



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Richard Jung called the Board Meeting to order at 06:12 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Nu Chanpheng, Vince Cobalis, Janki DePalma, Richard Jung, Sonia Kotecha, Charles Lu, Thuy Nguyen, Ann Okamura (arrived at 6:21PM), Pramod Patil, Rajani Ramachandran, Shubhada Saxena, Kara Takasaki, Kirk Yoshida, Richard Yuen

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

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Jesus Pantel, Grant Coordinator with the City of Austin Economic Development Department Cultural Arts Division shared Arts in Public places events, Cultural Heritage Celebration, and grant opportunities for artists, with an online application deadline of 5/2/2016.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were two changes to the February 16, 2016 meeting draft minutes. Summitt Elementary spelling corrected with two "t's", and Commissioner Sonia Kotecha's name was mis-spelled. Recommendation to approve the February 16, 2016 meeting minutes as presented in draft form with the two corrections was approved on Commissioner Kirk Yoshida motion, Commissioner Nu Chanpheng second on a 13-0 vote. (Commissioner Ann Okamura arrived after minutes were approved.)

Chair Jung moved item 4. Staff Briefings before item 3. Old Business to allow staff time for a second presentation at another Commission meeting.

**4. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

Michael Trimble, Capital Planning Officer presented Mobility Talks, a public engagement survey ending 5/8/2016. The survey addresses universal needs for mobility, divided into regional, corridor and local/other mobility needs. Commissioner Yuen commented that the survey was only available in English, with lots of definitions and posing navigation problems for non-English speakers. He noted that the AAQOL survey has transportation component which could be added to this survey. Commissioner Saxena wanted to see areas not served by public transportation be addressed. She added the Commission on Seniors work group was not ready to make recommendation until June. Chair Jung suggested to have written language documents in the future to cover the majority of non-English speaking population, since there is impact on long term residents and immigrant population. Commissioner Ramachandran commented those who use public transportation, the vulnerable population, should receive higher priority. Chair Jung asked who designed the survey and the response was group effort.

Chair Jung moved item 5(a) for guest speaker to address the Commission before regular business discussions.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Information regarding AISD Issues (Trustee Julie Cowan)**

AISD District 4 Trustee Cowan discussed AISD's overcrowding and under enrollment issues, and the specific areas where overcrowding problem exist. She shared that a PAC committee is working on a bond election in May 2017 and considering consolidating elementary schools and project based education. Commissioner Nguyen asked about AISD's long and short term solutions for overcrowding. Chair Jung was interested in what the greatest need was in northwest Austin, and also asked about population source for LASA (Language Arts and Science Academy). Trustee Cowan stated parents moved into Districts 4 and 7 for the schools. Commissioner Nguyen shared that the last bond election did not do well due to priority parents not understanding the issues. Trustee Cowan stated there will be 5 community outreach meetings through December. Commissioners were also interested in direct outreach with translation for refugee families and less affluent immigrant families. Trustee Cowan said parents were encouraged to place students in International High School, but answered Commissioner Okamura's question that not every school has a parent support specialist.

## **3. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Marion Sanchez provided update on the community engagement results to date: 547 "Community Conversation" surveys completed; 104 "Conversation Over Tea" boxes sent out, 33 still available, and 3 lost; 30 community outreach events; 588 Facebook likes. She discussed project timeline and method to share data with the community.

Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, presented data indicators for the Quality of Life Initiatives. Three Major Themes of Austin's Demographic:

- Long-term, sustained, rapid job and population growth
- Profound diversification
- Stubborn structural and spatial socio-economic separations

Based on data just arrived the previous week, Austin was the fastest growing city. Since data covers city only, there is consideration to use MSA for more accurate reflection of population.

Mr. Robinson shared the following Structural Descriptions and Trends:

- Asians in Austin are the fastest growing local demographic group in terms of percentage gain year-to-year and are doubling in total size roughly every 12 years.
- The City of Austin's Asian share of total population is now above 7.0% and climbing rapidly—putting Austin in the 9th position out of the nation's largest 30 cities in terms of their Asian shares—ahead of Houston and right behind Portland.
- Austin's Asian community is the fastest growing Asian community of any of the nation's largest 30 cities--which speaks to the overall newness of the community in central Texas.
- The City of Austin's Asian share of total population will soon surpass the City's African American share of total population and Asians will become the City's third largest demographic group behind Latinos and non-Hispanic Whites.
- Austin's Asian community is highly diverse with significant subgroup shares coming from Indians, Chinese, Vietnamese, Koreans and Filipinos.
- At \$101,699 annually, Asian families in Austin have the highest Median Family Income (MFI) of any demographic group in the City. This figure is substantially higher than the City's overall MFI and ranks 3rd highest out of the nation's largest 30 cities in terms of Asian MFI.

**The Following Spatial Descriptions were presented:**

- Asian households in Austin are becoming increasingly suburban.
- Distinctive housing patterns between various Asian communities are emerging.
- Although not explicitly an Asian opportunity District, City Council District 6 had the greatest Asian share of total in 2010 (about 14%) and this share has surely grown.

Commissioner Saxena asked about mapping senior population to facilitate building senior housing. Mr. Robinson replied census data are superficial and can be mapped by zip code. Presentation will be uploaded for future reference.

Dr. Yuri Jang presented preliminary draft survey findings and addressed the model minority myth. Differed from prevailing national surveys using English as a primary survey language, this survey took the culturally and linguistically sensitive approach, utilizing Asian language versions, research personnel with Asian language capabilities, and partnered with the community. An Austin Asian Community Resource Database (AACRD) was set up and data mapped. Of the total sample size of 2,609 surveys, the breakdown is as follows: 640 Chinese, 574 Asian Indians, 471 Koreans, 513 Vietnamese, 265 Filipinos, and 146 Asians of other ethnic backgrounds. The overall characteristics of the sample are: Mean Age 42.8, Female 55.2%, Not Married 33.4%, Above High School education 18.6%, Income Over \$30,000 is 27.4%.

The survey asked participants to respond to questions in the following areas: Unmet Healthcare Needs, English Proficiency, Perceived Racial/Ethnic Discrimination, Health Insurance (Have/Have Not), Usual Place for Care (Have/Have Not), Need for Transportation, Need for Interpretation, Communication Problem in Medical Settings, Preference for Ethnic Concordance with Medical Providers, and Mental Distress. The following Priority Areas are identified:

- Language assistance
- Access to medical services – Community health worker model
- Educational intervention on mental health literacy
- Campaign on stigma reduction
- Provision of mental health counseling programs
- Community outreach

Commissioners received a full draft report to review and can provide input, questions, and comments to Sarah Chen through April 30, 2016 for compilation and forwarding to Dr. Jang.

Commissioner Yuen commented that this is a draft of just descriptive data and wanted to get direction what can be shared. Executive Liaison Rey Arellano stated the document is now public but is a draft, therefore won't be published on the website until document is final, and recommended limited distribution. However, the PowerPoint presentation will be available. Timeline: Commissioners feedback by end of April to allow Dr. Jang to address concerns, presentation to the HHS Committee in the third week of May (5/24/2016), report goes public afterwards. Currently the PowerPoint presentation is public information, but draft report is not. Commissioner Yuen suggested putting "draft" in red on the PowerPoint presentation before uploading. Commissioner DePalma will email typos of Indian words to Dr. Jang.

Item 5(c) is moved up for discussion and action.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

c. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to the City Council regarding the authorization to negotiate and execute an agreement with the successful proposer(s) to manage and operate the senior meal program at the Asian American Resource Center

Taja Beekley, Manager of the AARC, presented information regarding AARC Kitchen renovation, the expansion of senior meal program from 40 meals/day for 3 days/week to 60 meals/day for 4 days/week, the solicitation and evaluation process of proposers, seeking Commission support and recommendation to Council. Commissioners briefly discussed program logistics and shuttle schedule. Recommendation to the City Council regarding the authorization to negotiate and execute an agreement with the successful proposer(s) to manage and operate the senior meal program at the Asian American Resource Center was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Shubhada Saxena second on a 14-0 vote.

Ms. Beekley and Executive Liaison Arellano advised that during the no contact period there should be no discussion with vendors or Council members about the solicitation.

**Return to Item 3(b) Old Business.**

**b. Update on proposing names of Asian Americans for AISD school renaming**  
Item postponed.

**c. Working Group Reports**

**1) Business Plan Working Group**

Commissioner Yoshida reported that he and Commissioner Cobalis were working on budget recommendations and needed everyone's input either by the next Working Group meeting on 5/3/2016 or the next Commission meeting. Marion Sanchez suggested electing a representative to coordinate budget items with other Quality of Life Commissions. Recommendation to elect Vince Cobalis to speak to other Quality of Life commissions to coordinate budget recommendations was approved on Commissioner Richard Jung motion, Commissioner Kirk Yoshida second on a 14-0 vote.

**2) HR Diversity Issues Working Group**

HR Working Group met with HRD staff before the Commission meeting and will provide report in the next meeting.

**3) Education Working Group**

Education Working Group did not meet this month.

**4) Community Assessment Working Group**

Community Assessment Working Group did not meet this month.

**d. Discussion and possible action on a resolution to support threatened immigrant communities**  
Resolution passed in February meeting.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

**b. Election of Officers**

Nomination to elect Richard Jung as Chair was approved on Commissioner Sonia Kotecha motion, and Commissioner Thuy Nguyen second on a 13-1 vote (Commissioner Jung against). Nomination to elect Vince Cobalis as Vice Chair was approved on Commissioner Nu Chanpheng motion, Commissioner Shubhada Saxena second on a 14-0 vote.

**f. Discussion and possible action on the plans for City Equity Office and search for Chief Equity Officer**

Executive Liaison Arellano reported that the City of Austin conducted a community stakeholder engagement event to collect information and feedback relating to the City of

**Austin Equity Office and to the position of City of Austin Chief Equity Officer. Commissioner Cobalis stated it was nice for the City to ask for input in the front end.**

**d. Discussion and possible action on Working Group membership**

**Commissioners discussed various Working Group membership and Chair Jung appointed the following:**

**Commissioner Charles Lu – Community Assessment Working Group, Human Resources Diversity issued Working Group;**

**Commissioner Kara Takasaki - Community Assessment Working Group;**

**Commissioners Pramod Patil, Rajani Ramachandran, Shubhada Saxena – Arts and Culture Working Group, Commissioner Patil appointed as Chair**

**Commissioner Shubhada Saxena will leave the Community Assessment Working Group**

**e. Discussion and possible action on budget resolutions**

**Postponed and wait for Business Plan Working Group to present recommendation in the next meeting.**

**g. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)**

**Commissioner Richard Yuen announced baby shower on 4/30/2016.**

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Commissioners discussed agenda items for the May 17, 2016 meeting and added one item proposed by Commissioner Saxena on presentation of recommendation by the Commission on Seniors (exact wording to be determined after discussion with the Commission on Seniors).**

**7. ADJOURN**

**Recommendation adjourning the meeting was approved on Commissioner Nu Chanpheng motion, Commissioner Rajani Ramachandran second on a 14-0 vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 9:09p.m.**