



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

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

Board Members in Attendance:

Vince Cobalis, Richard Jung, Sonia Kotecha, Thuy Nguyen, Shubhada Saxena, Richard Yuen
(Commissioner Miyong Kim resigned May 13, 2015)

Staff in Attendance: Sarah Chen, Marion Sanchez, Xavier Wan, Taja Beekley, Angela Means (PARD)

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There was no citizen communication at this meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no change/correction to the April 21, 2015 regular meeting draft minutes.

Recommendation to approve the April 21, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented in draft form was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-0 vote (Commissioner Shubhada Saxena arrived at 6:18 p.m.).

3. OLD BUSINESS

Recommendation to move agenda item #6 Staff Briefing after agenda item #3 Old Business was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Richard Yuen second on a 5-0 vote.

a. Update on the AAQOL Initiative

Commissioner Richard Yuen reported the UT Student team presented the Tea in a Box concept during the AAQOL Community Assessment Committee meeting on May 9, 2015. Committee Members discussed coordinating qualitative and quantitative results, and that the Tea in a Box should target hard to reach groups to supplement the survey. Dr. Jang presented the survey draft and the Committee provided preliminary feedback. The contract was officially signed by Dr. Jang during the Committee meeting.

The CPIO team presented the preliminary logos for branding, and the Committee selected two for the Commission to vote for one. Since time is of essence, the website cannot be uploaded without a logo, Commissioner Yuen urged Commissioners to review copies of the two logos and to vote by majority, since Marion Sanchez met with key stakeholders and obtained their feedback for background research in the design. Recommendation to consider the two preliminary logos for a Commission vote to select one for AAQOL branding was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-0 vote. Commissioners discussed the merits of using all-caps or small caps text for the logo, and wanted to verify that Commissioners

feedback on design options was fully considered. Marion Sanchez reported meeting with stakeholders and Dr. Jang for design feedback and research background, as well as incorporating various suggestions into final preliminary logos based on popularity with stakeholders. Chair Richard Jung suggested obtaining feedback from community based organizations. Commissioner Richard Yuen stated that the Committee, CPIO team and key stakeholders had been working on the logos continuously, and time was of essence to select a logo. Two logos, the one on the right of the sheet with all caps text, and the one on the left with small caps, were reviewed. Recommendation to adopt the logo on the right with all caps text was approved on Commissioner Thuy Nguyen motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-1 vote, with Commissioner Richard Yuen voting against. Chair Richard Jung thanked everyone who worked on the logo.

b. Update from AAQOL Community Assessment Committee

Committee Chair Richard Yuen stated that the UT students would make a presentation on the GIS, and that CPIO intern Xavier Wan would complete his internship at the end of month. The UT student team presented Preliminary Database Maps based on Asian American population by census tracts, engagement opportunities by ethnicity, interest groups and the AARC, and learning and cultural centers. Commissioners inquired about the databases used. Marion Sanchez replied they were work in progress. The databases that Commissioners Kotecha and Saxena sent were not included in this preliminary mapping, as there were clarifications and authorization for use needed. Vice Chair Cobalis asked if social services that serve Asian Americans were included. Chair Jung asked about criteria for selection. Commissioner Saxena requested that the maps with the lists be sent to Commissioners. Marion Sanchez stated that restaurants, churches, supermarkets are key places for outreach and the next set of databases will have more information. Commissioners were concerned about data was skewing towards certain population but was assured that information will be updated.

c. Update from AARC Workgroup

Commissioner Thuy Nguyen reported that the AARC Workgroup met at 5:00 pm today and worked on a one-page summary for people to understand the different ways to rent and get space at the AARC. An FAQ can be added. Performance information trends of services are tracked monthly, with breakdown of adults, children and seniors and totals. Kitchen expansion has been delayed due to permits, with a fall completion date.

AARC Facility Manager Taja Beekley reported completion would occur either October or November 2015, with general permitting at 90% design completion and added new features to reduce waste.

Chair Richard Jung asked if notification of events translation was addressed. Taja Beekley replied currently using Google translate and community volunteers. Sarah Chen provided the City of Austin Administrative Bulletin on Translation and Interpretation Policy for reference.

d. Review and discuss City of Austin diversity report and possible recommendation

Item moved to last item. Chair Richard Jung wanted to invite AAEN to speak on its position. Sarah Chen reported that Executive Liaison Rey Arellano suggested having HRD staff present as well. Chair Jung also wanted to know if other Quality of Life Commissions did any work on this issue.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

Angela Means, PARD Financial Services Division Manager, presented the FY16 PARD financial forecast for community feedback, which the department will take back to CMO and present to Council. Chair Jung would like Commissioners to outreach to the community for feedback, which is on item 4(b). Commissioner Cobalis was concerned about the transfer of 5 FTEs from urban

forestry to PARD, but was assured that the Arborist, a rare and specialized position, was not one of them. Chair Richard Jung asked about the geographic locations of the facilities on the list. Commissioners inquired about Park Rangers duties and number (22-23 FTEs) and breakdown of their ethnicity. The planning position was repurposed to AARC Non-Profit grant for a Community Services Manager filled on May 18, 2015. There were discussions regarding minority community engagement policy and programming oversight, funding for AARC senior meals program, and unmet needs. Commissioner Shubhada Saxena was interested in GIS of neighborhood parks and accessibility for seniors, and whether revenue from Leadership Austin fund raising was included in forecast. Angela Means replied the presentation was General Fund only. Commissioner Saxena also stated the Commission of Seniors recommended a senior activity center in the geographic area for Asian Americans. Angela Means responded the Planning and Capital Division does long term planning and has GIS maps to address gaps and sites. That specific information can be provided to the Commission. Commissioner Saxena asked for breakdown of PARD budget and service to the Asian American community.

Commissioners asked about AARC funding request for the RICE program. Taja Beekley reported that 1 FTE (Recreation Program Specialist) was in the request and funding maintained at current level, as the commercial kitchen completes the program will be moved in house with cost savings (AARC currently paying caterers for meals). Commissioners asked for an AARC wish list to be present via the AARC Workgroup for Commission review.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve and submit recommendations to the Commission on Seniors

Commissioner Shubhada Saxena reported her presentation to the Commission on Seniors meeting. There were no recommendations, just sharing ideas. The Commission on Seniors asked the AAQOL Advisory Commission to provide five (5) recommendations.

Commissioner Saxena proposed the following for consideration:

- 1) AARC funding for RICE program
- 2) Expand home delivered meal program
- 3) Culturally responsive senior care and transportation
- 4) AARC senior center or a senior center in Northwest Austin
- 5) Culturally responsive senior housing, or senior friendly zone to allow seniors to live in existing neighborhoods

Vice Chair Cobalis stated the Commission on Seniors asked for Asian American perspective regarding things they should support. Commissioner Saxena suggested drafting 10 items for vote on the top 5, and that Commissioners send items to Sarah Chen to coordinate the draft recommendations for review.

Commissioners discussed and placed two items on the agenda of the special called meeting:

- 1) Discussion and possible action on recommendations to City Council on budget enhancements
- 2) Discussion and possible action on recommendations to the Commission on Seniors for the top priorities of the Asian American community

b. Discussion and possible action on strategies to provide input to City Council regarding the budget

Vice Chair Cobalis stated this item is related the PARD presentation. He talked with the Commission on Seniors and Hispanic Quality of Life Commission to find common grounds for robust budget recommendations. Chair Richard Jung advised timing was late for collaboration this year and encouraged Commissioners to set realistic goals and plan early for focused

recommendations in following years. He served on other advisory boards and shared the boards worked with departments to develop key items for City review, and drafted letter to Council for support. Vice Chair Cobalis suggested advocating to support unmet service demands already defined and submitted this year, and work with other boards and commissions next year to support common agenda.

Chair Jung suggested a special called meeting to discuss budget recommendations. There were discussions regarding various budget dates and processes. Commissioners asked for data on the RICE program, including the kitchen, meals, transportation and programming. Taja Beekley will prioritize wish list and provide data by the end of the week.

Recommendation to call a special called meeting on June 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and make recommendations to PARD budget was approved on Commissioner Shubhada Saxena motion, Commissioner Thuy Nguyen second on a 6-0 vote.

c. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)

There was no information sharing at this meeting.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commission members did not discuss items for the June 16, 2015 meeting. Four items have been placed on the agenda (Old Business) from discussions:

- 1) Update on the AAQOL Initiative
- 2) Update from the AAQOL Community Assessment Committee
- 3) Update from AARC Workgroup
- 4) Review and discuss City of Austin diversity report and possible recommendation

7. ADJOURN

Recommendation adjourning the meeting was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-0 vote. Vice Chair Vince Cobalis left the meeting shortly before the vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.