



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

March 31, 2020, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/819323413>

United States: [+1 \(224\) 501-3412](tel:+12245013412)

Access Code: 819-323-413

Meeting 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:

- Executive Committee Report
- Staff Report
- Meeting Minutes, February 25, 2020
- Audit Proposal
- 2020 Nonprofit Budget / FY20 State Appropriation
- Request from Bhutanese Society of Western MA
- Sponsorship Request: Asian American Mental Health Forum
- Proposal to reorganize AAC Committees

Staff present: Jenny Chiang, Jessica Wong, Brooke Yuen

Vira calls the meeting to order at 6:42pm

1. Approval of minutes from February 25, 2020
 - Danielle moves to approve minutes from Feb 25. Sam seconds.
 - Ying abstains
 - Motion passed
2. Executive Committee Report
 - Jenny and Vira provided an overview of the Executive Committee report
3. Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and OCPF Annual Review
 - Jenny will follow up on required documents for Commissioners
4. Proposal to reorganize Committees
 - Vira provided an overview of proposed committees.
 - o Governance Chair: Nate Bae Kupel
 - o Finance Chair: Bora Chiemruom
 - o Communications Chair: Danielle Kim
 - o Government Relations Chair: Sam Hyun
 - o Civil Rights Chair: Bora Chiemruom
 - o Development Chair: Vanna Howard



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- Leadership Development Chair: Philjay Solar
 - Education Chair: Meena Bharath
 - Health & Human Services: Mabel Lam
 - Small Business & Economic Development: Nina Liang
 - Vira called for further discussion. No further discussion was presented.
 - The vote on changing committees and the bylaws will be presented at next month's meeting
5. Request for support from the Asian American Mental Health Forum
 - Vira shared that the Executive Committee supported \$500
 - Vira asked if the Commission would like to increase support
 - No further discussion was presented
 6. Request from Sara Ting, World Unity Inc. – Sun Poem PSA

“Are you greater than the sun, that shines on everyone; black, brown, yellow red and white, the sun does not discriminate”

 - Vira presented a request from Sara Ting to support the PSA
 - Vira opened up for discussion from the Commission
 - No further discussion was presented
 7. Discussion on AAC Office Phone Number
 - Vira presented that the main AAC number directs to the Treasury
 - Philjay presented that google allows you to use a google conference number
 - AAC will proceed in exploring a new main number for our nonprofit
 - AAC will keep our Treasury number for our State entity
 8. COVID-19 Next Steps
 - Sam shared that there was a meeting today with the Attorney General's office
 - The committee is working on a video series to feature various offices and legislators. Tomorrow night will be an interview with Mike Keo and Moses Farrow on their #IAmNotAVirus campaign. Mabel will be featured in next Tuesday's interview on mental health.
 - Confirmed so far: Nina Liang, Helen Moon
 - In discussion: Devin McCourty, Michelle Wu, Ed Markey, Attorney General Healey
 - Betty asked for more information on the background of the video project and how the community is responding
 - Staff to circulate a description of the project to Commissioners
 - Haniya will connect with Sam on intersectionality
 9. Request from the Bhutanese Society of Western MA
 - Vira shared a request she received from the Bhutanese Society of Western MA



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- Bora shared that the most we have supported an organization was \$2000 to Asian Women for Health in the past. Vira proposes we support \$2000 out of the \$3000 request
- Betty proposes that we meet with them to understand the project in depth to discuss methodology, goals, and timeline. Sam and Danielle agree that we need more information.
- Proposal to have a more formal process for grant requests. Mabel proposes convening a task force. Bora shares that there is a guideline on supporting community that the task force can work on updating. We can come up with an amount we allocate to the community annually.
- Danielle asks if there is a timeline they need to meet – organizations are now matching funds. We need to follow up with them on the timeline.
- Mabel brings up that we supported \$5000 to support Western MA activities
- Bora proposes we create an MOU with Bhutanese Society to be a partner. Jenny will work on the MOU of \$3000 under the line item of Western MA

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

Unity Dinner/Fundraiser (Vanna, Chair)

- The Committee has decided to cancel this year's dinner and it currently working with the venue on a date for 2021.

Legislation Committee (Nate, Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

PR Committee (Mary L., Chair)

Finance/Admin (Bora, Chair)

- Auditing (see attachment 1: on MA General Laws regarding auditing)
 - o Auditing was proposed by Commissioners last year as AAC has not completed one in the past.
 - o Bora shares that we are a small nonprofit that does not have the funds to expend on an audit.
 - o Sam motions to not proceed with an audit, Mabel seconds
 - Yes: Mabel, Vira, Bora, Haniya, Philjay, Danielle, Ying, Sam
 - Betty abstains
 - Motion passed

Health and Human Services (Mary C. & Vanna, Co-Chairs)

- Ratification of Mabel Lam as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee

Young Leaders Symposium (Nina & Philjay, Co-Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion



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Economic Development (Mary C., Chair)

- Deferred for subsequent discussion

11. Old business

12. New Business

- Vira asks if the Commission is comfortable with empowering the Executive Committee with rapid response authority to approve press releases. Betty shares that she would like to review any statements before publicizing.

13. Next Commission meeting

14. Other Community updates & Meeting adjourned

- Vira motions for meeting to adjourn at 8:02pm, Betty seconds
 - o Motion passed unanimously