



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Haniya Syeda

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

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aapicommission.org

Agenda

July 19, 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.

Attachments:

- Draft meeting minutes: June 28, 2022
- FY22 state budget spreadsheet
- FY22 nonprofit account info
- Executive/Staff reports

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner King, Commissioner Prasad

Commissioner Kupel is unable to join.

Staff Present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Development, Communications, and Marketing Coordinator Bonnie Chen, Youth Council Members Sea Kay Leung and Lillyanna Yim

1. Call to order

The meeting is called to order at 6:34pm.

Commissioner Kim joins at 6:35pm.

2. Commissioners Check-in: 5 minutes

3. Public Comment Period: 3 mins

Abhishek Singh, President of FIA (Federation of Indian Association) joins and speaks to some of the work of FIA.

Commissioner Hwang joins at 6:40pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: 5 minutes

a. June 28, 2022 (VOTE)

YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Bharath, Commissioner Lee

Abstain: Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner King

7 votes in the affirmative. 3 abstentions. Motion passes.

Commissioner King joins at 6:45pm.



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4. Reports: 5 minutes

a. Executive & Staff Reports

ED Padamsee Forbes gives updates on current interns, hiring, participation in various task forces, and other meetings.

Commissioner Prasad joins at 6:48pm.

b. EC Report

Chair Bharath provides updates about hiring, roles and responsibilities, and performance evaluation of the Executive Director.

5. OML Complaint filed by Commissioner for June 6's Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with Executive Director and AAPIC Interns: 8 mins

ED Forbes followed up with the AG's office regarding this complaint. The AG's office recommended that she describe the purpose of the Executive Session in the posted agenda moving forward.

Chair Bharath notes that this is a learning moment, and we must do better moving forward.

Commissioner King states that the lack of sharing of the purpose of the Executive Session was only one part of the violation and shares that the meeting was also not posted on the AAPIC calendar. Commissioner King states that this has happened before and compliance with OML is very important.

Chair Bharath recognizes Commissioner King's comment and acknowledges that this is an important issue.

ED Forbes states that there may have been a technical issue and will ensure that this does not happen moving forward.

Commissioner King suggests that future meetings be posted directly on the website so that the public can easily access and join meetings.

Commissioner Solar confirms that ED Forbes sends agendas to the State and posts on the AAPIC website. ED Forbes confirms. Commissioner Solar also notes that AAPIC is currently understaffed.

6. Western Massachusetts Community Needs: 10 mins

Commissioner Hwang gives a brief update on community needs in Western MA. There is a desire to have a community event for AAPI Heritage Month in 2023. The Amherst



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conversation centered around education and the curriculum that is taught in schools. The Springfield/Holyoke conversation centered around collaboration, given that there are quite a few established organizations in that area.

Commissioner Richard Chu reinforces the importance of having a Western MA Coordinator within AAPIC staff.

Chair Bharath asks if there is a shared space available in Western MA to hold future meetings. Commissioner Hwang and Commissioner Gary Chu mention that some community organizations have offered space for future meetings. There is mention of a need for a community center in Western MA, noting that this is a more long-term discussion and goal.

Commissioner Lee mentions that she may have connections who may be able to help with future space in Western MA and will connect with Commissioner Hwang and Commissioner Richard Chu.

Commissioner King asks for clarification regarding the demographics in Western MA. Commissioner Richard Chu shares that there is a significant number of Asian Americans according to the 2010 census, but there are still limitations around disaggregated data.

7. Commission Goals for 2022-23: 15 mins

Chair Bharath shares broadly that there is a need to define some goals for the Commission for the upcoming year. She speaks to the importance of having a few SMART goals for the ED and Staff to work towards. Chair Bharath then opens it up for questions, comments, and concerns.

Commissioner Lee states that it is great to have Commissioners involved in areas that they are experts in. She suggests that Commissioner King potentially lend her expertise to support ED Forbes and Staff with OML compliance.

Commissioner Gary Chu echoes support for clarifying some of AAPIC processes and mentions that retreat follow-up may also fit into this discussion. He also states the importance of leveraging collective networks to broaden the reach and impact of AAPIC's work.

Commissioner King echoes support for Commissioner Gary Chu's remarks.

Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Hyun, and Commissioner Solar echo support for this approach.



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Commissioner Prasad leaves the meeting at 7:34pm.

8. 2022 Budget Spend Down Report: 5 mins

ED Padamsee Forbes provides a brief update regarding the budget spend down for 2022, highlighting dissemination of grant funding, AAPIC retreat, as well as other line items.

Commissioner Lee asks a question about why the Chinese Benevolent Association is receiving the \$100,000 and how did that come out of the AAPIC budget?

Commissioner Kim says she has not looked into this in detail, but it would be helpful to look at the budgets that the House and the Senate passed to see if this appropriation was included in either of their versions. If they are not, we can assume that it was just conference committee members who decided to make this addition in their negotiations last minute. She offered to check the House and Senate versions of the budget to see if any funding was included for the Chinese Benevolent Association in either version.

Commissioner King states that AAPIC should look into this line item, given that it is such a big amount. Commissioner Gary Chu mentions that he is somewhat familiar with the organization's work.

Commissioner Hyun suggests that ED Padamsee Forbes reach out to the legislature to ask about this matter rather than speculate.

Commissioner Kim replied that she did some quick checking into the legislature's website, and it does appear that the appropriation for the Chinese Benevolent Association was on the House side. There was an amendment that was filed by Rep Ultrino of Malden that would provide \$100,000 for the Chinese Benevolent Association. It did not say where in the state budget and which line item this funding should come from and so perhaps the House leadership decided to put it into the Commission's line item.

9. Review of AAPIC Bylaws: 10 mins

Chair Bharath notes that this agenda item will be discussed next month.

10. Hiring subcommittee update: 5 mins

Chair Bharath states that Commissioners should feel free to reach out to ED Padamsee Forbes or the Hiring Subcommittee Chair, Commissioner Kupel, with any questions.

11. Executive session pursuant to General Laws c. 30A, section 21(a)2., to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Interns Bonnie Chen, Ziyi Zeng, and Haseeb Hamza: 10 mins



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The Chair Bharath asks for a motion to enter an Executive session pursuant to General Laws c. 30A, section 21(a)2., to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Interns Bonnie Chen, Ziyi Zeng, and Haseeb Hamza

VOTE: Commissioner Hyun motions to move into Executive Session. Commissioner Kim seconds.

YES: Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner King, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Bharath

Motion passes unanimously.

The Commission enters Executive Session at 7:50pm.

ED Padamsee Forbes shares that the purpose of this Executive Session and the increases in salary that she provided in the budget report. This revised budget as presented will need to be voted on by the Commission.

ED Forbes leaves the discussion at 7:55pm.

During the Executive Session, Commissioners discuss proposed bonuses for staff.

VOTE: Commissioner Gary Chu motions to approve the suggested revisions on the budget request. Commissioner Lee seconds.

YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner King, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Bharath

Motion passes unanimously.

VOTE: Commissioner Hyun motions to exit the Executive Session. Commissioner Kim seconds.

YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner King, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Bharath

Motion passes unanimously.

The Commission exits the Executive Session at 8:00pm.

Chair Bharath repeats the vote to approve the suggested revisions on the budget request as presented.



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YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner King, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Bharath

Motion passes unanimously.

12. Internship Plan at AAPIC: 5 mins

ED Forbes describes a proposed internship plan for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Hyun asks whether the current job postings mention that the positions will be managing interns.

Commissioner Kim asks whether there is a plan if the interns were to be hired before the two full-time positions. ED Padamsee Forbes shares that the current plan is to hire for the full-time positions first. Commissioner Kim suggests that we post the intern positions prior to mid-August to align with the college internship cycle.

VOTE: Commissioner Gary Chu motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kim seconds.

YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner King, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Bharath

Motion passes unanimously.

13. Next Commission Meeting: August 16, 2022

The meeting is adjourned at 8:15pm.



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