



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Beth Pioscos

Jennifer Rubin

Ekta Srinivasa

Gary Yu

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 17, 2026

Time: 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Attachments

1. Draft Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026
2. Revised FY26 Budget
3. Small Grants Application Form
4. An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents
5. Health Equity Compact
6. Bylaws (amended)

I. Roll Call Attendance

Commissioners Present:

Tuyet Tran (Chair), Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussaini, Leo Blandford, Ekta Srinivasa, Vaishali Gade, Rajashree Ghosh, Li Morrison, Christopher Huang, Gary Yu, Emma Chen-Banas, Bethany Li

Commissioners Absent:

Gary Chu, Karen Chen, Richard Chu, Amy Goh, Beth Pioscos

Commissioners Not Yet Sworn In / Not Voting:

Jennifer Rubin

A quorum was confirmed.

II. Call to Order

Chair Tuyet Tran called the meeting to order at **6:36 PM**.

- Motion: Moana Bentin
- Second: Ekta Srinivasa
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

III. Public Comment

No public comments.



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IV. Commissioner Introductions

Commissioners introduced themselves. No vote taken.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (January 20, 2026)

- Motion: Rakashi Chand
- Second: Rajashree Ghosh

Votes:

- **Yes:**
Rajashree Ghosh, Rakashi Chand, Leo Blandford, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussaini, Li Morrison, Ekta Srinivasa, Vaishali Gade, Gary Yu, Tuyet Tran
- **Abstained:**
Christopher Huang

Outcome: Motion passed

VI. Technical Consultant Contract (Rate, Hours, Term)

Motion: Increase the rate/hrs of the technical consultant and extend through the end of June 2026

- Motion: Rakashi Chand
- Second: Rajashree Ghosh

Votes:

- **Yes:**
Rajashree Ghosh, Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Leo Blandford, Bahara Hussaini, Ekta Srinivasa, Gary Yu, Christopher Huang, Vaishali Gade, Bethany Li, Emma Chen-Banas, Tuyet Tran
- **Abstained:**
Li Morrison
- **Did Not Vote:**
Jennifer Rubin (not yet sworn in)

Outcome: Motion passed

VII. Revised FY26 Budget

Motion: Approve revised FY26 budget

- Motion: Bahara Hussaini



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- Second: Leo Blandford

Votes:

- **Yes:** Rajashree Ghosh, Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Vaishali Gade, Leo Blandford, Bahara Hussaini, Ekta Srinivasa, Gary Yu, Tuyet Tran
- **Abstained:** Li Morrison, Christopher Huang, Emma Chen-Banas, Bethany Li

Outcome: Motion passed

VIII. Bylaws Update – Quorum Requirement

Motion: Amend bylaws to require a quorum of **11 (majority of 21 commissioners)**

- Motion: Moana Bentin
- Second: Vaishali Gade

Votes:

- **Yes:** Rajashree Ghosh, Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Vaishali Gade, Leo Blandford, Li Morrison, Bahara Hussaini, Ekta Srinivasa, Gary Yu, Emma Chen-Banas, Bethany Li, Tuyet Tran
- **Abstained:** Christopher Huang

Outcome: Motion passed

IX. Legislative Matter

Motion: Endorse “An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents”

- Motion: Leo Blandford
- Second: Moana Bentin

Votes:

- **Yes:**
Moana Bentin, Rajashree Ghosh, Leo Blandford, Rakashi Chand, Bahara Hussaini, Li Morrison, Ekta Srinivasa, Vaishali Gade, Gary Yu (via proxy), Emma Chen-Banas, Bethany Li, Chair Tuyet Tran
- **Abstained:**
Christopher Huang

Outcome: Motion passed



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X. Subcommittee Updates

(Summarized – no votes)

- Programs & Research: ongoing initiatives, youth council, survey with UMass Boston
- Small Grants: 145 applications (~\$640K requested; ~\$100K available)
- Community Engagement: events planned (partnering with AAPI's CAN, the Advocacy Day at the State House on March 31st, AAPI Heritage Month, May 2 New England Revolution)
- Western MA Task Force: Regional workshop. Main objectives include: team-building to break down silos among AAPI organizations, promoting more youth leadership and civic identity, increasing our visibility in mainstream institutions, enhancing our cultural identity, and further strengthening our equitable policy. **Location:** Amherst, MA, **Event Date:** April 25, 2026, **Time:** 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Budget of \$4000, including facilitator, food, and supplies.

XI. Additional Updates

- Executive Director search ongoing
- Commissioners encouraged to share posting

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 19:49

- Motion: Leo Blandford
- Second: Bahara Hussaini

Votes: Tuyet Tran (Chair), Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussaini, Leo Blandford, Ekta Srinivasa, Vaishali Gade, Rajashree Ghosh, Li Morrison, Christopher Huang, Gary Yu, Emma Chen-Banas, Bethany Li

The next AAPIC meeting is on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:30 pm.



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