



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Mabel Lam

Lydia Schroter

Evelyn Tang*

Karen Tseng

Larry Wong

Bora Chiemruom

Executive Director

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

www.aacommission.org

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 13, 2015 at 4:30pm

JFK, 15 New Sudbury Street, Room 475

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

- Accepted 12/09/2015 meeting minutes
- Corrections are to be made. Nick motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Ken. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Executive Director (ED) gave her monthly report:

- 1) Focused on securing location for Unity Dinner
- 2) Worked with HealthCare Subcommittee to figure out activities and events for the upcoming year. We have been meeting bi-weekly.
- 3) Updated AAC website and added Commissioners' bios
- 4) Met with Treasurer's office on numerous occasions. We are required to take Conflict of Interest(COI) on-line training very two years, and submit by email an acknowledgment of Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law for State Employee.
- 5) During the month of December and January, met with Auditor's office and Treasurer's office, in addition to external meetings with LCHC, Enterprise Bank, Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA), attended Saffron Circle grantee celebration, and on the planning committee for Asian Mental Health Forum.

New Commissioners: Vira Douangmany-Cage appointed by the Senate President and Dr. John Naranja appointed by the State Auditor.

Reappointments: Nick Chau (Attorney General), Elisa Choi (State Treasurer), and Wingkey Leung (Secretary of State).

Review of Code of Conduct, OML and Conflict of Interests (COI):

- Need to complete the COI online training, and send back your certificate of completion by February 10, 2016 (next meeting).
- Need to submit by email acknowledgment of Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law for State Employee by February 10th
- Elisa gave an example of a COI relating to a request to use her name in a proposal. This would have been a direct violation because she was recently honored with an award by the fiscal agent of the planning committee.
- Need to send back the "certificate of receipt of OML materials" by February 10th
- Need to sign the Commissioner's Code of Conduct, and send it back by February 10th
 - The Executive Committee will begin to enforce this attendance expectation.
 - The Executive Committee proposed that there should be a minimum IN PERSON meeting attendance requirement of 3 meetings per year, per Commissioner.
 - Exceptions to this IN PERSON meeting attendance requirement should be addressed to the Chairperson/Vice Chairperson.

Motion to ratify to confirm Sophy Team as Chairperson of Unity Dinner was approved
Unity Dinner: Possible dates and venues: Friday May 13, 2016 OR Friday June 10, 2016, WGBH. Friday June 3, 2016, at Boston University

- Elisa asked commissioners to submit top five organizations that are having events in May to determine if it would be favorable to have UD in May



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- Wingkay suggested a joint venture, combined Unity Dinner for WGBH and AAC, to offset cost; Elisa will add it to the proposal to WGBH
- Each Commissioner will be expected to participate in 2016 Unity Dinner planning, joining/assisting at least one "working group"
- Commissioners can choose to join the Unity Dinner subcommittee formally, as an option, though this is not required

Subcommittees update:

Discussion of structures and subcommittee goals/charters:

- Bora will circulate the most current Committee roster by Friday 1/15/2016, and each Commissioner will sign up for no less than 2 committees, or confirm their plans to stay on the committees for which they are currently listed as a member.
- Chris recommended new commissioner be paired with a mentor, "Commissioner buddy system". Chris agrees to be on "welcome wagon".

Program – HealthCare Subcommittee:

- Saturday, April 30th - Asian Traditional Medicine at South Cove Community Health Center in Quincey, led by Jennifer Cao, with Representative Donald Wong and Representative Rady Mom as possible presenters.
- Film Screening/ Community Listening possibly at Southeast Asian Resource Center with Anh Sawyer in Worcester to engage with Hmong community on Saturday, June 18th (to be confirmed)
- Supporting the Asian Mental Health Forum on May 20th, Location: TBD
- Event in Lowell in November 2016

Young Leaders Symposium (YLS): Chris is asking for a chairperson to take the lead on YLS and lock down a location

Program - Economic Development: need to look at possible new partnerships

Program - Resource Fair: EC will decide on QARI and report back

Old Business:

Asian American Civil Rights Conference:

- Ken presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a partnership opportunity between AAC and EEOC to plan an Asian American Civil Rights Conference for next five years (2016-2020).
- Gilbert motioned to approved Asian American Civil Rights Conference MOU, seconded by Nick, Ken abstained, and motion carried!

New Business:

Bylaws amendments and revision submitted by Elisa Choi. The bylaws amendments will require a vote at the next full Commission meeting.

-Article VIII – Officers, #2 – (To REPLACE the first sentence of this article item.) Officers shall be elected annually, at the first meeting of the calendar year.

-Article X – Executive Board, #1 – (To REPLACE this entire article item.) The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers of the Executive Committee and the Executive Director.

-Article X – Executive Board, #4 – (To REPLACE the third sentence of this article item.) All such expenditures, if not exceeding \$300, can be approved solely by the Executive



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Board; otherwise, expenditures exceeding \$300 shall be subject to the approval of the Commissioners at the next meeting of the Commission.

-Article XI – Committees, #2A – (To REPLACE the listing of the committees): The committees can include but not be limited to the following: a) Administration/Finance, b) Economic Development, c) Fundraising/Unity Dinner, d) Health and Human Services, e) Leadership Development/Young Leaders Symposium, f) Public Relations/Legislation

-Article XIII – Voting Privileges – DELETE the sentence “There shall be no proxy voting.”

-Article XV – Amendments to the bylaws – REPLACE the sentence currently noted under this article, with the following: “These bylaws may be amended at any regular Commission meeting by a majority vote of the members of the Commission, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted at the previous meeting.

Elisa also presented a written Executive Committee report, as per bylaws. (see attachment labeled AAC Executive Committee Report - January 13, 2016).

2016 Commission meetings will occur on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 4:30pm, **NEW LOCATION**, 12th floor Conference Room at One Ashburton Place

Meeting adjourned