



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

**Chairperson**  
Pralhad KC

**Vice Chairperson**  
Kimberly Truong\*

**Treasurer**  
Chung Liu

**Secretary**  
Anil Saigal

Jonjy Ananth\*  
Meenakshi Bharath  
Vira Douangmany Cage  
Bora Chiemruom  
Mary Chin  
Vanna Howard\*  
Nate Bae Kupel  
Mabel Lam  
Mary K. Y. Lee  
Nina Liang  
Dimple Rana  
Ying Wang

**Executive Director**  
Jenny Chiang

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

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 4:30pm to 6:00pm  
Asian American Civic Association, 87 Tyler St., Boston, MA 02111

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

1. Approval of minutes from May 15, 2019 – **VOTE**
  - Mary C. motions to accept the minutes, Chung seconds - Minutes approved
2. Executive Committee Report (Pralhad, 5 mins)
  - Pralhad was called in by the Governor's office due to complaints made against him by Jenny and Kim. The Governor's office shared that complaints were made that he was not allowing Secretary of State past appointees to join the meeting. Pralhad shared that the Governor's office agreed with him that decisions are to be decided by the board. He has also been called by the Secretary of State's office to have a meeting and expecting a call from the Treasurer's office.
  - Jenny clarified that she had not approached the Governor's office to make any complaints. In April, Jenny and Kim held a strategic planning meeting with the Governor's office where we asked for advice on how to work with appointing offices that do not appoint replacement Commissioners.
  - Kim stated that she had approached the Governor's office concerned that if additional appointing bodies do not replace Commissioners, AAC may not be able to sustainably function. Kim stated this will be her last meeting.
  - Jenny stated that she asked Jessica to contact the Ethics Commission to ask if AAC would be able to provide a stipend for her work toward the AAPI Civil Rights Forum. The Ethics Commission responded that a stipend would not be allowed as they consider the forum to be under the same contract. Jenny stated that Pralhad told her she had no authority to let Jessica contact the Ethics Commission. Commissioners stated they have contacted the Ethics Commission on multiple occasions and that it is a free and open resource to the State.
  - Mabel stated this will be her last meeting.
  - Mary C. asked what the sense of urgency is to have Commissioners from the Secretary of State. Kim responded that we need more Commissioners to carry on the work of AAC.
3. AAPI Civil Rights Forum (Pralhad, 10 mins)
  - Proposed stipend by EEOC to supplement the work of the Forum
  - Motion if Jay accepts full time position, AAC will transfer \$4000 from EEOC funding to AAC operations to allow Jay to commit hours to AAPI Civil Rights Forum – Motion passed
4. Retreat Consultant Discussion (Pralhad, 5 mins)
  - Discussion on effectiveness of having a consultant last year
  - Motion to hire consultant for upcoming retreat to go over protocol for AAC – Mary C. motions, Chung seconds – motion passed unanimously
  - Discussion for EC to carry out vetting process for consultant
5. Commissioner Ivy Ho's Resignation (Pralhad, 5 mins)



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- Ivy submitted a resignation letter to the House Speaker

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

Unity Dinner/Fundraiser (Anil, Pralhad, & Vanna, Co-Chairs)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

Legislation Committee (Nate, Chair)

- Nate is interested in calling a meeting
- Closely watching census updates to see how AAC can be involved to educate the Asian community on what is happening
- Discussion on connecting with APIs CAN who are currently working on the census question

Finance/Admin (Chung, Chair)

- Taxes were filed in May
- Financial records from May were reported
- The EC will discuss possible auditing for AAC and will report back at the next monthly meeting

Health and Human Services

- Ivy is no longer Chair
- AAC was contacted by Dept. Public Health (DPH) to see if we would be interested in joining their Asian American Pacific Islander affinity group
- Mary C. offered to Chair the Health & Human Services committee

Young Leaders Symposium (Kim & Nina, Co-Chairs)

- A survey was sent out to better understand how to structure the upcoming YLS
- Kim proposed idea to advocate for Asian American Studies from K-12

Economic Development (Mary C., Chair)

- AAC had worked with East West Bank to have a financial seminar for a series of financial workshops
- Proposal to have a job fair event in the future. Discussion on issue of Asian immigrants with higher degrees in their home country not being valid in the US.
- AAC has 2 upcoming training events with EEOC to educate small business owners on equal employment law. Commissioners are encouraged to outreach to their networks to help increase registration.

PR Committee (Mary L., Chair)

- Mary L. shared update on the Asian American Performing Arts Tournament
- Update that Harvard is a very possible venue. The event will be free to the public.
- Discussion for first 3 winners to get a cash prize. Nate helped confirm that there should be no conflict in award money. Each participant can have an entrance fee of \$20. Groups may pay an entrance fee of \$50.
- Discussion on concerns regarding capacity of AAC. Mary L. has garnered support from volunteers interested in helping.
- Chung motions for AAC to contribute \$5000 in seed funding to the Performing Arts Tournament. Pralhad seconds – Anil, Mary C., and Mary L. vote aye.
  - o Bora, Dimple, and Nate abstain – motion passed



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7. Community Agenda Item at Future Meetings (Nate, 5 mins)
  - Deferred for subsequent discussion
8. Old business
9. New Business
10. Next Commission meeting: Every second Wednesday, July 10, 2019
11. Other Community updates & Meeting adjourned