



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

### COMMISSIONERS

#### Chairperson

Saatvik Ahluwalia

#### Vice Chair

Gary Yu

Moana Bentin

Rakashi Chand

Karen Y. Chen

Emma Chen-Banas

Gary Chu

Richard Chu

Amy Goh

Christopher Huang

Bahara Hussaini

Danielle Kim

Bethany Li

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

### Agenda

**Tuesday, March 18, 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 In Attendance:** Saatvik Ahluwalia, Rakashi Chand, Karen Chen, Gary Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Danielle Kim, Bethany Li, Li Morrison, Marilyn Park, Jennifer Rubin, Philjay Solar, Tuyet Tran,

**Staff In Attendance:** Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Lizette Sta. Maria, Leela Ramachandran, Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Ashley Shan

**Youth Council Members In Attendance:** Chahat Kalia, Julie Hong, Gina Yi, Mirei Saneyoshi, Aden Huang, Lindell Valsote, Ying Kay Leung, Elianna Umana Kimura, William Nguyen

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Heang Rubin (retreat facilitator)

#### **Attachments:**

- Draft Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2025
- Youth Council projects
- Retreat Report
- AV list and cost
- Budget
- Subcommittee chairs

#### **1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Li Morrison motions to begin the meeting. Commissioner Bahara Hussaini seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Li Morrison, Rakashi Chand, Bahara Hussaini, Danielle Kim, Marilyn Park, Philjay Solar

*The motion passes unanimously. The meeting begins at 6:35 pm.*

*Tuyet Tran joins at 6:36 pm.*

#### **2. Commissioners Check-in**

Rakashi Chand wishes everyone a Happy Holi, Ramadan, and St. Patrick's Day!

#### **3. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2025 (VOTE)**

Commissioner Tuyet Tran motions to approve the February 18, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Li Morrison seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Li Morrison, Bahara Hussaini, Tuyet Tran, Rakashi Chand, Danielle Kim, Marilyn Park, Jennifer Rubin



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

Abstain: Philjay Solar

*The motion passes.*

*Karen Chen joins at 6:38 pm.*

#### **4. Retreat discussion**

Chair Saatvik Ahluwalia recaps the AAPIC retreat from March 2, 2025 – a discussion on where we can put the energy and put it to amazing uses! The Chair highlighted how we aligned with the strategic plan goals and added the next steps for Subcommittees, notably establishing the next Subcommittee chairs. He also encouraged Commissioners to join the Executive Committee- so far, only two out of four slots have been filled- and needed the Treasurer and Secretary to build institutional knowledge and continuation.

Commissioner Tuyet Tran echoed Saatvik Ahluwalia's notes about how amazing the retreat was.

Commissioner Bahara Hussaini talks about her experience at the retreat, which was impactful and meaningful.

Commissioners Karen Chen and Rakashi Chand echo past sentiments and emphasize community and communication.

*Gary Chu joins at 6:39 pm*

*Bethany Li joins at 6:44 pm.*

#### **5. Dr. Heang Rubin, retreat facilitator, joins 6:45 pm for a quick retreat follow-up.**

Dr. Heang Rubin takes five minutes to conduct a plus/delta feedback system about the recent retreat.

*Dr. Heang Rubin leaves at 6:57 pm.*

#### **6. Youth Council presentation**

Youth Coordinator Ashley Shan introduces Youth Council community projects. Each Youth Council member presents an overview of their community project, their current progress, challenges they have faced, and the budget they would need to execute their projects. Please refer to the slideshow below.

[\*\*SDedits YC 2024-2025 Community Projects\*\*](#)

*Youth Council members leave the meeting following their presentations.*



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

### 7. Buy AV equipment (VOTE) & Budget discussion.

The Executive Director introduced a document outlining the Commission's AV equipment and technology needs. Commissioners noted that detailed line-item approvals are not required each time, as the overall budget was already approved at the start of the fiscal year. Other Commissioners agreed with this approach.

Commissioners requested an updated budget summary showing the total amount spent, committed, and remaining. The Executive Director will prepare and share this updated budget at the next meeting.

### 8. Subcommittee Chairs (VOTE)

Commissioner Kim cites the bylaws: "The Chairperson and other members of the Subcommittees and Advisory Committees of the Commission shall be appointed by the Chairperson after consultation with the Executive Director of the Commission and shall be ratified by a vote of the Commission." <https://aapicommission.org/about-us/>

Commissioner Tuyet Tran makes a motion to approve Saatvik Ahluwalia as Chair of the Governance & Finance Subcommittee, Danielle Kim as Chair of the Government Relations Subcommittee, Li Morrison as Chair of the Program and Research Subcommittee, and Rakashi Chand as Chair of the Community Engagement and Visibility Subcommittee. Commissioner Karen seconds.

Yes: Rakashi Chand, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Karen Chen, Bahara Hussaini, Li Morrison, Marilyn Park, Danielle Kim, Jennifer Rubin, Tuyet Tran, Bethany Li, Philjay Solar

*The motion passes unanimously.*

### Old Business

#### Reports

#### 6. Sub-Committee Reports: Updates from each sub-committee on current initiatives.

##### a. Unity Dinner:

- i. [Eventbrite link](#) launched to buy tickets - along with dietary/access needs form
- ii. Early bird tickets have sold out
- iii. Subcommittee will meet ~every 2 weeks prior to the event on May 10, 2025
- iv. Policy Director Leela Ramachandran has joined the subcommittee to assist with logistics
- v. In communication with award honorees, keynote speaker, service providers, etc.
- vi. Official webpage to come shortly

##### b. Community Engagement:

- i. Scheduling initial meeting of 2025 in progress



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

- ii. 3/17: Met with Rep. Vanna Howard to coordinate co-hosting for Diwali event with Asian Caucus at the Statehouse.

7. **Staff Report:** Review of staff activities and updates.

8. **Future Agenda Items Suggestions**

- a. Discuss May events for AAPI Heritage Month
- b. Budget
- c. Further discussion around the issue of immigration and how the Commission or Commissioners can support community-facing organizations and residents in the Commonwealth. Community check-in? Invite reps from community-facing organizations to a future meeting.
  - i. How much would Commissioners like to have resources shared via email?
  - ii. Potential Special Meeting: Draft a statement from the Commission to the press to share resources ASAP, affirming that MA is a place where we welcome and serve everyone. Reiterate our priorities, such as language access and commitment to safety and health.

*Commissioner Danielle Kim leaves at 8:05 pm.*

*Commissioner Bahara Hussaini leaves at 8:08 pm.*

**The next AAPIC meeting is on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:30**

Commissioner Karen Chen makes a motion to end the meeting. Commissioner Tuyet seconds.

Yes: Rakashi Chand, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Karen Chen, Li Morrison, Marilyn Park, Tuyet Tran, Bethany Li, Philjay Solar

*The motion passes unanimously. The meeting ends at 8:09 pm.*



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

