



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at Townlake Center in Austin, Texas.

Chair Richard Jung called the Board Meeting to order at 06:22 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Vince Cobalis, Richard Jung, Sonia Kotecha, Thuy Nguyen, Shubhada Saxena, Richard Yuen

Staff in Attendance: Rey Arellano, Sarah Chen, Robin Otto, Marion Sanchez, Taja Beekley; Dr. Yuri Jang (University of Texas at Austin)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no change/correction to the November 7, 2014 regular meeting draft minutes.

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

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There was no citizen communication at this meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on the AAQOL Initiative

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano reported that on 12/2/2014, the Health and Human Services Committee met and heard update on the AAQOL Initiative. The HHSC expressed appreciation of the update and encouraged continuation on the path, and advised the AAQOL could file memo extension requests in the future. COA is working with Dr. Jang of UT on the proposal and will schedule presentation to the Community Assessment Committee before the next meeting.

Commissioner Vince Cobalis asked about new Council and process for Boards and Commissions. Executive Liaison Rey Arellano reported that Council orientation dates would be 1/8, 1/13 and 1/15/2015, and would begin conversations regarding existing commissions and appointments, as well as composition. Current commission work should continue until Council decision.

Chair Richard Jung shared that he also served on the ATCEMS Advisory Board and approached EMS regarding participation in the survey and paying for part of it. EMS was open to the idea and positive about contributing funds for a section of the survey on EMS. He planned to approach APD, AFD and HHSD as well. Commissioner Richard Yuen stated the Community Assessment Committee discussed special interest projects and felt this would be a good way to augment the initiative as the overall research data could also be used. Chair Jung suggested Commissioners provide list of City departments that they consider could be included in the survey to Sarah Chen to compile. Commissioners brainstormed inclusion of Neighborhood Housing Department, the

Hispanic Quality of Life and African American Quality of Life commissions, Human Rights Commission, for their input on issues and priorities. Commissioner Vince Cobalis asked if business and economics would be addressed in the survey. Dr. Jang replied it would be part of the special projects.

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano introduced Dr. Yuri Jang to the Commission. Dr. Jang has been with the University of Texas since 2011 and has a background in aging studies. She is in the process of working on the proposed scope of work.

b. Update from AAQOL Community Assessment Committee

Committee Chair Richard Yuen reported that the Commission did not meet on 12/8/2014 due to no updates. Previous meeting discussions included methodology, key areas of work, special projects with possible side budget to address issues, and the need to cap the budget and control the number of projects. Chair Richard Jung expressed hope to include public safety module with \$5,000 in additional funding. Sarah Chen will coordinate input from Commissioners regarding outreach groups and present the list to the Commission to work collaboratively.

c. Update from AARC Workgroup

Commissioner Vince Cobalis reported that the AARC Workgroup met today with AARC Facility Manager Taja Beekley and David Taylor (project manager) regarding the AARC kitchen design, and provided community feedback. He shared the schematics for review. Commissioners discussed the need for a vent to go outside the building, double doors, and that one classroom will be lost to storage, and timeframe. Commissioner Shubhada Saxena asked about user plan. Taja Beekley replied plan has been formulated and drafted with standard usage protocols, such as the kitchen is to be rented with the ballroom or to an existing program, in order to not conflict with rooms and programs. Commissioner Richard Yuen commented that the community had made presentations stating the AARC was not space friendly, and felt the community was not educated about use of the facility and that the problem would be compounding unless groups were educated on the use and resources of AARC. Chair Richard Jung expressed that the Commission needed to work with the City on translations for the website. For instance, the ESL classes were advertised in English only, and there is a need for mirror websites to explain policies.

d. Update on 2015 Meeting Dates

During the last meeting, Commission Members present determined that 6-8PM on the second or third Tuesday of the month would be preferable. Upon review by all Commission Members, the meeting schedule for 2015 was determined to be the third Tuesday of the month. Recommendation to approve the 2015 Commission meeting dates to be the third Tuesday of each month was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Thuy Nguyen second on a 6-0 vote.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Visioning Process

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano briefly introduced the purpose of visioning: have the end in mind, focus on the study in a qualitative directional way, to get the product we'll be proud of and obtain community support. Marion Sanchez conducted exercises and the Commission completed half of the visioning process. She will categorize input and create themes for review, and address common ideas during the next meeting.

b. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)

- Chair Richard Jung reminded Commissioners to send recommendation on who (City

department, community group) to involve for special projects to Sarah Chen.

- Commissioner asked Executive Liaison Rey Arellano to send the updated scope of work from Dr. Jang to the Community Assessment Committee members when available.
- Commissioner Sonia Kotecha shared that 1/24/2015 is Republic Day of India celebration banquet at the AARC. Invitation will be sent to Commissioners later.
- Commissioner Richard Yuen will send communication via Sarah Chen regarding Committee meeting time.
- Chair Richard Jung reminded Commissioners to talk to community that APD is trying to put a booking facility by the AARC.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commission members discussed items for the January 20, 2015 meeting. Three items have been discussed for placement on the agenda:

- 1) Community Immersion
- 2) Visioning process (Invite Dr. Yuri Jang)
- 3) Review and discuss City of Austin diversity report and possible recommendation
- 4) Information sharing (standing agenda item)

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

There were no staff briefings at this meeting.

7. ADJOURN

Recommendation adjourning the meeting was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Shubhada Saxena second on a 6-0 vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.