



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson

Gary Chu

Vice Chairperson

Richard Chu

Secretary

Saatvik Ahluwalia

Moana Bentin
Meenakshi Bharath
Karen Y. Chen
Cinda Danh
Amy Goh
Christopher Huang
Leo L. Hwang
Danielle Kim
Bethany Li
Marilyn Park
Megha Prasad
Jennifer Rubin
Ekta Saksena
Philjay Solar
Tuyet Tran

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place
12th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
aapicommission.org

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 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.

Commissioners in Attendance: Gary Chu, Richard Chu, Tuyet Tran, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Jennifer Goh, Danielle Kim, Bethany Li, Karen Chen, Amy Goh, Megha Prasad

Staff in Attendance: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Policy and Communications Director Jennifer Best

Others in Attendance: Heang Rubin

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Gary Chu calls the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

2. Commissioners Check-in (Welcome new Commissioners)

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes, August 15, 2023 (VOTE)

Vote: Commissioner Jennifer Rubin motions to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Amy Goh seconds.

Yes: Jennifer Rubin, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Amy Goh, Tuyet Tran, Gary Chu
Abstain: Danielle Kim, Bethany Li, Moana Bentin, Karen Chen, Richard Chu

The motion passes.

4. Public Comment

New Business

5. Small Grants criteria (VOTE)

Commissioners discuss the Small Grants Fund criteria, and how to ensure the Grants Fund best supports the Commission's mission. An important reason behind the proposed change in grant size is that the Commission has received feedback from previous grantees that larger amounts would be more beneficial. Commissioners note that some of the criteria is broad. Commissioners also note that the grants program is time-sensitive due to needing to spend the full funding by the end of the financial Year. The Grants Subcommittee will meet to further discuss before the application becomes public.

Commissioner Megha Prasad joins at 7:02PM.

Vote: Commissioner Moana Bentin motions to approve the Small Grants Fund criteria.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

Yes: Moana Bentin, Tuyet Tran, Richard Chu, Karen Chen, Jennifer Rubin, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Danielle Kim, Bethany Li, Amy Goh, Richard Chu

Abstain: Megha Prasad

The motion passes.

6. EC continuation until Feb 2024 (VOTE)

Postponed.

7. Nominations for Governor Commissions

ED Padamsee Forbes informs the Commission that the Governor's Office has reached out to the Commission to raise awareness of boards and commissions, which the Governor's Office will be filling vacancies on. Diversity of background and experience will be prioritized. More information about applying for state boards and commissions can be found [here](#).

8. Strategic Plan update

Commissioners discuss what the priorities and values of the AAPIC should be. This discussion will continue in the [Strategic Planning Subcommittee on October 6th at 4PM](#).

Commissioner Megha Prasad leaves at 7:21PM.

Old Business

9. Reports

a. Commissioners Report

Commissioner Li gives an update about an event being planned to celebrate the data equity policy win.

b. Staff reports

ED Padamsee Forbes provides updates about a survey advisory group, hiring that will be happening over the next month, and Commissioner applications. Policy & Communications Director Best gives updates about upcoming subcommittee meetings.

c. Sub-committees

10. Future Agenda Items Suggestions

11. Next Commission Meeting: October 17, 2023

VOTE: Commissioner Tuyet Tran motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

Yes: Tuyet Tran, Moana Bentin, Richard Chu, Karen Chen, Jennifer Rubin, Bethany Li, Amy Goh, Danielle Kim, Gary Chu, Saatvik Ahluwalia

The motion passes unanimously.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

