



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Li Morrison

Marilyn Park

Jennifer Rubin

Philjay Solar

Ekta Srinivasa

Tuyet Tran

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee

Forbes

One Ashburton

Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

Draft Meeting minutes

Tuesday, May 27, 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.

Commissioners: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Rakashi Chand, Li Morrison, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Philjay Solar, Gary Yu, Marilyn Park, Christopher Huang, Bethany Li, Richard Chu

Staff/Interns: Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Leela Ramachandran, Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Lizette Sta. Maria, Monita Seng, Brissa Hunter

Attachments:

- Draft Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2025
- Candidate statement for EC Secretary and Elections Policy
- Salary plan
- FY25 budget reallocation
- Executive Orders

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Tuyet Tran moves to begin the meeting. Commissioner Rakashi Chand seconds.

Yes: Saatvik, Li, Tuyet, Rakashi, Danielle, Philjay, Gary

No:

Abstain:

The motion passes unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting begins at 6:37 PM.

2. Commissioners Check-in

Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia shares about the new addition to his family!

3. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2025 (VOTE)

Commissioner Li motions to approve the April 22 meeting minutes. Commissioner Gary seconds.

Yes: Li, Tuyet, Rakashi, Danielle, Philjay, Gary

No:

Abstain:

The motion passes.

4. Special Election for Executive Committee Secretary (VOTE)

Commissioner Tuyet Tran moves to approve Rakashi Chand as the Executive Committee Secretary. Commissioner Danielle Kim seconds.

Yes: Li Morrison, Tuyet Tran, Danielle Kim, Philjay Solar, Gary Yu, Karen Chen, Marilyn Park

No:



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Abstain:

The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Karen Chen and Marilyn Park arrive at 6:39 PM

5. Communications Update and Presentation

Lizette and Monita presented the [Communications Standardization Plan](#) with information about their research, the data gathered, and their recommendations and findings.

- Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia commends Lizette and Monita for data showing engagement well above the industry standard.

Christopher Huang joins at 6:49 PM.

6. Budget Reallocation (VOTE)

The Executive Director provided an overview of the proposed budget reallocation. Commissioners offered the following input:

- A commissioner proposed reviving artist grant funding in the upcoming fiscal year.
- A commissioner emphasized the need to fully utilize remaining funds before the close of the current fiscal year.
- A request was made to include all interested commissioners in future budget reallocation discussions, in addition to staff and the Executive Committee.
- A commissioner recommended reallocating a portion of funds to respond to urgent immigration-related needs.
- Commissioners collectively acknowledged that a recruiter's proposed \$3,000 allocation constitutes an initial investment, and additional funding will likely be required.

Category	Description	Reallocation. Estimated Cost (\$)	TRE bu line
Increase Brissa Hunters Intern Hours to 18hrs/week	Increase Brissa's hours an additional 8 hours/week to 18 hours a week from May 26 to June 30, 2025 (26 * 8 * 5 = 1040)	\$ 1,040.00	CC
Hire CPA for Budget Support	Contract CPA to build a budget tracking system, FY26 template, and training	\$ 1,000.00	HH
Hire recruiter	to help hire the Executive Director (June)	\$ 3,000.00	HH
Pacific Islander American Undergraduate Student Scholarships;	Provide FOUR \$1,000 Student Scholarships to Pacific Islander Americans attending colleges in MA	\$ 4,000.00	PP



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Reimbursements, food (Conf in DC, etc)		\$ 1,700.00	EE
Survey event, food, translation and publication		\$1,751.00	EE
Youth Council			EE/CC
Policy			JJ
	Total	\$ 12,491.00	

Increase Brissa's hours an additional 8 hours/week to 18 hours a week from May 26 to June 30, 2025

Commissioner Tuyet moves to approve budget reallocation as presented. Commissioner _Philjay_ seconds.

Bethany Li and Richard Chu join at 7:17 PM.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Li Morrison, Rakashi Chand, Tuyet Tran, Philjay Solar, Gary Yu, Marilyn Park

No:

Abstain: Karen Chen, Danielle Kim, Bethany Li, Richard Chu, Christopher Huang

The motion passes 7-0-5.

7. Staff Compensation and Legal Review (VOTE)

Legal counsel has been engaged to support the Commission's ongoing efforts to ensure salary equity among staff. Commissioners expressed interest in receiving additional information to inform future decisions, including the percentage difference in compensation between positions and details on each staff member's years of relevant experience. The legal counsel contract noted that they would provide all information by the end of March 2025. There was also a request to have legal counsel present at the next Commission meeting to provide further clarification and guidance.

It was noted that efforts will be made to ensure this information is shared with Commissioners in advance. Additionally, there was expressed interest in issuing retroactive pay for the previous Policy Director position, pending further review. Commissioner Kim moved to table this item until the June 17 meeting or an earlier date for a special meeting.

Yes: Bethany, Saatvik, Karen, Danielle, Li, Rakashi, Tuyet, Philjay, Gary, Marilyn, Chris, Richard

No:

Abstain:

The motion passes.

8. Discussion on Bills to Endorse

Leela R. begins an initial discussion about bills.



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Discussion on Legislative Priorities

The Commission reviewed key insights from the recent community survey, highlighting pressing concerns around housing affordability and displacement. Specific issues raised included advancing policies such as the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (TOPO) and a luxury real estate transfer fee to support affordable housing initiatives.

In response to growing uncertainty around federal funding for housing and social programs, commissioners discussed opportunities for Massachusetts to demonstrate leadership by proactively addressing gaps left by federal cuts. The conversation emphasized the importance of using state legislation to ensure continued support for vulnerable communities.

A commissioner recommended that members of the Commission begin identifying bills they are passionate about and consider introducing them through their state legislators. Staff could then provide strategic support to help move those bills forward in alignment with the Commission's mission and priorities.

9. Discuss Executive Director and Comms Director

The Executive Director will follow up with the State Treasurer's Office to clarify who, within the Executive Committee, holds signatory authority on behalf of the Commission.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee and the Governance Subcommittee would meet before the June Commission meeting to decide on appointing an Interim Executive Director or to determine an appropriate delegation of responsibilities during the transition period.

10. Reports

a. Subcommittee Reports

b. Staff Report

11. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

The next AAPIC meeting is on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM.