



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Jennifer Rubin
Philjay Solar
Ekta Srinivasa
Tuyet Tran

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

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

Minutes

Tuesday, Jan 21, 2025, 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 – Dec 10, 2024, and Jan 7, 2025
- UD Award Nominees and sponsorship form

Commissioners In Attendance: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Jennifer Rubin, Gary Chu, Gary Yu, Rakashi Chand, Bahara Hussaini, Danielle Kim, Moana Bentin, Ekta Srinivasa, Emma Chen-Banas, Tuyet Tran, Karen Chen, Christopher Huang

Staff in Attendance: Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Lizette Sta. Maria, Cha Lor

Others in Attendance: Heang Rubin

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Gary Chu makes a motion to approve the December 10 meeting Minutes. Commissioner Gary Yu seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Jennifer Rubin, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Rakashi Chand, Gary Yu, Danielle Kim, Emma Chen-Banas, Moana Bentin, Emma Chen-Banas, Ekta Srinivasa

The motion passes. The meeting begins at 6:34 PM.

2. Commissioners Check-in

Newly appointed Commissioner Bahara Hussaini is introduced to the Commission.

Newly hired Western Massachusetts Regional Coordinator Intern Cha Lor is introduced to the Commission.

Tuyet Tran joins at 6:35 PM.

3. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes – Dec 10, 2024 (VOTE)

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to approve the December 10, 2024 Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Emma Chen-Banas, Jennifer Rubin, Gary Yu, Danielle Kim

The motion passes. The minutes from December 10, 2024 are approved.



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4. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes – Jan 7, 2025 (VOTE)

Commissioner Gary Chu makes a motion to approve the January 7, 2025 Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Emma Chen-Banas, Jennifer Rubin, Gary Yu
Abstain: Danielle Kim

The motion passes. The minutes from January 7, 2025 are approved.

5. Proposal to Hire a Lawyer for services as required (VOTE)

- Approve the hiring of legal counsel to review bylaws and address salary equity.

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes explains that the lawyer will help address critical legal, organizational, and HR needs.

Commissioner Gary Chu makes a motion to hire a lawyer. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Emma Chen-Banas, Danielle Kim, Gary Yu
Abstain: Jennifer Rubin

The motion passes.

6. Proposal to hire Retreat and team facilitator and fees (VOTE)

Discussions arise about additional fees requested for a retreat and team facilitator.

The vote for the additional funding is tabled for a future discussion.

Commissioner Danielle Kim makes a motion to hire a retreat facilitator for \$5,000 already approved in the FY25 budget. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

Yes: Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Danielle Kim, Karen Chen, Christopher Huang
Did not vote: Gary Yu

The motion passes.

Karen Chen joins at 6:45 PM.

Christopher Huang joins at 6:46 PM.

7. Unity Dinner Sponsorship and Awards Categories

- Lifetime Achievement Award:
 - Vote to select one nominee.



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Motion to award Helen Chin Schlichte the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2025 Unity Dinner.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Gary Chu, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussaini, Rakashi Chand, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu, Christopher Huang, Karen Chen
Abstain: Danielle Kim

The motion passes.

- **Leadership for Diversity and Inclusion Award:**
 - Vote to select two nominees.

Motion to award the Leadership for Diversity and Inclusion Awards to Trinh Roblinski and Hua Wang respectively at the 2025 Unity Dinner.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Rakashi Chand, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Emma Chen-Banas, Danielle Kim, Gary Yu, Moana Bentin, Jennifer Rubin, Karen Chen
Abstain: Christopher Huang

The motion passes.

- **Unsung Hero Award:**
 - Vote to select three nominees.

Motion to award the Unsung Hero Awards to Anny Chan, Jasmine Li, and Olive Melaya respectively at the 2025 Unity Dinner.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Bahara Hussaini, Rakashi Chand, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Chu, Gary Yu, Moana Bentin, Jennifer Rubin
Abstain: Danielle Kim, Christopher Huang, Karen Chen

The motion passes.

Moana Bentin makes a gentle request for Commissioners to donate at least \$250 to the Unity Dinner or bring in a sponsor.

8. Discussion on Retreat

Dr. Heang Rubin leads a Zoom white board brainstorming activity.

- Explore goals for the upcoming retreat.
- Identify action items and next steps.

Gary Chu leaves the meeting at 7:49 PM.

Danielle Kim leaves the meeting at 8:00 PM.



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9. Subcommittee chairs and members

Old Business

10. Reports

11. **Sub-Committee Reports:** Updates from each sub-committee on current initiatives.
12. **Staff Report:** Review of staff activities and updates.

- **Future Agenda Items Suggestions**

Quick discussion about location for upcoming in-person retreat.

Karen Chen leaves the meeting at 8:08 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Tuyet Tran, Rakashi Chand, Jennifer Rubin, Moana Bentin, Emma Chen-Banas

Did not vote: Gary Yu

The motion passes. The meeting is adjourned at 8:09 PM.

The next AAPIC meeting is on Tuesday, Feb 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM.



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