



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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### Vice Chairperson

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Samuel Hyun

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Danielle Kim

Betty King

Mary KY Lee

Nina Liang

Dimple Rana

Philjay Solar

Haniya Syeda

### Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

## Meeting Minutes

October 18, 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: July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20, 2022
- FY22 state budget spreadsheet
- FY22 nonprofit account info
- Executive/Staff reports
- Non profit Tax 2021
- Draft State Budget Appropriations

**Commissioners Present:** Commissioner Meena Bharath, Commissioner Megha Prasad, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Ekta Saksena, Commissioner Danielle Kim, Commissioner Leo Hwang, Commissioner Philjay Solar (7)

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Program & Research Director Esther Kim, Communications & Outreach Manager Jennifer Best, Youth Coordinator Haseeb Hamza, Development & Communications Intern Bonnie Chen, Youth Council Member Lila Yoon

*Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner KC, and Commissioner Gary Chu are unable to join.*

### 1. Call to order

The meeting is called to order at 6:40 pm.

### 2. Commissioners Check-in: 5 minutes

### 3. Public Comment Period: 2 mins

### 4. Community Dialogue: 3 mins

- a. Ask commissioners which organizations they want to be spotlighted

### 5. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 3 minutes

- a. September 20, 2022 (VOTE)

**VOTE:** Commissioner Prasad motions to approve the meeting minutes from September 20, 2022. Commissioner Solar seconds.

**YES:** Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Bharath

**Abstain:** Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Hwang

**5 votes in the affirmative. 2 abstentions. The motion passes.**



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### 6. Reports: 10 minutes

#### a. Executive & Staff Reports

- (1) Executive/Staff Reports
- (2) FY22 state budget spreadsheet
- (3) FY22 nonprofit account info/Tax form

#### b. EC Report

Chair Bharath and Treasurer Prasad signed off on tax forms. The Executive Committee also evaluated ED Forbes' performance. The Executive Committee has been receiving requests from organizations to join local events.

#### c. Sub-committees

ED Forbes requests that Commissioners volunteer to join the Unity Dinner and Grants sub-committees. Commissioner Solar volunteers to join the Unity Dinner planning committee.

### Old Business

#### 7. FY 2023 Appropriations: Submitted Proposal Adjustment (VOTE): 10 mins The proposed budget for FY 23 appropriations

**VOTE:** Commissioner Kim motions to approve the FY23 budget as presented. Commissioner Prasad seconds.

**YES:** Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Bharath

**The motion passes unanimously.**

#### 8. Upcoming EC Elections to be held on Dec 18, 2022 (Suggestions to have EC be elected for the fiscal year so for upcoming elections, EC will be in place from Jan 2023 to June 2024): 5 mins

ED Forbes explains the benefits of shifting election cycles to align with the fiscal year. Commissioner Kim expresses support for this shift. She suggests that elections be moved up earlier in the month to avoid overlap with holidays.

#### 9. AAPIC Bylaws Change (from the previous agenda: Name change, Quorum) (VOTE): 10 minutes

ED Forbes shares that the bylaws still reflect the name "Asian American Commission" and should be updated to "Asian American Pacific Islanders Commission." ED Forbes also summarizes previous discussions around the change to quorum.

**VOTE:** Commissioner Hwang motions to officially change the name in the bylaws from Asian American Commission to Asian American Pacific Islanders Commission.

Commissioner Kim seconds.

**YES:** Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Hwang, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Bharath

**The motion passes unanimously.**

Chair Bharath suggests tabling the quorum discussion to the next meeting.



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### **10. Discussion on Minutes: 3 minutes**

ED Forbes shares that meeting minutes of other Commissions only include general summaries and votes, as opposed to what each Commissioner states during the meeting. She states that AAPIC may want to adopt this approach.

### **11. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 3 minutes**

#### **a. July 19, 2022 (VOTE)**

**VOTE:** Commissioner Kim motions to approve the meeting minutes from July 19, 2022. Commissioner Prasad seconds.

**YES:** Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Bharath

**Abstain:** Commissioner Hwang

**6 votes in the affirmative. 1 abstention. The motion passes.**

#### **b. August 16, 2022 (VOTE)**

**VOTE:** Commissioner Kim motions to approve the meeting minutes from August 16, 2022. Commissioner Solar seconds.

**YES:** Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Bharath

**Abstain:** Commissioner Hwang

**6 votes in the affirmative. 1 abstention. The motion passes.**

### **New Business:**

#### **12. Update on Western Mass listening session: 5 mins**

Program & Research Director Esther Kim gives an update. Currently, there are 37 confirmed participants, including community members, legislators, and Commissioners.

#### **13. Close CD account at Rockland Trust and move funding to Eastern Bank: 3 mins (VOTE)**

ED Forbes gave background on this matter. The vote will be postponed to the next meeting.

#### **14. Grant subcommittee members: 3 mins**

Commissioner Prasad gave an overview of the grant process. Commissioner Bharath encourages Commissioners to join. Commissioner Saksena and Commissioner Hwang volunteered to join the sub-committee.

#### **15. Unity Dinner committee members: 3 mins**

Commissioner Solar and Commissioner Saksena volunteered to join the sub-committee.

ED Forbes shares that the current committee is exploring dates at the end of April and end of May, with locations in Worcester, MA or Quincy, MA. Commissioner Chu, Solar, Saksena, and Hwang support hosting the Unity Dinner in Worcester. Commissioner Bharath states that community representation at the Unity Dinner is critical.

#### **16. Oral history project of the Bhutanese Society - Commissioner. R. Chu: 5 mins**

Commissioner Chu gives an update about the oral history project.



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### **17. Update on Communications plan: 5 mins**

Jennifer Best requests Commissioners to fill out the forms she shared via email, which include forms for the annual report, community organizations, holidays/news/events, and the Commissioner's social media campaign.

**Commissioner Chu leaves at 8:00pm. Quorum is lost. The meeting is adjourned.**

### **18. Next Commission Meeting: November 15, 2022**

*\*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, and each speaker is limited to not more than 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 item on the agenda, but do concern the Commission or AAPI matters in MA.*



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