



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chairperson

Samuel Hyun\*

### Vice Chairperson

Philjay Solar\*

### Treasurer

Haniya Syeda\*

### Secretary

Danielle Kim\*

Jonjy Ananth

Meenakshi Bharath\*

Bora Chiemruom\*

Mary Chin

Vira Douangmany Cage\*

Cinda Danh

Pralhad KC

Betty King

Nate Bae Kupel\*

Wingkay Leung

Mary K. Y. Lee\*

Nina Liang

Megha Prasad\*

Dimple Rana

Ekta Saksena\*

### Interim

### Executive Director

Jessica Wong

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

[www.aacommission.org](http://www.aacommission.org)

## Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

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

Present Commissioners are marked with a \*. Absent Commissioners are highlighted

Staff present: Jay, Sheila, Kama, Sarah, Lily  
Meeting is recorded.

### Attachments:

- 12/15, 1/19, 2/16 Meeting Minutes
- Commissioner Compliance List
- State & Non-Profit Budget
- Policy on Meeting Minutes
- EC & Staff Reports

### 1. Call meeting to order

Sam calls meeting to order at 6:33pm

### 2. Meeting minutes – VOTE

Mary Lee states she had trouble viewing the meeting packet. No other Commissioner reported an issue.

Philjay motions to approve 12/15 minutes, Vira seconds

Yes: Danielle, Bora, Ekta, Haniya, Meena, Megha, Philjay, Vira, Sam

Abstain: Mary, Nate

Motions passes

Meena motions to approve 1/19 minutes, Philjay seconds

Yes: Bora, Danielle, Haniya, Megha, Meena, Vira, Philjay, Sam

Abstain: Nate

Motion passes

Mary Lee leaves the meeting at 6:47pm.

Danielle motions to approve 2/16 minutes, Vira seconds

Yes: Bora, Danielle, Ekta, Megha, Meena, Nate, Philjay, Sam, Haniya

Motion passes

### 3. Executive & staff reports

Jay provides FY22 budget process updates, finance report, and the upcoming AAC and community events.



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Sheila provides updates on the Women's History Month campaign. Lily provides updates on the Commonwealth Seminar and AAC collaborative event, AAPI Heritage Month, and planning a civic event with Senator Lewis. Kamalani provides updates on the Town Hall with Senator Adam Gomez, legal literacy series, expanding geographic outreach, and focusing on outreach in the Berkshires region.

#### **4. Commissioner Compliance Records**

Jay states that the deadline to submit these documents is the end of the March. Vira, Cinda, Danielle, Nate, Megha, Ekta, and Philjay have complete records. Other Commissioners still are missing forms, and should submit them by March 31.

#### **5. Meeting Minutes Policy**

Danielle announces meeting minutes policy. The first section is how to offer amendments to meeting minutes. Any amendments should be sent to ED and EC 24 hours before the monthly meeting. This should also include timestamps. The second section proposes summaries of meeting minutes, not word for word transcriptions.

Commissioners asks for clarification on policy language as well as providing input and edits to the policy.

Danielle motions to change "in writing" to "by email" and add the word "recorded" before "meeting minutes" in the third paragraph, Megha seconds

Yes: Bora, Danielle, Ekta, Haniya, Megha, Meena, Nate, Vira, Philjay, Sam

Danielle motions to approve the meeting minutes policy as amended, Bora seconds

Yes: Bora, Danielle, Ekta, Haniya, Megha, Meena, Nate, Vira, Philjay, Sam

#### **6. Grant Review Committee**

Jay states that we will open up sign-ups for the grant review committee. We have funding approved in our state budget for COVID-19 grants and Community Resources Funds. If you are interested in joining the grant review committee, please respond to Jay by March 23rd, one week from today. Danielle states that we must expend AACs state appropriation by June 30th.

#### **7. Sub-Committees:**

##### **Governance, Finance, Communications**

- Sam will schedule meeting

##### **Government Relations, Advocacy, Civil Rights**

- Danielle scheduled a meeting for 3/18

##### **Development**

- Philjay will follow-up with Lowell venue to move Unity Dinner event to Fall 2021

##### **Health and Human Services**

- Haniya provides update for the committee to focus on vaccine education and using DPH resources to translate information as well as creating a social media campaign



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## **Education and Leadership**

- Meena is scheduling a regular check-in meeting. Behind the scenes, understand Asian experience, who are we talking about specifically, including Asian voices with anti-Asian racism, syrian refugee experience is different from Indian sub-continent, how to equate all of this and start this dialogue with DESE.

## **Arts and Culture**

- Cinda is not present

## **Small Business and Economic Development**

- Pralhad is not present

## **Anti-Asian Racism Research & Response**

- Megha shares that the Anti-Asian Racism Advisory Committee met last week and are aiming to host a Town Hall with the Asian Caucus around the first week of April. We are waiting to hear back from some legislators on their schedules before we can confirm the date.

## **8. Old Business**

## **9. New Business**

Megha raises concerns with poor attendance from some Commissioners. Danielle affirms Megha's point and shares that the EC is planning to send biannual updates to all Appointing Authorities about the attendance of their respective Commissioners. Sam reinforces the importance of active participation from all Commissioners in order to effectively serve our community.

Vira encourages Commissioners to inform their contacts about the AAC and start recruiting applications for the next cycle.

Nate suggests doing a series of Open House webinars to inform the public about what the AAC does. Meena agrees. Megha states that the partnership that the staff have been building with the Commonwealth Seminar may help with recruitment and outreach. Jay affirms that we have been taking attendance at every meeting.

Meena states that other public bodies publish attendance records on their website, and encourages the AAC to consider doing this too. We also need to make sure that this is a welcoming place for everyone, but also individuals need to attend and participate to advocate for our community.

## **10. Next Commission Meeting – April 20, 2021**

## **11. Meeting Adjourned**

Meena motions to adjourn. Nate seconds.

Yes: Bora, Danielle, Ekta, Haniya, Megha, Meena, Nate, Vira, Philjay, Sam  
Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm