



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Haniya Syeda*

Ying Wang*

Interim

Executive Director

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NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

December 15, 2020, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, Mass Gen. Laws. ch. 30A, §18-25, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission.

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

Staff Present: Jessica (Jay), Kamalani, Lily, Sheila

Vira calls the meeting at 6:36pm

Meeting is recorded

1. Minutes to be approved: 11/17/20 & 12/1/20 (Vira, 5 mins) – VOTE

- Tabled until the end of the meeting

2. Executive Committee & Staff reports (Staff, 5 mins)

- Staff provide an overview of the report. Full reports are attached to the meeting packet.

3. Commissioner plaques (Vira, 5 mins)

- Jay and Vira recognize Mabel, Vanna, and Ying for the service that they have dedicated to the Commission.

4. Commonwealth Seminar MOU (Kamalani & Lily, 10 mins) – VOTE

- Kamalani and Lily give a presentation on the proposal for a partnership with the Commonwealth Seminar for 2021-2022. The goal of this program is to provide free sessions to the AAPI community on educational sessions to local and state government.
- Discussions surrounded if other organizations provide competing or similar programs to avoid COI.
- Discussions on potential COI. Commissioners are asked to disclose any affiliations with the Commonwealth Seminar. Commissioners are reminded to disclose the organizations they are affiliated with in the beginning of their term. Commissioners should disclose if they have not already done so.
- Meena left meeting
- Nina stepped away from call

Sam motions to vote on the MOU

Bora seconds

Vote:

Yes: Bora, Mabel, Danielle, Sam, Philjay, Haniya, Vira, Vanna



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No: None
Abstain: Mary Lee, Betty
Motion passes

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

Development (Vanna, Chair) - Deferred

Government Relations, Advocacy, & Civil Rights

- Governments Relations (Sam, Chair)
 - o Sam provides an update. Governor rejected the House and Senate's amendment and rejected the \$20,000 increase for AAC. Sam urges Commissioners to contact their legislators to override the Governor's veto.
- Civil Rights (Bora, Chair)

Governance, Finance, & Communications - Deferred

- Governance (Nate, Chair)
- Finance (Bora, Chair)
- Communications (Danielle, Chair)

Education & Leadership Development - Deferred

- Education (Meena, Chair)
- Leadership Development (Philjay, Chair)

Health and Human Services (Mabel, Chair) - Deferred

Small Business & Economic Development (Nina, Chair) - Deferred

6. Annual Elections of Executive Officers (Jay, 10 mins) – VOTE

- Jay provides overview of election policy and candidates that accepted nominations

Vote:

Chair

Candidate: Sam Hyun

(Mary L. dropped off call twice; Betty K. unrecorded)

Yes: Vira C., Haniya S., Danielle K., Mabel L., Philjay S., Bora C., Vanna H., Nina L., Sam H.

No: None

Abstains: None

Vice Chair



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Candidate: Philjay Solar

(Mary L. dropped off twice; Betty K. unrecorded; Ying calls in)

Yes: Vira C., Haniya S., Danielle K., Mabel L., Philjay S., Bora C., Vanna H., Nina L., Sam H.

No: None

Abstains: None

Secretary

Candidate: Danielle Kim

(Mary L. dropped off twice; Betty K. unrecorded)

Yes: Vira C., Haniya S., Danielle K., Mabel L., Philjay S., Bora C., Vanna H., Nina L., Sam H.

No: None

Abstains: None

Treasurer

Candidate: Haniya Syeda

(Mary L. dropped off twice ; Betty K. unrecorded)

Yes: Vira C., Haniya S., Danielle K., Mabel L., Philjay S., Bora C., Vanna H., Nina L., Sam H.

No: None

Abstains: None

7. Old business

Approval of 11/17 & 12/1 Meeting Minutes

Jay asked if Mary Lee wanted to record a vote. Mary moved on to talk about the minutes.

Mary states that she does not recall saying on the 10/20 minutes, on pg. 3 "Mary questions why there's a discussion about alleged privacy in emails" If it is not what was said, correct it.

Philjay asked if she wanted to record votes. Mary says she has to go soon and wants to stick to minutes.

Mary states that during 11/17 she stated that she was not present on election date and she had sent out an email to entire Commission and Jenny to remove name but her name was not removed from ballot but Commission still voted for her candidacy despite her not being present

Vira clarifies if Mary sent email to remove her name

Mary states that she basically said that she will not be there



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Vira states that it is different from asking for name to be removed
Mary said that's subject participation
Mary wants her email quoted for 11/17 minutes. Prior to election date, Mary circulated email to everyone that she will not be around and will not participate in election but her name was submitted and voted on contrary to election policy
Vira clarifies that Mary wants her December 8, 2019 email, "Good Evening Commissioners, Due to an emergency work matter, I am traveling out of State. Most likely I won't be able to participate or involve in tomorrow night's meeting via any means."
Philjay questions if it is possible to quote emails in meeting minutes
Mary states if quotes are not allowed to just quote what she just said
Vira states anyone who offers an amendment to vote on it as such

Mary lee motions to amend 11/17 to reflect what she said on 11/17, "Mary circulated email to everyone that she will not be around and will not participate in election but her name was submitted and voted on contrary to AAC election policy" in compliance with OML
Vanna seconds
Yes: Bora, Mary L., Danielle, Mabel, Philjay, Vanna, Betty
No: None
Abstain: Vira, Haniya, Sam, Vanna, Ying
Nina is on call but did not respond
Motion passes

Vira moves to vote on 11/17 meeting minutes as amended by Mary Lee
Yes: Bora, Mary L., Danielle, Mabel, Philjay, Vanna, Betty
No: None
Abstain: Vira, Haniya, Sam, Vanna, Ying
Nina is on call but did not respond
Motion passes

Vira moves to vote on 12/1 meeting minutes. Calls for vote or amendments
Sam asked if Mary L and Betty want to record vote for elections
Mary Lee leaves meeting
Betty is on call but does not respond
Nina rejoins call, votes yes for Sam, Philjay, Danielle, and Haniya
Sam states for the record that Betty and Mary Lee were asked several times to vote but ignored requests to vote
Jay states that amendments from Betty for 11/17 but were not voted on
Vira states that she was not there to offer amendments



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Philjay clarifies that Betty wanted the highlighted blue that include her direct quotes to be replaced by the highlighted yellow on 11/17 minutes
Jay clarifies that Betty's amendments were not included
Philjay states that Betty voted on Mary Lee's amendment and 11/17 minutes
Danielle clarifies that only Marys amendment was voted on
Vira clarifies that Mary's amendment and 11/17 were voted on and passed
Jay clarifies that Betty stated earlier in the meeting that she wants to state her amendments before any voting. Jay calls for Betty to respond as she remains on call
Danielle recommends to table Bettys amendments to vote on at a future meeting
Jay clarifies that she will not be compensated for doing ED role if 11/17 do not get approved
Vira clarifies that she asked if there were any further discussions. There was one vote for Mary's amendment and one vote for 11/17 meeting minutes. Betty and everyone had opportunity to offer amendments
Bora states with due diligence, Betty is still on the call but Betty's amendment has not been approved yet
Danielle express urgency to ensure 11/17 minutes are voted on to compensate ED work
Betty expresses concern to vote on amendment without hearing from Betty and potential litigation and not crossing lines
Vora states meeting minutes can be approved without adopting amendments
Danielle states she is comfortable with moving forward with voting on blue highlighted texts as it is the direct quotes from audio recording

Danielle motions to amend minutes as amended by Betty going with the blue highlighted with her direct quotes from 11/17 audio recording
Sam seconds
Yes: Danielle, Philjay, Sam, Ying, Vira
Abstain: Bora Haniya, Nina, Mabel, Vanna
Betty is asked to record vote, no answer
Motion does not pass

Danielle motions to approve 12/1/20 meeting minutes
Sam seconds
Yes: Vira, Danielle, Sam, Bora, Mabel, Philjay, Ying
No: None
Abstain: Nina, Haniya, Vanna
Motion passes

8. New Business: (Philjay, 5 mins) - VOTE

- Additional Scholarship Recipients, \$2,500



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- Scholarship Committee (Philjay, Mabel, Danielle, Sam) give overview of scholarship recipients
- Philjay expresses urgency to give out more scholarships to additional recipients due to COVID-19 challenges

Bora motions to approve \$2,500 for additional scholarships

Philjay seconds

Yes: Bora, Philjay, Vanna, Sam, Mary Lee, Danielle, Haniya, Ying, Mabel, Vira

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion passes

9. Next Commission meeting: January 19, 2020

10. Other Community updates

Vira moves to adjourn the meeting.

Vote is unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40