



ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

The Asian American Quality of Life Community Assessment Committee convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at City Hall, Austin, Texas.

Chair Richard Yuen called the Committee Meeting to order at 06:02 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Miyong Kim, Sonia Kotecha, Shubhada Saxena, Richard Yuen

Staff in Attendance: Sarah Chen, Marion Sanchez, Jill Goodman, Betsy Woldman, Alicia Dean

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no change/correction to the March 10, 2015 committee meeting draft minutes.

Recommendation to approve the March 10, 2015 committee meeting minutes as presented in draft form was approved on Commissioner Sonia Kotecha motion, Commissioner Miyong Kim second on a 3-0 vote (Commissioner Shubhada Saxena was late for meeting).

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There was no citizen signed up to speak at this meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on Scope of Work for the Asian American Quality of Life Initiative

Dr. Yuri Jang shared preliminary survey instrument with the Committee. Marion Sanchez reported that the City of Austin also received the survey and will provide feedback, awaiting additional information from Dr. Jang.

Dr. Jang reported she received UT approval today (May 12, 2015) on the whole project. Modification is allowed on the questionnaire, and she has submitted the English and Korean versions. UT waiver on the consent process was also granted. The survey will be ready when modifications are done.

There was discussion on the letter with academic language which is based on a template. Commissioners suggested translating into community English for readers to understand. There were discussions and edits to the survey questions. Economic development is not covered in the survey. Marion Sanchez suggested putting this area in the City of Austin questions. Departments or services suggested on the list were Economic Development, Small and Minority Business Services, Cultural Arts. Marion will meet with stakeholders and Dr. Jang to craft the questions to see if the community is accessing the services and the reasons for not accessing such services. Chair Richard Yuen stated that the GAACC will be at the next Commission meeting to provide perspective. Commissioner Miyong Kim was concerned that too many irrelevant questions would discourage participants and cautioned for a wise balance.

Chair Yuen asked Commissioners to email additional insights to Dr. Jang. Marion Sanchez asked to be copied on the questions and comments.

b. Update on UT graduate students project

The UT School of Architect graduate students team presented the Tea in a Box concept for Committee feedback. Commissioners were interested in methodology and questionnaire development, as well as strategies to motivate community participation. There were discussions as to coordination of both qualitative and quantitative results that will complement each other. Marion Sanchez had been talking with Dr. Jang and seeking her guidance. There was also concern about timeline. Marion Sanchez stated Nancy Chan with Austin Code has been working on detailed timeline.

Marion Sanchez shared her experience with Tea in a Box facilitation during Imagine Austin, collaborating with a community leader in getting Asian American input, in which multi-generational self-help with translation occurred. The City's 3-1-1 has access to many languages and can provide assistance to the elderly population in answering a 4-question survey for this project. Alicia Dean, Public Relations Specialist Senior with CPIO, stated that this is one tool for the community to participate, with Community Ambassadors leading these discussions. Dr. Jang also has a one-page leader's survey, asking community leaders to name three other leaders in the community, in order to target the areas and participants more efficiently. There were discussions of thematic Tea in a Box or guided conversations by themes/specific areas.

c. Update from CPIO Branding Team

Marion Sanchez introduced Jill Goodman and Betsy Woldman, who had worked on branding and marketing. Logos designs were presented for selection, based on readability and personality. Commissioners discussed use of capitalization or lower case and the cultural significance of each. Chair Yuen suggested picking two choices for the full Commission to vote in the regular meeting. Commissioners picked designs 1 and 3 of the circle graph.

d. Update on City of Austin funding

Marion Sanchez has the contract for Dr. Jang to sign. Contract was executed.

e. Hogg Foundation at UT

Commissioner Miyong Kim reported the Director of the Hogg Foundation was avoiding her and she would approach the matter in a different way.

f. Update on Networking with Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce (GAACC)

Chair Yuen stated that the chamber will provide funding to UT for special projects, and will present to the Commission next week.

g. Update on [SAPNA] Invitation to participate in online study about Pakistani-American mental health

Sarah Chen distributed hard copies of the Pakistani American health survey to Committee Members and Dr. Jang. There was interest in the acculturation questions. Commissioners Kotecha and Kim expressed they could be ideal Tea in a Box questions.

Next Steps: Chair Richard Yuen will provide an update at the regular Commission meeting on May 19, 2015.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss An Asian American Diversity Forum held on April 14, 2015

Commissioner Sonia Kotecha attended CommUnity Care event and shared that the organization quoted from the health assessment and had participants break out into small groups for community engagement discussions for strategy to get feedback from diverse groups.

5 . Future Agenda Items

Committee Members shared the following information prior to discussion of future agenda items:

- Chair Richard Yuen thanked Sarah Chen for coordinating the Daily Texan article on the Commission, as well as Commissioner Sonia Kotecha on another article.
- Commissioners Kotecha and Yuen participated in the White House anti-bullying listen-in and shared that high school and middle school parents were emotional about bullying, that they made connections with community leaders. Commissioner Shubhada Saxena commented the comparison was only with white Americans.
- Robin Ross, a reporter from Austin Chronicle, was present in the meeting. She stated she was interested in Asian American issues and had been attending various boards and commissions meetings.

Committee Members discussed agenda items for the June 9, 2015 meeting. Seven items have been tentatively placed on the agenda:

- 1) Old Business: Update on Scope of Work for the Asian American Quality of Life Initiative
- 2) Old Business: Update on UT graduate students project
- 3) Old Business: Update from CPIO Branding Team
- 4) Old Business: Update on City of Austin funding
- 5) Old Business: Hogg Foundation at UT
- 6) Old Business: Update on Networking with Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce (GAACC)

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

There were no staff briefings at this meeting.

7. ADJOURN

Recommendation adjourning the meeting was approved on Commissioner Shubhada Saxena motion, Commissioner Miyong Kim second on a 4-0 vote. Chair Richard Yuen adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.