



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

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Gary Chu

### Vice Chairperson

Richard Chu

### Secretary

Saatvik Ahluwalia

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Amy Goh

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Danielle Kim

Mary KY Lee

Bethany Li

Marilyn Park

Megha Prasad

Jennifer Rubin

Ekta Saksena

Philjay Solar

### Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

## Meeting Minutes

June 20, 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: June 1, 2023
- Budgets
- [Subcommittee Chairs](#)
- [Youth Council Candidates](#)
- [Staff reports](#)

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Commissioners present: Commissioners Gary Chu, Ekta Saksena, Jennifer Rubin, Bethany Li, Megha Prasad, Amy Goh, Marilyn Park, Danielle Kim

Staff present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Communications & Outreach Manager Jennifer Best, Program & Research Director Esther Kim, Regional Coordinator Hannah Ku, Youth Coordinator Ashley Shan, Policy & Communications Coordinator Diana Li, Policy Coordinator Benjamin Wang

Guests: Sreeja Kalapurakkel

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Gary Chu calls the meeting to order at 6:39pm.

### 2. Commissioners Check-in

### 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes, June 1, 2023 (VOTE)

**VOTE: Commissioner Amy Goh motions to approve the June 1 meeting minutes. Commissioner Jennifer Rubin seconds.**

YES: Commissioners Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Ekta Saksena, Megha Prasad, Bethany Li, Marilyn Park, Gary Chu, Bethany Li

*The motion passes unanimously.*

### 4. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

### New Business:



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### 5. [Approval of Youth Council Candidates](#) (VOTE)

**Please vote to approve the YC candidates that were interviewed by the staff.**

Program & Research Director Esther Kim gave a brief overview. Received 23 applications to expand Youth Council to 10 members. Geographic and identity diversity in candidates was prioritized. A shortlist of 10 candidates was created, and 2 applicants were selected. The 3rd spot will be left open for future candidates from underrepresented communities.

**VOTE: Commissioner Jennifer Rubin makes a motion to approve the 2 YC candidates. Commissioner Ekta Saksena seconds.**

YES: Commissioners Jennifer Rubin, Megha Prasad, Bethany Li, Ekta Saksena, Amy Goh, Marilyn Park, Gary Chu

*The motion passes unanimously.*

### 6. **Treasurer role**

Kindly consider running for Treasurer.

Commissioner Gary Chu and ED Yasmin Padamsee Forbes encourage Commissioners to fill the open Treasurer position. Need a Treasurer by October to sign non-profit forms - will be a short term (until January 2024).

**Old Business:**

### 7. [Subcommittee Chairs](#) (VOTE)

**Update by Chair Gary Chu on the Chairs of the subcommittee**

Gary Chu gave a brief overview regarding the subcommittee chair appointments. The Education and Leadership Development Chair position is still open.

Governance Chair: Gary Chu

Government Relations, Advocacy, and Civil Rights Chair: Danielle Kim

Health and Human Services Chair: Amy Goh

Education and Leadership Development Chair: Open

Development and Unity Dinner Chair: Gary Chu

Western Mass Co-Chairs: Leo Hwang and Richard Chu

Arts and Culture Chairs: Christopher Huang

Small Business and Economic Development Chairs: Saatvik Ahluwalia

*Commissioner Danielle Kim joins the meeting at 6:49pm.*

**VOTE: Commissioner Ekta Saksena motions to approve the subcommittee chair appointments. Commissioner Jennifer Rubin seconds.**

YES: Commissioners Bethany Li, Gary Chu, Ekta Saksena, Amy Goh, Jennifer Rubin, Megha Prasad, Marilyn Park, Danielle Kim

*The motion passes unanimously.*

### 8. **Reports:**



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### a. Commissioners Report

Commissioner Gary Chu shared about collaboration with Point 32 Health (AAPI cultural hour, Unity Dinner sponsor).

### b. [Staff reports](#)

ED Yasmin Padamsee Forbes applied for a grant to fund bilateral translations. The grant, once submitted, will be voted on by the public. The grant would help provide translations for AAPIC website and other materials, as well as for community groups through grants.

The AAPIC state budget is going through processes, with no official approval yet.

Additional grants were extremely well received by community groups.

### c. Sub-committees

Government Relations: Commissioner Danielle Kim gives an update about the recent discussions of the Government Relations Subcommittee, including the process by which the AAPIC supports legislation, with a priority on research and community outreach; endorse or advocate for bills, not just educate; identifying community perspectives on issues prior to advocacy; chance to partner with Asian Caucus to look at particular bills and to support efforts.

ED Yasmin Padamsee Forbes gives updates about planning for the Unity Dinner, including a survey sent to Commissioners about date and location. Date and location will be voted on in the August Commission Meeting.

## 9. Future Agenda Items Suggestions

Commissioner Chu suggests potentially inviting Dr. Paul Watanabe as a speaker.

**VOTE: Commissioner Ekta Saksena motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Amy Goh seconds.**

YES: Commissioners Ekta Saksena, Jennifer Rubin, Megha Prasad, Bethany Li, Amy Goh, Marilyn Park, Danielle Kim, Gary Chu

*The motion passes unanimously.*

*Commissioner Gary Chu adjourns the meeting at 7:09pm.*

## 10. Next Commission Meeting: August 15, 2023

*\*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 only three (3) minutes.*



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