



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Gary Yu

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

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

Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2024, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83421971270>

*Please note that this meeting was 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: Gary Chu, Ekta Srinivasa, Jennifer Rubin, Tuyet Tran, Karen Chen, Meena Bharath, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Leo Hwang

Staff in attendance: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Policy and Communications Director Jennifer Best, Program and Research Director Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Executive Communications Specialist Lizette Sta. Maria, Pacific Islander Coordinator Brissa Hunter

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Commissioner Gary Chu calls the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. Commissioners Check-in

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes January 16, 2024 (VOTE)

Commissioner Moana Bentin motions to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2024. Commissioner Ekta Srinivasa seconds.

YES: Moana Bentin, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Meena Bharath, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Gary Chu

ABSTAIN: Karen Chen, Jennifer Rubin,

The motion passes.

4. Public Comment

5. Executive Committee Elections: Voting for Treasurer Position. (VOTE)

Commissioner Meena Bharath motions to elect Commissioner Tuyet Tran as Treasurer.

Commissioner Karen Chen seconds.

YES: Meena Bharath, Karen Chen, Ekta Srinivasa, Moana Bentin, Jennifer Rubin, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Tuyet Tran, Gary Chu

The motion passes.

Commissioner Leo Hwang joins us at 6:39 pm.

6. Review of the FY 24 budget and deadlines in the Strategic Plan

Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes provides an update on the AAPIC budget, which includes several large expenditures currently being processed.



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7. Subcommittee Chairs (VOTE)

Commissioner Meena Bharath motions to approve three subcommittee chairs for Government & Finance, Government Relations, and Program & Research. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

YES: Meena Bharath, Moana Bentin, Ekta Srinivasa, Tuyet Tran, Karen Chen, Jennifer Rubin, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Leo Hwang

The motion passes.

8. UD Award Nominations discussions

Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes provides an update on award nominations for the Unity Dinner.

Commissioner Meena Bharath motions to give Prahlad KC the Lifetime Achievement Award. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

YES: Meena Bharath, Tuyet Tran, Ekta Srinivasa, Jennifer Rubin, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Leo Hwang, Gary Chu

NO:

ABSTAIN: Karen Chen

The motion passes.

9. Update on Listening Sessions on February 24 with the Bhutanese community and March 2 with the Afghani community.

The ED updated the Listening Session with the Bhutanese community, primarily refugees of Nepali descent.

Commissioners are encouraged to RSVP to attend the upcoming Afghan Listening Session on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

10. Extending Yasmin Padamsee Forbes' Tenure as Executive Director for three years until March 31, 2027 (VOTE)

Chair Chu highlighted Yasmin's significant contributions and acknowledged the valuable feedback from the Commissioners, the Asian Caucus, and the State Treasurer regarding the ED's performance.

Commissioner Tuyet Tran proposed a motion to renew the Executive Director's contract for an additional three-year period, extending it through March 31, 2027. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

YES: Tuyet Tran, Moana Bentin, Jennifer Rubin, Ekta Srinivasa, Meena Bharath, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Leo Hwang, and Gary Chu

ABSTAIN: Karen Chen

The motion passes.

11. Future Agenda Items Suggestions

12. Next Commission Meeting: March 19, 2024



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