



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chairperson

Vira Douangmany Cage

### Vice Chairperson

Mabel Lam

### Treasurer

Bora Chiemruom

### Secretary

Philjay Solar\*

Jonjy Ananth\*

Meenakshi Bharath

Mary Chin

Gilbert Ho\*

Vanna Howard

Pralhad KC

Danielle Kim

Nate Bae Kupel\*

Wingkay Leung

Mary K. Y. Lee\*

Nina Liang

Dimple Rana

Haniya Syeda

Ying Wang

### Executive Director

Jenny Chiang

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

www.aacommission.org

## Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020, 6:30pm to 8:00pm  
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Board Room  
38 Ash St, Boston, MA 02111

Absent Commissioners are highlighted and remote participants are indicated by an asterisk\*. Quorum was reached by attendance.

### Attachments:

- Meeting minutes, 8/5/19
- Executive Committee Report
- Staff Report
- Staff job descriptions
- 2019 Nonprofit budget / FY20 State appropriation
- 2019 Annual Report

Staff present in person: Jenny Chiang, Jessica Wong

Staff present remotely: Brooke Yuen

Vira calls meeting to order at 6:30pm.

### 1. Approval of minutes from August 5, 2019 – **VOTE**

Mabel motions to approve minutes from August 5, Bora seconds

Yes: Vira Douangmany Cage, Bora Chiemruom, Mabel Lam, Philjay Solar

Abstain: Mary Lee, Gilbert Ho, Danielle Kim, Haniya Syeda

- Motion passed

### 2. Approval of minutes from December 10, 2019 – **VOTE**

- Mabel indicates a correction to strike out “Mabel states it was not properly done in the past” and replace with “Mabel states that in 2018 it was improperly done since we did not allow online elections”
- Mary L. moves to amend the minutes to remove her candidacy in December election since she was not present in person. Jenny explains that the election policy accepted in 2018 does not specify if a candidate needs to be present in person, while a prior policy did require candidates to be present. Vira responds that we cannot alter what occurred at a meeting.

Philjay motions to approve meeting minutes from December 10 with Mary L.’s amendments.

Yes: Bora, Vira, Mabel, Mary L., Gilbert

Abstain: Nate, Haniya, Danielle

- Motion passed

### 3. Executive Committee Report (Vira, 10 mins)

- Jenny provided an overview of the Executive Committee report
- Jay provided an overview of the staff report

### 4. Introduction of new Commissioners (Jenny, 5 mins)

- Haniya Syeda: Appointed by the Senate President



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- Danielle Kim: Appointed by the State Treasurer & Receiver General

5. Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and OCPF Annual Review (Jenny, 5 mins)
  - Deferred for subsequent discussion

6. Dementia awareness in the AAPI community (Meena, 10 mins)
  - Deferred for subsequent discussion

7. Reorganization of Committees (Vira, 10 mins)
  - Vira asks Commissioners to let her know if there is interest in leading committees
  - Vira will reach out to Commissioners to gather interest and leadership

8. Request from Sara Ting, World Unity Inc. – Sun Poem PSA (Vira, 5 mins)
 

“Are you greater than the sun, that shines on everyone; black, brown, yellow red and white, the sun does not discriminate”

  - Deferred for subsequent discussion

9. Subcommittee updates (if any): max time 3 mins each

- a) Unity Dinner/Fundraiser (Vanna, Chair)
  - Deferred for subsequent discussion

- b) Legislation Committee (Nate, Chair)
  - Jenny clarifies that the Driver’s license bill would provide driver’s license regardless of immigration status.
  - Danielle states that both the Safe Communities Act and Drivers License bill are critical to supporting immigrant communities.

- Support of Safe Communities Act – **VOTE**

Bora motions to support H.3573/S.1401: Safe Communities Act. Haniya seconds.

Yes: Vira, Bora, Mabel, Haniya, Danielle, Nate

- Motion passed

- Support of Driver’s License Bill – **VOTE**

Nate motions that the Commission support H.3012/S.2061: Driving Families Forward, An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility. Danielle seconds

Yes: Vira, Bora, Mabel, Haniya, Danielle, Nate

- Motion passed

PR Committee (Mary L., Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

c) Finance/Admin (Bora, Chair)

- Tax Filing (2019 calendar year) – **VOTE**

Mabel motions to accept the proposal from Bob Baker, CPA to approve up to \$1000 to file 2019 taxes. Nate seconds

Yes: Vira, Mabel, Bora, Haniya, Nate, Danielle



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- Motion passed unanimously

#### o Budget Proposal – **VOTE**

##### ▪ CMAA rental

- Bora discloses that she serves on the board of CMAA and abstains from voting
- Nate asks to clarify if we will be charged if an AAC member is not present at the space
- Jenny clarifies that there are 2 proposals (1 projecting to the end of the fiscal year and 1 projecting to the end of the calendar year)

Mabel motions to accept MOU with CMAA to rent one day a week office space for AAC from Feb 3 to the end of June 2020. Danielle seconds

Yes: Vira, Nate, Mabel, Nate, Haniya, Danielle

- Motion passed

- Bora opens discussion on Commissioner reimbursements
- Bora suggests to extend deadline for 2019 reimbursement submission to January 31, 2020
- Mabel suggests tabling the discussion to the February 18 meeting

**Executive Session:** “To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel”

7:20pm: Motion to enter Executive Session

Yes: Bora, Vira, Mabel, Mary L., Nate, Danielle, Haniya

The Commission entered Executive Session. Guests and staff left the room.

Vira was designated to inform staff individually about the commission votes and recommendations taken during Executive Session.

### Return to open session: 7:48pm

Vira announced the staff accepted commissioners’ recommended pay increases and Ms. Wong accepted her promotion to Program Director.

- Executive Committee passed out recommendations for spending for the rest of the fiscal year.
- Vira outlined recommendations to spend FY20 remaining budget on professional development for staff, website revamping, laptops, satellite office in Springfield, temporary part time field organizers & consultants, benefits for staff (reimbursements for staff cell phones, wellness classes, MBTA passes), increase travel reimbursement for Commissioners, State House lobby day.
- Bora recommends health and human services funding allocation
- Further discussion is tabled for the next meeting where actual budget projections will be shared.



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d) Health and Human Services (Mary C. & Vanna, Co-Chairs)  
• Deferred for subsequent discussion

e) Young Leaders Symposium (Nina & Philjay, Co-Chair)  
• Deferred for subsequent discussion

f) Economic Development (Mary C., Chair)  
• Deferred for subsequent discussion

10. Old business

11. New Business

12. Next Commission meeting

- Rotating Meeting Space Proposal was handed out
- Vira outlined the proposed locations for 2020 meetings

13. Other Community updates & Meeting adjourned

Bora motions to adjourn, Mabel seconds

– Motion passed unanimously