



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Mary KY Lee

Nina Liang

Dimple Rana

Philjay Solar

Haniya Syeda

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

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aapicommission.org

Draft Minutes

August 16, 2022, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

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

*Please note that 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 Kupel, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner King, Commissioner Chin (10)

Commissioner Bharath and Commissioner Gary Chu are unable to join.

Staff Present: Executive Director Forbes, Youth Coordinator Intern Abdul Haseeb Hamza

1. Call to order

The meeting is called to order at 6:36 pm. Vice Chair Kupel will lead the meeting in Chair Bharath's absence this evening.

2. Commissioners Check-in: 5 minutes

3. Public Comment Period: 3 mins

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 3 minutes

a. July 19, 2022 (VOTE)

Draft meeting minutes: July 19, 2022 (draft shared on Jul 30)

There was a request to make revisions to the meeting minutes, which was shared on August 15, 2022. Vice Chair Kupel requests to table this item so that the request can be reviewed. He reminds Commissioners of the deadlines set in place to request revisions.

VOTE: Commissioner Lee motion to table the approval of July 19, 2022, meeting minutes. Commissioner Kim seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner King, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Kupel

Nine votes in the affirmative. The motion passes.

5. Reports: 10 minutes

a. Executive & Staff Reports

(1) Executive/Staff Reports (2) FY22 state budget spreadsheet

(3) FY22 nonprofit account info

b. EC Report



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c. Sub-committees

Commissioner Lee asks for clarification about the \$100,000 budget line item referenced in the last meeting. ED Forbes is following up on the matter with State Representative Steve Ultrino and State Representative Erika Uytterhoeven and will share findings with the full Commission.

Commissioner Chin joins the meeting at 6:46 pm.

Commissioner King also asks for clarification about the \$100,000 budget line item and provides information on her research concerning the Chinese Benevolent Association. Commissioner Chin asks how the line item was included without notifying the Executive Director or the Chair of the Commission. Vice Chair Kupel reiterates that we currently do not have visibility into this item, and the ED is following up on the matter.

Old Business

6. Staff Hiring Updates: ED & Hiring Advisory Recommendation: Name, title, and accompanying salaries (VOTE): 10 mins

Vice Chair Kupel gives an overview of the work of the Hiring Advisory Group.

VOTE: Commissioner Prasad moves to approve Esther Kim as Program & Research Director at an annual salary of \$65,000 with benefits. Commissioner Danh seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Chin, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner King, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Lee

10 votes in the affirmative. The motion passes unanimously.

VOTE: Commissioner Hyun moves to approve Jennifer Best as Communications & Outreach Manager at an annual salary of \$57,000 with benefits. Commissioner Prasad seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Danh, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Chin, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner King, Commissioner Kupel

10 votes in the affirmative. The motion passes unanimously.

7. Western Mass Listening session Plan and Budget (VOTE): 10 mins

Commissioner Richard Chu gives an overview of the origins of the Western Mass listening session. He shares that dates are being explored for Fall 2022. The venue is still to be determined, but the UMass Amherst Center at Springfield is a potential option.



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Commissioner Richard Chu shares that the projected budget for this listening session has not been formally developed yet. Still, it will likely be over \$500, given the cost of lunch, venue, travel reimbursement, etc.

Vice Chair Kupel suggests Commissioner Richard Chu develop a projected budget and bring that to the full Commission for a full vote.

Commissioner Kim asks what the format of the listening session is, including facilitation, structure, etc. Commissioner Richard Chu shares that this idea is still in the planning stage.

Commissioner Lee asks about the AAPI population in Western Massachusetts.

Commissioner Richard Chu shares some details about the demographics. Commissioner King voices support for the program.

8. AAPIC ByLaws: Discussion on (1) Election Month/ Date & (2) Quorum (#7, XII (Meetings) for discussion): 15 mins

Commissioner King explains the difference between a simple majority and a quorum majority. She mentions the idea of a supermajority ($\frac{2}{3}$) and states that the Commission may be interested in this approach. She says this is essential to ensure that votes represent the majority of the Commission's views.

Commissioner Chin expresses support for potentially changing the bylaws to adopt a supermajority approach.

Commissioner Kim voices concern for a $\frac{2}{3}$ supermajority approach, given the current challenges that the Commission faces with attendance at monthly meetings.

Commissioner Prasad requests Commissioner King to develop a written proposal with the proposed amendment and bring it to the September 2022 meeting for a vote.

Commissioner Hyun states that there is no enforcement mechanism to increase attendance, which will hinder the success of a supermajority approach.

Commissioner Richard Chu shares that certain things can and should have a quorum majority, whereas certain things should not. He asks if this can be assigned to a committee to make a recommendation.

Vice Chair Kupel recommends that this is referred to the Governance subcommittee for further exploration.

Commissioner Lee states that a simple and supermajority will be more equitable than a quorum majority.



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New Business:

9. FY 2023 Appropriations: Submitted Proposal Adjustment: 15 mins

The proposed budget for FY 23 appropriations

ED Forbes gives an overview of the proposed budget for FY23 state appropriations. Vice Chair Kupel opens it up for questions.

Commissioner Richard Chu asks if the budget includes any profits from the 2022 Unity Dinner. Commissioner Prasad clarifies that the Unity Dinner profits go into the non-profit budget.

Commissioner Lee, Kim, and King leave the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Commissioner Danh leaves the meeting at 8:04 pm.

The meeting ends at 8:04 pm due to a lack of quorum.

10. New Commissioners/ Reappointment Applications & Timelines: 5 minutes
11. Meeting agenda creation, materials creation, distribution, and how it is made accessible to Commissioners and the public per governing laws: 10 mins
12. Future Agenda Items Suggestions: 2 mins
13. Next Commission Meeting: September 20, 2022



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