



Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs

*Wednesday, March 20, 2024
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*

Meeting Minutes for SPS II

Commission Attendance: Yes

Obaid Ahmad, Member

Dr. Bishal Bhandari, Member

Arti Bhatt, Member

Raj Borsellino, Member

Dr Kausik Das, Member

Preeti Emrick, JD, Member

Dr. Ahmad (Raza) Khan, Member

Preeti Menon, Member

Dr. Ahmed Nawaz, **Vice Chair**

Nivea Ohri, Member

Vacancy

Sushma Pakalapati Potluri, Member

Dr. Faisal Quader, Member

Fahim Rafiq, Member

Dr. Shahid Rafiq, Member

Amarjeet Sandhu, Member

Devang Shah, Member

Harshid Shad, Member

Aman Shergill, Member

Gurpreet (Preet) Takhar, **Chair**

Archana Thakker, Member

GOCI Staff:

Christina Poy – Administrative Director of SAA Affairs Commission, GOCI

Cheryl Madigan – Project Coordinator for the Ethnic Commissions, GOCI

Guest:

Yang Yu – Madam Chair, Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission

I. Call to Order at 5:36 p.m.

Gurpreet (Preet) Takhar, Chair - Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs called the meeting to order and went over meeting procedures. He called on each commissioner and they introduced themselves.

II. Roll Call – Cheryl Madigan did roll call.

III. GOCI Welcoming Remarks: Welcomed everyone and acknowledge GOCI staff and special guest Madam Chair Yang Yu from the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

IV. Request Motion for the Approval of the Minutes:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Approval of the Minutes for 01/31/24	Preeti Menon	Vice Chair Dr. Ahmed Nawaz	18 Yes – 0 No - 0 Abstain

V. Subcommittees –Preet Takhar went over the designated subcommittees’ members. Chair Takhar will announce the Chair of each subcommittee at our next commission meeting. He still would like the members of each subcommittee to get together to discuss their goals/mission. The chair of each subcommittee will schedule their own meetings (quarterly or more often if they wish to). They will need to record the meeting and provide a subcommittee report, which could consist of multiple meetings to the commission and GOCI staff (Christina Poy & Cheryl Madigan) 5 days prior to the next scheduled commission meeting. The subcommittee chair will go over their report at the meeting. Listed below are the results from the first column choice from the form that everyone completed.

i. Business/Economic Development Subcommittee:

- a. Nivea Ohri
- b. Obaid Ahmed
- c. Fahim Rafiq
- d. Faisal Quader, PhD
- e. Devang Shah
- f. Dr. Ahmad “RAZA” Khan
- g. Dr. Ahmed Nawaz, Vice Chair

ii. Community (including arts, culture and interfaith) Subcommittee:

- a. Harshid Shah
- b. Sushma Potluri
- c. Preeti Menon
- d. Aman Shergill
- e. Arti Bhatt
- f. Preeti Emrick
- g. Dr. Bishal Bhandari
- h. Archana Thakkar (mentioned it at the meeting)

iii. Education/Social Workforce Development Subcommittee:

- a. Raj Borsellino
- b. Dr. Kausik Das

iv. Health and Mental Health Subcommittee: These were chosen in the second column, none in the first column.

- a. Archana Thakker
- b. Dr. Ahmed Nawaz, Vice Chair
- c. Dr. Bishal Bhandari

v. Did not complete the form:

- a. Dr. Shahid Rafiq
- b. Amarjeet Sandhu

VI. Mission vs. Goals – There was a lot of discussion on the difference between the commission’s mission statement vs the goals of the commission. It was agreed upon that they will take the Governor’s Top 10 Priorities and see which ones fits each of the subcommittees and then each subcommittee will establish their goals. Once the goals are established, then an overall Mission Statement will be decided.

VII. Executive Orders – There was no discussion on this topic.

VIII. By-Laws Review – **Preet Takhar** asked everyone to read over the by-laws and for them to make notes on anything they would like to change. This will be discussed at the next public meeting.

IX. Vaisakhi Lunar New Year Celebration – **Preet Takhar** stated that they are going to have this event at the end of April. The commission will need to find a venue. The event was held at the Government House last year but can’t be held there this year. Christina explained to the commission that Government House wants to give everyone a chance to hold an event there, therefore, they want everyone to rotate their events. If you held one there last year, then you are unable to hold one this year. We would like to have events held all over Maryland, instead at the same place. A good idea is to create partnerships with higher education facilities and hold events at community colleges or universities.

X. Governor’s Commission on South Asian American Affairs 2024 Agenda Discussion – **Preet Takhar** asked for volunteers to help plan this event. A possible date for this will be May 15th. He mentions the Asian American Business Conference. This is happening in the fall and will be jointly organized with the Asian Pacific American Affairs commission. If anyone has any event flyers or information concerning APAHM, this should be sent to Christina Poy.

XI: Adjournment:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	Adjourn: 7:05 pm
Adjourned	Devang Shah	Dr. Ahmed Nawaz	14 Y – 0 N – 0 A	