa, Meena Bharath, Emma Chen-Banas, Jennifer Rubin, Marilyn Park, Gary Yu, Gary Chu

Abstain: Danielle Kim

The motion passes.

Commissioner Gary Yu arrives at 6:35 PM.

4. Employment Lawyer

Commissioner Gary Chu provides an update on hiring an employment lawyer to influence HR policies. New information has been received so that the process will take longer.

5. Hire Cha Lor as a Western Mass Candidate for \$26/hr for 10 hrs a week (VOTE).

Shubhecchha Dhaurali summarizes the hiring process and presents Cha Lor as the first-choice candidate.

Commissioner Jennifer Rubin moves to hire Cha Lor as the Western Massachusetts Coordinator, effective January 1, 2025, at a pay of \$26/hour for 10 hours/week.

Commissioner Ekta Srinivasan seconds.

Yes: Tuyet Tran, Ekta Srinivasa, Meena Bharath, Emma Chen-Banas, Jennifer Rubin, Marilyn Park, Danielle Kim, Gary Chu

Did not vote: Gary Yu



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The motion passes.

Commissioner Rakashi Chand arrives at 6:42 PM.

6. Key Issue Areas

Policy Director Jennifer Best provides an update on the Key Issue Area determination process and leads a discussion on key issue areas to be voted upon in December.

Preliminary recommendations of key issue areas: "Access to rights and resources: anti-AAP hate, language access, mental health, and youth empowerment." Commissioners are given time to provide feedback on the key issue areas selection. There is general support for what was noted in the draft report.

Old Business

7. Reports

- a. **Sub-Committee Reports:** Updates from each sub-committee on current initiatives.

Jennifer Best invites Commissioners to participate in the grants subcommittee.

Lizette Sta. Maria gives an update that the Unity Dinner Subcommittee has decided to invite Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Bannerjee as the keynote speaker.

ED Yasmin Padamsee Forbes opens the conversation for a Commissioner mentorship program as noted in the strategic plan. Commissioners note in-person meetings and opportunities can strengthen relationships better than virtual events.

Shubhecchha Dhaurali shares an update from the survey subcommittee: The survey vendor contract is nearly finalized, and the timeline is being developed.

- b. **Staff Report:** Review of staff activities and updates.

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes provides updates on meetings and hiring the next policy director.

8. Future Agenda Items Suggestions

Commissioners believe having an in-person or hybrid retreat or quarterly meeting would benefit.

Chair Gary Chu highlights that EC elections will occur at the next meeting, and all are encouraged to run.

Commissioner Meena Bharath makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

Yes: Tuyet Tran, Ekta Srinivasa, Meena Bharath, Emma Chen-Banas, Jennifer Rubin, Marilyn Park, Danielle Kim, Rakashi Chand

Did Not Vote: Gary Yu

The motion passes. The meeting is adjourned at 7:21 PM.

The next AAPIC meeting will be on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:30 pm.



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