



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Executive Director

Jenny Chiang

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

www.aacommission.org

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Meeting held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19

Attachments:

- Monthly Executive Committee Report
- Monthly Staff Report
- Meeting Minutes, March 31, 2020
- Meeting Minutes, April 21, 2020
- 2020 Nonprofit Budget / FY20 State Appropriation
- Website Design Quotes
- COVID-19 Grantees Proposal
- Bhutanese Society of Western MA Draft MOU & Request Letter
- AAC Bylaws

Vira called the meeting to order at 6:36pm.

Staff present remotely: Jenny Chiang, Jessica Wong, Brooke Yuen, Sheila Vo

1. Approval of minutes from March 31, 2020 & April 21, 2020

- Mabel motions to table discussion on the meeting minutes for next meeting, Nate seconds.
 - Yes: Nate, Bora, Danielle, Ying, Mabel, Pralhad, Mary C., Mary L., Vira
 - Abstain: Philjay, Betty
- Motion passed

2. Executive Committee & Staff Reports

- Jenny provided an overview of the Executive Committee Report
- Jay and Brooke provided an overview of the Staff Reports

3. COVID-19 Grants

- Received 20 applications
- The committee is recommending to fund 13 applicants at this time
- The committee focused on equitable distribution of funds and was mindful of lack of staff capacity
- 6 grantees at the \$1000 level: Amherst Community Connections, Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center, United Hmong of MA, Philippine-American Mainstream Advocacy for Nonpartisan Associations Inc, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, and the Filipino Cancer Network of New England Foundation.
- 1 grantee at the \$600 level: Springfield Vietnamese Culture Association
- 3 grantees at the \$500 level: Budhhist Tzu Chi Foundation, National Federation of Filipino American Associations, and the Vietnamese American Thang Long Limited.
- 3 grantees at the \$300 level: Volumelithic, Joy in Tutoring, Tuan Pham
- AACA was recommended as a grantee. Mary C. decided to rescind their application.
- Philjay asks if it's possible to extend the application to allow Mary C. time to



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complete disclosures.

- Mary C. recommends to proceed and allow funding to go to another organization.
- Vira expressed that there may appear to be an unfair advantage from outside of the Commission if AACA was a grantee, which prompts the need for a disclosure.

Vote

- Philjay motions to vote on the grantees with the exception of AACA. Sam seconds
 - Yes – Sam, Nate, Danielle, Ying, Mabel, Haniya, Bora
 - No – None heard
 - Abstain – Mary C., Mary L. Philjay, Pralhad, Betty
- Motion passed

4. AAC Website Development Proposals

- Jenny states that all vendors were found through google search. All vendors were requested to provide quotes to redesign the website, incorporate a multilingual feature, and add a donation button.
- Mabel suggests Commissioners looks at the former client examples and rank the vendors.
- Betty recommends to table the discussion.
- Philjay recommends to proceed with selecting a vendor as the item has been brought up in previous meetings.
- Danielle states that Atomik Design has the most services in comparison to the other vendors.

Vote

- Mabel motions to vote on adopting Atomik Design as our website vendor. Danielle seconds.
 - Yes – Vira, Philjay, Sam, Bora, Mary L., Nate, Danielle, Mabel, Ying, Mary C., Betty, Pralhad, Haniya, Jonjy
- Motion passed unanimously

5. Bylaw Change Proposal: Gender Inclusive Language

- Danielle states that some Commissioners noticed that the bylaws do not include gender inclusive language to stop using she/her and he/his and to use they/them.
- Philjay motions to table to the Governance Committee

6. Discussion on Additional Subcommittees

- Mary L. asked for clarity on Finance and Governance committees.
- The Finance and Governance committee is included as one subcommittee.
- Bora suggests that auditing falls under finance.
- Commissioners can participate in governance, finance, and communications under one subcommittee.

7. Subcommittee Updates

Development (Vanna, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

Government Relations, Advocacy, & Civil Rights

- Governments Relations (Sam, Chair)



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- Civil Rights (Bora, Chair)
 - Deferred for subsequent discussion

Governance, Finance, & Communications

- Governance (Nate, Chair)
- Finance (Bora, Chair)
- Communications (Danielle, Chair)
 - Deferred for subsequent discussion

Education & Leadership Development

- Education (Meena, Chair)
- Leadership Development (Philjay, Chair)
 - Young Leaders Symposium usually happens in October. With the pandemic, may have to consider alternative platforms or postponing the event.

Health and Human Services (Mabel, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

Small Business & Economic Development (Nina, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

8. Old business

- Bhutanese Society of Western MA MOU. AAC received a request for funding in March, 2020.

Vote

- Betty motions to table discussion on MOU, Mary L. seconds.
 - Yes: Betty, Mary L., Ying, Mary C., Pralhad
 - No: Vira, Nate, Danielle, Philjay, Mabel, Bora, Haniya
- Motion does not pass
- Bora makes point of order that we need to spend funding before the end of the fiscal year.
- Danielle, Bora, and Mabel state that we decided to use funding from Western MA budget

Vote

- Mabel motions to vote approving the MOU, Bora seconds.
 - No: Betty, Mary C., Mary L., Pralhad
 - Yes: Mabel, Danielle, Philjay, Ying, Nate, Bora, Vira
- Motion passed

9. New Business

10. Next Commission meeting and proposal for 2 meetings/month

11. Other Community updates & Meeting adjourned

- Bora moves to adjourn the meeting, Mary L. seconds.
 - Vira asks for any objections - None heard.
- Motion passed unanimously