



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Danielle Kim

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Jennifer Rubin

Philjay Solar

Haniya Syeda

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place

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aapicommission.org

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023, 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.

Attachments:

- Draft meeting minutes: December 12, 2022
- Executive/Staff reports
- Strategic Plan
- Assistant Youth Coordinator JD
- Youth Council Members Selection
- New Responsibilities for staff
- Regional Coordinator
- Budgets/Finance

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Ekta Saksena, Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia, Commissioner Amy Goh, Commissioner Meena Bharath, Commissioner Jennifer Rubin, Commissioner Philjay Solar, Commissioner Nate Bae Kupel, Commissioner Christopher Huang, Commissioner Leo Hwang, Commissioner Pralhad KC, Commissioner Danielle Kim

Staff Present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Health Intern Siale Teaupa, Dev & Communications Coordinator Bonnie Chen, Youth Coordinator Ashley Shan, Communications & Outreach Manager Jennifer Best, Governance & Policy Intern Benjamin Wang, Program & Research Director Esther Kim

1. Call to Order

Acting chair Commissioner Richard Chu calls the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. Commissioners Check-in

Moment of silence is observed for victims of families and AAPI communities impacted by shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 3 minutes

a. December 12, 2022 (VOTE)

VOTE: Commissioner Bharath motioned to approve the December 12, 2022, minutes.

Commissioner Gary Chu seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Goh, Commissioner Huang, Commissioner Ahluwalia, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner KC

Abstain: Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Hwang

9 votes in the affirmative. 3 abstentions. The motion passes.



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4. Reports: 10 minutes

a. EC Report

Three Executive Committee positions are still open (The Vice-Chair position has been filled now). Commissioners are encouraged to self-nominate or nominate.

b. Staff reports.

ED Forbes gives an update about the Swearing-In Ceremony, potential future changes to AAPIC external communications, Staff updates, Lowell Listening Session, the draft 2022 Annual Report, the Unity Dinner, appropriations, and upcoming EC elections.

c. Sub-committees (including Unity Dinner)

Commissioner Gary Chu gives an update about the 2023 Unity Dinner, including theme, location, keynote speakers, and logistics.

New Business:

5. Candidates selected for Youth Council and salary (VOTE)

VOTE: Commissioner Bharath motions to approve the candidates selected for Youth Council and the wage as proposed. Commissioner Gary Chu seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Huang, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Ahluwalia, Commissioner Goh, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Richard Chu

The motion passes unanimously.

6. New Intern: Assistant Youth Coordinator JD and salary of \$20/hour for 15 hours a month (VOTE)

VOTE: Commissioner Bharath motions to approve the Assistant Youth Coordinator JD and salary. Commissioner Gary Chu seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Huang, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Ahluwalia, Commissioner Goh, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Richard Chu

The motion passes unanimously.

7. Bonus pay for previous Youth Coordinator, Haseeb Hamza (\$250) (VOTE)

VOTE: Commissioner Bharath motions to approve the bonus pay for the last coordinator youth. Commissioner Gary Chu seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Huang, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner KC, Commissioner Ahluwalia, Commissioner Goh, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Richard Chu

The motion passes unanimously.

8. Introductions to New Commissioners

Commissioner Goh, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Huang, and Commissioner Ahluwalia introduce themselves to the full Commission.



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9. Introductions to New Interns

Governance and Policy Coordinator Benjamin Wang and Youth Coordinator Ashley Shan introduce themselves to the full Commission.

Returning Commissioners and staff introduce themselves to new Commissioners and staff.

Commissioner Kupel leaves the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Commissioner Kim joins the meeting at 7:24 pm.

Commissioner Prahlad KC leaves the meeting at 7:32 pm.

10. Strategic plan and new staff responsibilities

ED Forbes updates strategic planning efforts for 2023 and the years to follow.

Commissioner Kim and Bharath state that the full Commission will review and vote on any changes to staff job descriptions and titles. This will be discussed at the February 2023 meeting.

The Commission will aim to host an annual retreat sometime in February or March 2023.

Old Business:

11. EC Elections Open in Feb

ED Forbes encourages commissioners to nominate or self-nominate for the vacant Executive Committee roles.

12. Swearing-In Ceremony, Wednesday, February 22, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

The Swearing-In Ceremony is for new Commissioners, reappointed Commissioners, and Commissioners that still need to be sworn in. Commissioners are welcome to bring two guests each. Commissioners can be reimbursed for travel-related expenses.

13. Future Agenda Items Suggestions

Chair Richard Chu states that staff responsibilities will be discussed at the next meeting. Commissioner Bharath requests that we create space to discuss the needs of senior citizens in the AAPI community. Chair Richard Chu would also like to discuss the work of the various sub-committees. The current leadership of subcommittees will continue until there is a permanent chair.

14. Next Commission Meeting: February 21, 2023

VOTE: Commissioner Solar motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hwang seconds

YES: Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Huang, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Goh, Commissioner Ahluwalia, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Richard Chu

The motion passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 8:00 pm.



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**Anyone wishing to address the AAPI Commission during the Public Comment section of the agenda may indicate that by "raising their hand" virtually and will be recognized by the Chair. Speakers are asked to identify themselves and provide an address; each speaker is limited to up to three (3) minutes. Although the public comments should, whenever possible, address one or more items on the agenda for that particular meeting, if time permits, the Chair may allow a speaker to comment on matters that may not directly address an article on the agenda but do concern the Commission or AAPI matters in MA.*