



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chairperson

Vira Douangmany  
Cage\*

### Vice Chairperson

Mabel Lam\*

### Treasurer

Bora Chiemruom\*

### Secretary

Philjay Solar\*

Jonjy Ananth

Meenakshi Bharath\*

Mary Chin

Gilbert Ho

Vanna Howard\*

Samuel Hyun\*

Pralhad KC\*

Danielle Kim\*

Betty King\*

Nate Bae Kupel

Wingkay Leung

Mary K. Y. Lee\*

Nina Liang

Dimple Rana

Haniya Syeda

Ying Wang\*

### Executive Director

Jenny Chiang

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

www.aacommission.org

## Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2020, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUvc--hpzguHdPtI7f-KeoznXLIWxKMvoPS>

\*Please note this meeting will be recorded

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 from 6/16/20, 6/29/20, 7/8/20, 7/21/20, 8/25/20
- Executive Committee and Staff Reports
- Nonprofit and State Budgets

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

Guests Present: Tran Le

Vira asks Mabel to help Chair the meeting today.

Mabel calls the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

## 1. Approval of minutes from 6/16/20, 6/29/20, 7/8/20, 7/21/20, 8/25/20 – VOTE

### June 16 Minutes

- Betty notes a correction to 6/16 minutes to strike out “essence of age” and replace with “but we have to treat each other with respect and dignity”
- Vira motions to approve the 6/16 minutes with Betty's corrections. Danielle seconds.

### Vote:

Yes: Vira, Bora, Philjay, Vanna, Sam, Pralhad, Danielle, Mary L., Mabel

Abstain: Meena, Betty

Motion passes

### June 29 Minutes

- Vira motions to approve the minutes from 6/29. Meena seconds.

### Vote:

Yes: Vira, Bora, Philjay, Meena, Sam, Pralhad, Danielle, Betty, Mary L., Mabel

Abstain: Vanna

Motion passes

### July 8 Minutes

- Danielle notes correction under attachments regarding “Commission on Status of African Americans”
- Sam motions to approve the 7/8 minutes, Bora seconds

### Vote:

Yes: Vira, Bora, Sam, Pralhad, Danielle, Betty, Mabel, Philjay, Vanna



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Abstain: Meena, Mary L.

Motion passes

### July 21 Minutes

- Mary L. notes a correction regarding language on approving minutes.
- Betty states that tabling the approval of minutes on 7/21 was procedurally wrong.
- Sam motions to approve the 7/21 with Mary L.'s amendment. Ying seconds

Vote:

Yes: Vira, Philjay, Sam, Pralhad, Danielle, Betty, Mary L., Ying, Mabel

Abstain: Bora, Meena, Vanna

Motion passes

### August 25, 2020

- Betty requests changing the word "targeted" to "discussed" under Executive Session.
- Vira shares that the original agenda included this wording.
- Mary L. proposes removing the wording "where Staff and Commissioners were targeted" under Executive Session. Danielle shares that the wording was copied verbatim from the original agenda.
- Meena suggests removing the phrase under the agenda item.
- Mary L. proposes the following corrections:
  - o Strike out "approval of minutes" and replace with "minutes to be approved"
  - o Remove "vote" from agenda item
  - o Remove general law language
- Bora motions to approve 8/25 minutes with amendments. Vira seconds.

Vote:

Yes: Vira, Bora, Philjay, Meena, Sam, Pralhad, Danielle, Betty, Mary L., Mabel

Abstain: Vanna, Ying

Motion passes

## 2. Executive Committee & Staff Reports (Staff, 5 mins)

- Jenny provided an overview of the Executive Committee report
- Jay, Brooke, and Sheila provided an overview of the staff reports.

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

Development (Vanna, Chair)

- No updates to report at this time. Will hopefully work on having an in-person event next year.

Government Relations, Advocacy, & Civil Rights

- Governments Relations (Sam, Chair)
  - o No updates at this time. Sam hopes to be able to convene the committee soon to discuss.
- Civil Rights (Bora, Chair)
  - o Deferred for subsequent discussion

Governance, Finance, & Communications

- Governance (Nate, Chair)
  - o Deferred for subsequent discussion



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- Finance (Bora, Chair)
  - o Deferred for subsequent discussion
- Communications (Danielle, Chair)
  - o Vira shares that there is some work going on around the State seal as we do use the seal in our letterhead.
  - o Danielle proposes connecting with Sam and legislative committee regarding the proposed bill.

### Education & Leadership Development

- Education (Meena, Chair)
  - o Meena shares that they will bring forth a possible pilot program for a youth council.
  - o The interns will continue to help. They are putting together a database for dissemination of surveys. Meena suggested they join upcoming Commission meetings.
- Leadership Development (Philjay, Chair)
  - o This year's Young Leaders Symposium will be virtual. Possible dates: 10/24 or 10/25.
  - o The committee will meet next week.

### Health and Human Services (Mabel, Chair)

- Meeting last Friday with MA Council on Problem Gambling with community leaders.
  - o Discussion about forming a task force to keep DPH and casinos accountable to the Asian community.
  - o The work will involve all communities, not just Asian communities.
  - o We are awaiting on any upcoming meeting opportunities.
  - o The Council was very interested in getting contacts from Western MA
- Asian Women for Health will be hosting their annual CelebASIAN event. AAC will be able to take out an ad opportunity in their program book.

### Small Business & Economic Development (Nina, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

## 4. Old business

## 5. New Business

- a. National Filipino American History Month (October)
  - i. Philjay would like to organize a feature about Filipinos in the Boston area.
- b. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)
  - i. Possible collaboration with ATASK. There has been a surge of domestic violence due to the pandemic.
  - ii. Mabel would like to collaborate with the health and human services committee. There is also another organization, Saheli, that deals with domestic violence.
- c. Meena proposes organizing a space for Commissioners to meet in person taking account everyone's comfort level. Mabel proposes sending out a doodle to get everyone's availability and feedback.



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d. Vira shares there is currently a petition regarding a store in Huntington, MA referring to COVID-19 as the China virus. Vira participated individually in an action with community members.

e. Meena shares there is a petition regarding Dewali to allow for use of sparklers to celebrate the holiday.

## **6. Next Commission meeting**

## **7. Other Community updates & Meeting adjourned**

- Sam motions to adjourn. Meena seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm