



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Executive Director

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aapicommission.org

Meeting Minutes

Sept 20, 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.

Commissioners Present: Chair Meenakshi Bharath, Commissioners Gary Chu, Richard Chu, Danielle Kim, Megha Prasad, Pralhad KC, Samuel Hyun, Mary Lee, Betty King, Philjay Solar, Mary Chin (11)

Staff Present: Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Communications & Outreach Manager Jennifer Best, Program & Research Director Esther Kim, Development & Communications Coordinator Bonnie Chen

Documents Used:

- Master Budget 2022

1. Call to order

Chair Bharath called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

2. Commissioners Check-in: 5 minutes

3. Public Comment Period: 2 mins

4. Reports: 10 minutes

a. Executive & Staff Reports

(1) Executive/Staff Reports (2) FY22 state budget spreadsheet

(3) FY22 nonprofit account info

ED Forbes shared that the Commissioner application review is underway. She also followed up on the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) \$100,000 budget line question from the Commission's previous monthly meeting. This budget line was an earmark requested by the Senate Ways and Means Chair.

Commissioners discussed the definitions of earmarks and pass-through allocations, as well as provided context of multiple earmarks that exist within State budgets. This CCBA earmark was the first time AAPIC had received such an allocation. The following resource was shared to encourage group members to review budget language:

<https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FinalBudget>

Development & Communications Coordinator Bonnie Chen joined at 6:51pm.

Newly hired staff Esther Kim and Jennifer Best gave self-introductions.



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b. EC Report

Chair Bharath shares about Quincy/Ludlow Mid-Autumn Festival events. She requests more information-sharing and invites Commissioners to attend events.

a. Sub-committees

The Governance, Finance, and Communications Subcommittee meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum.

Old Business

2. FY 2023 Appropriations: Submitted Proposal Adjustment (VOTE): 15 mins

a. Proposed budget for FY 23 appropriations

ED Forbes shared the following changes made for FY23 budget appropriations: increasing Employee Compensation to cover Wifi and cell phone usage expenses for staff and interns; increasing allocations to support administrative and programming expenses for listening sessions and subcommittee projects; and increasing the AAPI Community Resources Funds to further support underrepresented groups.

Commissioners discussed budget details related to how the CCBA earmark should be labeled in the AAPIC budget.

VOTE: Commissioner Hyun motioned to approve the budget. Commissioner Kim seconded.

YES: Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner KC, Chair Bharath

NO: Commissioner Chin, Commissioner King, Commissioner Lee

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Hyun switched his vote from YES to Abstain.

VOTE: Commissioner Hyun motioned to open discussion and take another roll-call vote. Commissioner Lee seconded.

YES: Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kim, Commissioner King, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Chin, Commissioner KC, Chair Bharath

The motion passed unanimously, and the Commissioners continued to discuss the CCBA earmark.

ED Forbes shared that this budget was the final version. The document was circulated more than 1 week ago and was similar to the budget reviewed in last month's Commission meeting. ED Forbes confirmed that the earmark was included in the AAPIC budget, but the CCBA name was not included.

VOTE: Commissioner Prasad motioned to vote on the budget as presented. Commissioner Kim seconds.

YES: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Solar, Chair Bharath

NO: Commissioner King, Commissioner Chin

Abstain: Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner KC



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6 votes in the affirmative. Chair Bharath will investigate confirming whether this motion passed and follow up if needed.

3. Western Mass Listening Session Plan and Budget (VOTE): 10 mins

Commissioner Richard Chu shared updates about the upcoming Western MA listening session. The venue has been secured, and the proposed event budget divided expenses amongst use of the venue (UMass Amherst Center at Springfield), food, and drinks/beverages/snacks. The listening session will take place on 10/22, 10 AM-1 PM.

VOTE: Commissioner Kim motioned to approve the listening session budget. Commissioner Hyun seconded.

YES: Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner King, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner KC, Chair Bharath, Commissioner Chin

The motion passed unanimously.

VOTE: Chair Bharath motioned to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Commissioner Prasad moves the motion. Commissioner Hyun seconded.

YES: Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner King, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner KC, Chair Bharath

NO: Commissioner Prasad

Commissioner Lee and Commissioner Kim signed off.

4. Community Dialogue: 3 mins

Community guest Minnie Gupta introduced herself. Gupta served on the Holliston School Committee and was elected Vice-Chair this year. She is also the president of an education non-profit that started 10 years ago as an informal group. There are about 56 active members currently, and they reach out to local communities to promote Indian and subcontinental culture via youth engagement, events, and volunteering.

Commissioners shared their appreciation of the work being done. Gupta shared that their group started in Holliston, and they are primarily based in Holliston and surrounding towns (i.e., Hopkinton, Natick, Ashland, Framingham).

Minnie Gupta left at 8:16 pm.

VOTE: Commissioner Gary Chu motioned for adjournment. Commissioner Solar seconded.

YES: Commissioner King, Commissioner Hyun, Commissioner Richard Chu, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Gary Chu, Commissioner KC, Chair Bharath

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

5. Next Commission Meeting: **October 18, 2022**