



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Executive Director

Jenny Chiang

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

www.aacommission.org

Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2020, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19

Absent Commissioners are highlighted and remote participants are indicated by an asterisk*. Quorum was reached by attendance.

Attachments:

- Meeting Minutes, 6/16/20, 6/29/20, 7/8/20, and 7/21/20
- Executive Committee and Staff Reports
- Redacted letter to Tackey Chan, 10/7/19
- Meeting Minutes, 9/30/19
- Jay's Grievance Letter, 9/29/19
- Email regarding Open Meeting Law Determinations

Staff Present: Jenny Chiang, Jessica Wong, Brooke Yuen, Sheila Vo

Guests Present: Tran Le, Ye Pogue, Sankth Udupa

Vira calls the meeting to order at 6:49pm.

1. Executive Committee & Staff Reports

- Jenny provided an overview of the executive committee report

2. Education Committee Updates

- Meena presented an overview of education committee work. The committee is developing an immediate and long-term vision plan to address issues Asian American students face.
- Meena shared draft of a vision plan, identified partners, community survey, data collected by interns, and brainstorm on forming a youth council.

3. Subcommittee Updates (if any): max time 3 mins each

Development (Vanna, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

Government Relations, Advocacy, & Civil Rights

- Governments Relations (Sam, Chair)
 - o Sam will be convening the committee soon
- Civil Rights (Bora, Chair)

Governance, Finance, & Communications

- Governance (Nate, Chair)
- Finance (Bora, Chair)
 - o Bora presented an overview of the state budget
 - o Bora and Jenny will work to strategize how to preserve our funding



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Communications (Danielle, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

Education & Leadership Development

- Leadership Development (Philjay, Chair)
 - o Currently in beginning phase of planning YLS. This year's event will be virtual. Commissioners are encouraged to contact Philjay to join the planning committee.

Health and Human Services (Mabel, Chair)

- The Asian American Mental Health forum, which AAC sponsored, hosted their event this month.
- Strategizing on how to address Asian American problem gambling. Jenny is working on a meeting with the MA Council on Problem Gambling.

Small Business & Economic Development (Nina, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

4. Executive Session

- Discussion on Vira Douangmany Cage's complaint against former and current Commissioners namely Pralhad KC, Mary K. Y. Lee, Chung Liu, and Anil Saigal in regards to their letter dated 10/7/2019 to Rep. Tackey Chan, copied to AAC Appointing Authorities and Sen. Dean Tran where Staff and Commissioners were targeted.
 - Letter to Tackey Chan, 10/7/19
 - Special Commission Meeting, 9/30/19
 - Clarification of Audio Recording and Open Meeting Law, 9/2019
 - Jay's Grievance Letter, 9/29/19
- Sam motions to enter an executive session.
- Mary L. requests to have a discussion in open session. The Commission will continue the agenda item in open session.
- Vira requests Sam to help moderate the conversation. Vira shares that there was a public records request for the letter to Tackey Chan and would like the Commission to address the contents of the letter.
- Mary L. requests we invite a moderator who is not a Commissioner to avoid bias and proposes to defer the discussion.
- Meena asks if there were efforts to discuss this individually.
- Sam agrees that meetings have become unproductive and the internal issues needs to be resolved. We need to have an outside mediator. Our meetings should be reserved to serve the community.
- Vira assures that the outside mediator must be approved by both parties.
- Further discussion will be tabled.

5. Minutes to be approved: 6/16/20, 6/29/20, 7/8/20, and 7/21/20

- Gilbert suggests extending the meeting 15 minutes since we started late.
- The minutes will be tabled to the following meeting as the designated meeting time has ended and Commissioners were not able to stay past 8pm.



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6. Old business

7. New Business

8. Next Commission meeting

9. Other Community updates & Meeting adjourned

Mabel motions to adjourn the meeting, Bora seconds.

- Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm