



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION (AAQOLAC)  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019**

The AAQOLAC convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Vince Cobalis called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Vince Cobalis, Pooja Sethi, Kirk Yoshida, Peter Chao, Debasree DasGupta, Nguyen Stanton, Shubhada Saxena, Catherina Conte, and Molly Wang.

**Staff in Attendance:**

Rey Arellano, Joshua Robinson, and Joe Silva

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

**Mike Sheffield and Mei Fung** – Neighborhood Liaison program, Austin Police Department

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** No action taken. Minutes were not available.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Workgroup Reports:**

1. Asian American Resource Center: Commissioner DasGupta provided an update.
2. Health and Community Engagement Workgroup (CEWG): Commissioner Conte provided an update. The work group will send minutes from the previous CEWG event. The work group is discussing a possible issue-focused discussion with the Office of Police Oversight.
3. Arts and Culture Workgroup: The June 24, 2019, Pune Sister City event went well. The A&C work group is working with AARC on a possible future event.
4. Business Planning Workgroup: The Business Planning work group is working on the transition from work groups to project teams.

**b. Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC):** Commissioner Stanton provided an update. The JIC is working on its annual review report. The Early Childhood Council asked to join the JIC. The Senior Homestead Property Tax Resolution passed by the JIC may come to the AAQOLA for support.

**c. Review draft Commission Annual Internal Review (7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019) -** Commissioner Yoshida provided an overview of the report. Work group leaders are asked to review and provide their comments by Tuesday, July 23, for submittal by the end of the month.

**4. STAFF BRIEFING**

- a. Discussion and possible action on a resolution regarding property tax exemptions – The JIC and the Commission on Seniors passed a resolution concerning the property tax exemption. The

AAQOLAC has been asked to provide a letter of resolution in support of it. Commissioner Stanton moved that the Commission provide a letter of support for the resolution regarding Property Tax Exemption. Commissioner Saxena seconded the motion and it passed on a 9-01 vote with Commissioner Patil abstaining.

- b. Recommendations for First Responder Mental Health Calls for Service report – No discussion. Postponed to a future meeting
- c. Review the AARC Master Plan Recommendations – Greg Montes, Project Manager (Parks and Recreation Department) and Patrick Smith and Johnathan Pierce (Studio 8) discussed the status of the AARC Master Plan. Laura Esparza, PARD Manager, provided additional information. Commissioner Stanton moved that PARD clarify what it is seeking approval for and that they and the consultant (Studio 8) meet with NAAO before seeking Commission approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saxena. The motion failed 6-2-2 with Commissioner Cobalis and Conte voting no. Commissioner DasGupta and Yoshida abstaining. The Commission will place this item on next month's agenda.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion and possible action on a resolution regarding property tax exemptions – The JIC and the Commission on Seniors passed a resolution concerning the property tax exemption. The AAQOLAC has been asked to provide a letter of resolution in support of it. Commissioner Stanton moved that the Commission provide a letter of support for the resolution regarding Property Tax Exemption. Commissioner Saxena seconded the motion and it passed on a 9-0-1 vote with Commissioner Patil abstaining.
- b. Discussion and possible action in support of the Land Development Code and Austin Strategic Mobility Program. Moved to a future agenda.

## **6. FUTURE AGENDA**

Chair Cobalis discussed future items for the agenda next month.

## **7. ADJOURN**

Chair Cobalis adjourned the meeting without any objections at 8:32 p.m.