



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2014**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Richard Jung called the Board Meeting to order at 06:10 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Vince Cobalis, Richard Jung, Miyong Kim, Sonia Kotecha, Thuy Nguyen, Lesley Varghese, Richard Yuen

**Staff in Attendance:** Rey Arellano, Sarah Chen, Taja Beekley

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was no change/correction to the June 6, 2014 regular meeting draft minutes.

Recommendation to approve the June 6, 2014 regular meeting minutes as presented in draft form was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 7-0 vote.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Mary Dodd, Assistant Director of Community Advancement Network, signed up to speak in support of agenda item 4e. Chair Richard Jung took the agenda item out of order for discussions.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano reported on 06/18/2014 meeting with UT representatives on preliminary information and areas of responsibility. Next meeting with UT scheduled for 07/16/2014 to work on agreement. Drafted memo to Mayor and Council Public Health and Human Services Committee requesting extending July update report to early fall, with complete report in December 2014. Commissioners suggested exploring results of studies conducted by other city departments.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**e. Provide feedback to the CAN regarding Barriers & Challenges facing Asian Americans and recommend Systems improvements**

Mary Dodd, Assistant Director of Community Advancement Network, presented background information on the CAN Quality of Life Initiatives related to key issues, barriers and challenges, and feedback from the communities. Commissioners suggested several issues for consideration. Ms. Dodd invited Commissioners to provide additional feedback to CAN. Recommendation to provide feedback to the CAN was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Richard Yuen second on a 7-0 vote.

**a. Adopt AAQOLAC Bylaws Amendment as Approved by the Council Audit & Finance Committee**

**Recommendation adopting AAQOLAC Bylaws Amendment as Approved by the Council Audit & Finance Committee was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 7-0 vote.**

**b. Formal motion to appoint Commission Members to the Asian American Quality of Life Community Assessment Committee**

**Recommendation appointing Commission Members Richard Yuen, Miyong Kim, Sonia Kotecha, and Thuy Nguyen to the Asian American Quality of Life Community Assessment Committee was approved on Commissioner Lesley Varghese motion, Commissioner Richard Yuen second on a 7-0 vote. Additional recommendation appointing Commission Members Vince Cobalis, Thuy Nguyen and Richard Jung to the AARC work group was approved on Commissioner Lesley Varghese motion, Commissioner Thuy Nguyen second on a 7-0 vote. Executive Liaison Rey Arellano suggested Committee members set up first meeting and elect a Chair, with additional staff support request.**

**c. Discuss civil rights issues in Asian American Community (ICE Secure Communities issue)**

**Chair Richard Jung briefed the Commissioners on the history and background of ICE Secure Communities issue in Travis County and actions taken by community groups as well as the City Council to request Travis County Jail to stop allowing ICE detainer requests. Commission Members discussed fear of deportation as a quality of life issue, and instructed staff to research resolutions passed by other commissions regarding ICE.**

**d. Boards & Commissions Survey re: Transition Task Force Report.**

**Commission Members reviewed the recommendations made by the Transition Task Force and discussed Commission endorsements. Recommendation endorsing item B5 Option 1 Leave as currently exists under Chapter 2-1 was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 7-0 vote. Recommendation endorsing items C2 Joint Cultural Committee and C3 Joint Inclusion Committee was approved on Commissioner Lesley Varghese motion, Commissioner Miyong Kim second on a 7-0 vote.**

**Commissioner Vince Cobalis suggested that the Commission recommend including the Human Rights Commission in the C3 Joint Inclusion Committee. Executive Liaison Rey Arellano explained that there would be opportunity to express support during an 8/7/2014 meeting, since the City Manager had directed a public hearing on ordinance recommendation. Commission Members discussed options to speak at public hearing or to provide written documentation. Chair Richard Jung agreed to prepare a letter to Council based on today's votes, and will ask Staff Liaison Sarah Chen to circulate the draft among Commissioners for individual review. Chair Richard Jung requested that Staff Liaison Sarah Chen resend the link to the survey to Commissioners.**

**g. Future Agenda Items**

**Chair Richard Jung reminded Commission Members to review conflict of interest training and make informed decisions regarding serving on the Commission, and to obtain further education from the Audit and Finance Committee and the Law Department. Commissioner Lesley Varghese suggested contacting the Law Department individually regarding specifics.**

**Commission Members discussed agenda items for August 14, 2014 meeting. Three items have been tentatively placed on the agenda:**

- 1) Discussion and action on outreach to the community**
- 2) Presentation, discussion and action on ICE Detainer and Secure Communities**
- 3) Information sharing (standing agenda item)**

**Commissioners discussed researching future meeting locations including the AARC, Carver Museum and libraries. The August meeting will be held at the AARC. Commissioner Sonia Kotecha asked that staff research possibility and protocol of setting up a Facebook page for the Commission to foster information sharing.**

**Commissioner Lesley Varghese announced resignation from the AAQOLAC due to her appointment to the Planning Commission.**

**6. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

**There were no staff briefings at this meeting.**

**7. ADJOURN**

**Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m. without objection.**

DRAFT