



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a special called meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano called the Board Meeting to order at 06:11 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Aletta Banks, Nu Chanpheng, Vince Cobalis, Janki DePalma, Richard Jung, Sonia Kotecha, Thuy Nguyen, Shubhada Saxena, Richard Yuen

Staff in Attendance: Rey Arellano, Sarah Chen, Marion Sanchez, Taja Beekley

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

There was no citizen communication.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS**

Commissioners each shared name, appointing Councilmember, and areas of interest.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF STAFF LIAISONS AND STAFF FREQUENTLY IN ATTENDANCE**

Executive Liaison introduced Sarah Chen (Staff Liaison), Marion Sanchez (AAQOL Initiative Community Engagement Project Manager), Taja Beekley (AARC Manager), and Nancy Chan (not present – AAQOL Initiative support and backup Staff Liaison)

**4. DISCUSSION OF MISSION OF COMMISSION**

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano presented mission of Commission.

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commissioner Richard Jung was elected Chair on Commissioner Sonia Kotecha nomination, Commissioner Shubhada Saxena second on an 8-1 vote (Richard Jung oppose). Commissioner Vince Cobalis nominated Richard Yuen for Vice Chair, Commissioner Janki DePalma second; Commissioner Richard Yuen declined and stated he would continue to chair the Community Assessment working group which was a Committee last year. Commissioner Vince Cobalis withdrew motion. Commissioner Vince Cobalis was elected Vice Chair on Commissioner Shubhada Saxena nomination, Commissioner Nu Chanpheng second on a 9-0 vote.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was one change/correction to the June 30, 2015 special called meeting draft minutes. The Community Assessment Committee did not meet on June 9, 2015. Recommendation to approve the June 30, 2015 special called meeting minutes as presented in draft form with one correction as noted was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 9-0 vote.

## **7. DISCUSSION OF BY-LAWS/AMENDMENTS**

Commissioners reviewed the universal changes and discussed amendments to the By-Laws. There was concern about meeting the quorum of eight (8) in a 15-member commission before the four (4) stakeholder members can be appointed. Recommendation to approve amendment to Article 7(F) to read “Quorum shall consist of the majority of the appointed commission members but shall be no less than six members.” As proposed by Chair Richard Jung was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Shubhada Saxena second on a 9-0 vote.

Other amendments to the By-Laws included the following:

Article 7(D) – The board shall meet “monthly”

Article 7(H) – adopt universal change language for boards with 15 members for an affirmative vote: “(H) If only a quorum is present at a meeting, a board action is adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the quorum (13 member board = 5 votes; 15 member board = 6 votes). If more than a quorum is present at a meeting, a board action must be adopted by an affirmative vote of the number of members necessary to provide a quorum (13 member board = 7 votes; 15 member board = 8 votes).”

Article 8 Committees - Commissioners discussed the differences between working groups and committee, preferred the flexibility of working groups and will not have committees.

Recommendation to approve By-Laws and amendments as discussed was approved on Commissioner Shubhada Saxena motion, Commissioner Vince Cobalis second on a 9-0 vote.

## **8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Richard Jung and Commissioner Aletta Banks introduced community members who showed interest in the Commission and were present at the meeting. Staff Liaison Sarah Chen distributed redacted resumes of individuals interested in serving on the Commission, as provided by the City Clerk’s Office. Commissioners discussed possible criteria for consideration of nominating stakeholder members. Commissioner Janki DePalma asked about terms of the stakeholder members. Staff Liaison Sarah Chen will seek clarification from the City Clerk’s Office.

To better understand the composition and needs of the Commission, Chair Richard Jung asked Commissioners to introduce their respective ethnicity/country of origin/nationality and association or connection to different communities and community groups. This agenda item is postponed to the next meeting for discussion of nomination and screening process.

## **9. DISCUSSION ON NOMINATION FOR JOINT COMMITTEES**

Commissioners asked Staff Liaison Sarah Chen to find the names of the two joint committees that the AAQOL Advisory Commission is a member of. Item postponed to next meeting.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Update on the AAQOL Initiative**

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano briefed the Commission on the AAQOL Initiative, the charge and objectives, and the 2014 Council Resolution. He introduced Marion Sanchez who coordinates the community engagement aspect of the Initiative. Marion Sanchez shared progress in community engagement to date, advised that Commissioners will be scheduled for media and speaker bureau trainings, as well as social media set up for the initiative.

Commissioners requested the following information: 1) link to the Facebook page, 2) survey schedule and location. Staff Liaison Sarah Chen will receive and send the above information to Commissioners.

## **11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Commissioners discussed and agreed on meeting monthly on the third Tuesday of the month.**

**Commission Members discussed agenda items for September 15, 2015 meeting. Four items have been tentatively placed on the agenda as New Business:**

- 1) Discussion and possible action on proposing names of Asian Americans for AISD school renaming**
- 2) Discussion and possible action on working groups formation**
- 3) Discuss town hall meeting for refugee populations, Iraqi and Nepalese**
- 4) Information sharing (standing agenda item)**

**Two items have been tentatively placed on the agenda as Staff Briefing:**

- 1) Briefing from the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department on the Community Health Improvement Plan**
- 2) Briefing from the City of Austin Human Resources Department on diverse recruiting strategies and proposed next steps**

**Three items have been tentatively placed on the agenda as Old Business:**

- 1) Update on the AAQOL Initiative**
- 2) Discussion and possible action on community stakeholder commissioners**
- 3) Discussion and possible action on nomination of commissioners for joint committee assignments**

**Marion Sanchez shared with Commissioners an event to be held September 12, 2015, Spirit of East Austin Community Forum. Executive Liaison Rey Arellano will provide potential Council schedule to the Commission for PARD supplemental budget. Chair Richard Jung invited Commissioners to speak to Council regarding budget issues, and thanked Commissioners for attending the meeting.**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Recommendation to adjourn meeting was approved on Commissioner Aletta Banks motion, Commissioner Janki DePalma second on a 9-0 vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.**