



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Philjay Solar

Haniya Syeda

Executive

Director Yasmin

Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

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aapiccommission.org

Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

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

*Please note this Meeting will be 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 Present:

Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Kupel, Chair Bharath, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner King, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Richard Chu, and Commissioner Chin

(Commissioner Hyun and Commissioner Prasad were unable to join.)

Staff Present:

Development & Communications Coordinator Bonnie Chen, Marketing & Communications Manager Sheila Vo, Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Youth Coordinator Haseeb Hamza

Members of the public: Jessica Nguyen

Attachments:

- Draft meeting minutes: March 15, 2022
- FY22 state budget spreadsheet
- FY22 nonprofit budget spreadsheet
- Executive/Staff reports
- [AAPIC Calendar](#)
- DRAFT Commission Sub-Committees Functions, Roles & Responsibilities SOP
- DRAFT GFC Aspirations
- 2022 AAPIC Sub-Committees

1. Call to order

The Meeting is called to order at 6:35 pm.

2. Commissioners Check-in: 5 minutes

Chair Bharath begins with a check-in with all Commissioners attending.

Public Comment Period: 10 mins (if needed)

There are no public members who would like to speak at this time.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - VOTE: 5 minutes

a. March 15, 2022

VOTE: Commissioner Solar moves to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2022. Commissioner Kim seconds.

YES: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner



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Solar, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner King, Chair

Bharath NO:

Abstain: Commissioner Danh

7 votes in the affirmative, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

4. Reports

a. Executive & Staff Reports: 5 minutes

Executive Director Forbes asks if any Commissioner has questions about her report. Commissioner King asks about the EC's Meeting with Representative Tackey Chan and the WBUR Interview. Executive Director Forbes submitted the draft narrative and budget she had shared with the Commission when she met with Rep Chan with the EC. She also provided information to the WBUR reporter regarding the rise in anti-Asian hate.

Chair Bharath asks about the Seevak Fellows program. Executive Director Forbes went explained the process and the interviews. The students did not select the AAPI Commission due to having an interest in an in-person internship.

b. EC Report: 5 minutes

Chair Bharath asks when the Commission will be able to see the draft annual report. Marketing & Communications Manager, Sheila, shares that there is a written draft, which will be circulated within the coming weeks. The 2021 Annual Report must be released by June 2, 2022. Commissioner King asks if we have an annual report in 2021. Executive Director Forbes states that the 2021 annual report is what AAPI staff are currently working on.

The EC and the ED met with Representative Chan to discuss the proposed budget narrative and budget drafted by the ED. The EC also met with Ruby Reyes, the facilitator from the retreat, to discuss key takeaways and next steps.

Chair Bharath was invited to attend a talk by Krystal Kaii from the WHO.

5. New Business: AAPI Sub-Committees & Membership - VOTE: 10 minutes

- **VOTE on Subcommittees Chair**
- **VOTE on Subcommittee procedure**

Commissioner Kim expressed gratitude for the two Commissioners, Commissioner Hwang and Commissioner Chin, who supported the Small Business Committee. Commissioner Kim said that the Small Business subcommittee is one of the standing committees by our bylaws, so we are obligated to have the committee even if it is small.

Chair Bharath shares that we will proceed with adding a Vice-Chair for each of the subcommittees. The Education & Leadership Development committee still needs a Chair. Commissioner Solar will continue to be Chair of the Unity Dinner until the end of the 2022 Unity Dinner. Commissioner Danh will continue to be Chair of the Arts & Culture committee.

Commissioner Richard Chu joins at 7:05 pm.



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Executive Director Forbes brings up the need to form a small grants sub-committee. Commissioner Prasad is currently the Chair of the Grants Committee.

Commissioner Hwang agrees to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Arts & Culture sub-committee and the Chair for the Small Business sub-committee. Commissioner Richard Chu agrees to be a Vice-Chair and would need to work with the Chair to lead the work.

The subcommittee will meet at least four times a year.

Bonnie states that she will send out a doodle poll to hold the Anti-Asian Racism Research & Response sub-committee meeting. Commissioner Kupel says that Anti-Asian Racism Research & Response was created as an Advisory Committee rather than an official sub-committee.

VOTE: Commissioner Kupel motions to approve the subcommittee chairs and vice-chairs as proposed. Commissioner Hwang seconds.

YES: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner King, Chair Bharath, and Commissioner Danh

NO:

9 votes in the affirmative. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Sub-Committee Reports: 5 minutes

Chair Bharath shared the sub-committee meeting overview & details and explained the standard operating procedure developed.

Members sign up for a maximum of 3 subcommittees to have equitable voices for all members. Chair Bharath goes through the subcommittee meeting cadence, attendance, budget, programming, and staff support.

Commissioner Kupel asks whether it would be part of the bylaws. Chair Bharath states that it would be a standard operating procedure.

Commissioner Chin joined at 7:23 pm.

Chair Bharath shares the aspirations of the Governance, Finance, and Communications sub-committee at a high level. The aspirations include responsibilities of the Staff, Executive Director, and the Commission. Chair Bharath shares that this is currently a work in progress. Commissioner King suggests that we put Item 19 under Finance (Nonprofit Funds Management & Usage Guidelines) as a priority.

7. Old Business: Unity Dinner: 20 minutes

Commissioner Solar discusses the work undertaken by the Unity Dinner team.

Commissioner King asks about the fundraising goal and how near we are to achieving that. Commissioner Solar expressed that we don't necessarily have a fundraising goal. Chair Bharath said that we want to keep it at break even. Commissioner Solar says the main



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goal is not to fundraise but to bring as many people as possible to the event to celebrate the entire community: community leaders, supporters, and officials.

Commissioner Solar reviews the program for the evening. Commissioner Richard Chu states that he was at a conference recently where masks were required. He shares that this may be a possible option, as this pandemic is not going away anytime soon. Commissioner Solar expresses support for mandating masks at the Unity Dinner.

Chair Bharath said that we should go ahead with the Unity Dinner. Commissioner Saksena expresses support for moving forward with a mask mandate and states that it is essential to have a plan in place for communication if any guests test positive after the event.

Commissioner Solar shares that we need a final headcount by May 2, 2022. Currently, we are only at 17% of our expected seats. Executive Director Forbes asks Commissioners to confirm their attendance so that the planning committee can better understand where we stand with reaching our participation goals.

8. New Business: AAPI Commission Retreat Next Steps: 15 minutes Commissioner Kupel thanks everyone for joining the retreat earlier this month and states that there is essential follow-up work for us to do. The Executive Committee and the Executive Director will discuss this with Ruby, the facilitator. There is further work to do around discussing the aspirations of the Commission.

Commissioner Richard Chu asks if there is a possibility of doing a follow-up session to discuss the questions we did not get to during the retreat. Chair Bharath states that we can explore this possibility, especially as we further build out the AAPIC calendar.

Grants Sub-Committee

The Executive Director says we will be forming a subcommittee soon to review and select groups to provide funding. We have approx \$14,000 in our budget for small grants.

9. Guest Speakers from the Burmese Community: 15 minutes

- **Ko Sai and Saya Zaw**

Ko Sai shares that he has a small restaurant in Boston and has been involved in the Burmese Democracy Movement. He shared that he came to the US as a refugee. Arthur Chen is a Burmese grassroots leader in Boston who went to the US as a refugee. They raised a few concerns, including how many Burmese students living in Massachusetts are little money and cannot return to Burma due to the coup.

The Commission asked how they could support the Burmese community. Arthur shared that the Burmese Water Festival was held in Worcester, and another event will be held on April 30 in Allston. Commissioner Richard Chu invited the Burmese community to reach out to the AAPIC for support. Sai will share information with Executive Director Forbes.

10. Future Agenda Items Suggestions

Chair Bharath said to submit agenda items to the Executive Director Forbes. Some of the



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agenda items currently include workplace safety training, Western MA listening sessions, reducing the number of Commission meetings, equitable distribution of speaking engagements, the Anti-Asian racism advisory committee, and the small grants committee.

11. Next Commission Meeting: May 17, 2022

VOTE: Commissioner Solar motions to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Kupel seconds the motion.

YES: Commissioner Danh, Commissioner King, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Chair Bharath

NO:

Abstain:

No response was recorded from Commissioner Chin.

9 votes in the affirmative: Motion passes.

The Meeting is adjourned as of 8:13 pm.