



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2015**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 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, Sonia Kotecha, Shubhada Saxena, Richard Yuen

**Staff in Attendance:** Sarah Chen, Roxanne Evans, Rebecca Kennedy (HRD)

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

There was no citizen communication at this meeting.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was no change/correction to the May 19, 2015 regular meeting and the June 2, 2015 Special Called meeting draft minutes. Recommendation to approve the May 19, 2015 regular meeting and the June 2, 2015 Special Called meeting minutes as presented in draft form was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 4-0 vote (Commissioner Shubhada Saxena arrived at 6:43 p.m.).

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Update on the AAQOL Initiative**

Commissioner Richard Yuen reported the AAQOL Community Assessment Committee did not meet on June 9, 2015. Dr. Jang and Marion Sanchez worked on revisions to the survey to ensure it meets the mission of the Commission and the City, based on feedback provided to Dr. Jang. However, there was insufficient City department input, and Marion was still in talks with departments for feedback. The official email ([aaqol@austintexas.gov](mailto:aaqol@austintexas.gov)) and web site ([www.austintexas.gov/asianlifeaustin](http://www.austintexas.gov/asianlifeaustin)) for the AAQOL Initiative have been established. Outreach publications will be finalized.

Commissioner Yuen stated that he met with Dr. Jang today to go over the survey and Dr. Jang shared her concerns as follows: 1) budget adherence – survey team is being paid while waiting for City departments responses; further delay would likely cause budget shortfall, unless the City can come up with additional funding to ensure survey completion; 2) summer is ideal time for graduate and undergraduate students to devote energy to the project, delay may result in students unavailability. Commissioners discussed possible options to obtain feedback from City departments, adherence to timeline to finalize the survey questions for translations, and staying on survey schedule. Of concern are translations and time for pilot.

Recommendation for immediate approval of the Asian American Quality of Life survey community assessment questionnaire as is for UT to begin translation project, further, to give City

of Austin departments one additional week to clarify and share additional feedback and input with respects to community research and assessment project, knowing that this feedback hopefully will be incorporated in subsequently training modules and special projects that would require additional funding outside of the initial funding for the City to complete this quality of life survey was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Vince Cobalis second on a 4-0 vote.

**b. Update from AAQOL Community Assessment Committee**

The AAQOL Community Assessment Committee did not meet on June 9, 2015.

**c. Update from AARC Workgroup**

There was no update from the AARC.

**d. Review and discuss City of Austin demographics report and possible recommendation, and invite Asian American Employee Network (AAEN) to speak on their perspective**

Representatives from the Asian American Employee Network (AAEN), Julia Joseph (current Chair), Yue-Jian Liu and Lei Ye (past Chairs), made a presentation discussing ethnicity distribution and raised questions regarding root cause analysis of low Asian American (AA) representation, retention efforts and hiring and recruitment/outreach practices. AAEN recommendations included external and internal training opportunities, management rotation (training) within City departments, and open communication channel with City Manager's Office. Chair Richard Jung expressed interest in adding Park Rangers to the list of outreach efforts for Public Safety positions, as well as open recruitment vs. appointment of executive positions; and stated AAQOL encouraged recruitment and hiring from within. Commissioners asked if language or other issues held back AA employees (AAEN: language not an issue), and how long AAEN has been in existence (AAEN: since 1991 City mandate). Commissioners discussed directing attention away from executive/management level and review all categories, and asked if there has been consistent outreach or partnership efforts with HRD, how AA is identified for the reporting category, as well as definition of internal hiring, and suggested AAEN follow up with candidates to review reason for non-selection.

HRD Acting Assistant Director Rebecca Kennedy presented the City's hiring and recruitment methods and avenues, stating the implementation of Municipal Civil Service in October 2014 presented very restrictive hiring rules which resulted in competitive hiring and very few appointments. Commissioners asked about ways to manage diverse applicant pools and job posting sites, how many HR professionals were Asian Americans, and whether AAEN was a resource for outreach. Commissioners were interested in the ethnic composition of HRD's recruitment team, as well as AAEN and community involvement in the recruitment process.

Recommendation for HRD to work with AAEN on a plan to increase Asian American recruitment and promotion and report the plan to the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission in six (6) months was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-0 vote.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Discuss town hall meeting for refugee populations, Iraqi and Nepalese  
Commissioner**

Commissioners briefly discussed intent to outreach to the Asian community and invite refugee population to one or two town hall meetings.

Recommendation to postpone item until new Commission is in place was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Richard Yuen second on a 5-0 vote.

- b. Consider providing a letter of support for a Latino Healthcare Forum proposal for the Rundberg Community Innovation Zone**

Representatives of Latino Healthcare Forum made a presentation about the Rundberg Community Innovation Zone and requested a letter of support from the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission due to the large Asian American population in the Rundberg area. Commissioners requested clarifications about the letter of support, funding sources, interactions with neighborhood contact teams and their sentiment, and whether there is any conflict between the proposal and neighborhood plans or competing proposals or plans, and willingness to partner with an Asian American organization. Due to this being the last regular meeting of the existing Commission, Commissioners proposed a resolution of support.

Recommendation to pass a resolution to support the Latino Healthcare Forum proposal for the Rundberg Community Innovation Zone was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-0 vote.

- c. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)**

Commissioner Sonia Kotecha: 8/8/2015 Bollywood Day and 8/15/2015 India Independence Day. Commissioner Vince Cobalis: Texas Health and Human Services Commission presentation on disparity. Commissioners discussed and requested (if available) information about community appointment procedure, timeline and voting process.

**5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

There was no staff briefing at this meeting.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda was set at this meeting.

**7. ADJOURN**

Recommendation adjourning the meeting was approved on Commissioner Sonia Kotecha motion, Commissioner Richard Yuen second on a 5-0 vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.