

MEETING MINUTES



ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBURARY 21st, 2023

The ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on **TUESDAY, FEBURARY 21st, 2023, at AUSTIN CITY HALL - BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ROOM #1101, 301 W. 2ND STREET in AUSTIN, TEXAS.**

Chair KIRK YOSHIDA called the ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING to order at 6:08 pm CST.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Kirk Yoshida (Chair)

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

Sarah Chen (Vice Chair)

Anna Lan

Fang Fang

Hanna Huang

Kuo Yang

Lily Trieu

Pramod Patil (joined at 6:20pm)

Vincent Cobalis

Commissioners Absent:

Azra Siddiqi

Mohsin Lari

Meena Mutyala

Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first ten speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

Raul Alvarez, Community Advancement Network: Created 6 community resource guides translated in 10 languages including English. View Guides at [Wecanatx.org/resources](https://wecanatx.org/resources).

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Topics include: Know Your Rights, Navigating the Education System, Managing Your Money, Food, Health, and Stay Safe in Austin. CAN is also working on a Mental Health & Wellness Toolkits for Spanish, Vietnamese & Arabic speaking communities. RFP has just been issued. CAN is assembling a compensated (stipend) Community Advisory Team to offer feedback on the tool. Once the 2-3 toolkits are fully funded and developed, there may be opportunities for additional toolkits in different languages. Formal community briefing on their work can be scheduled at a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the COMMISSION’S REGULAR MEETING on January 17th, 2023.

The minutes from the meeting of January 17th, 2023 were approved on COMMISSIONER KIRK YOSHIDA’s motion, COMMISSIONER SARAH CHEN’s second on a 8 – 0 vote. (Off the Dais: Pramod Patil. Absent: Azra Siddiqi, Meena Mutyala, Mohsin Lari, & Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Discussion and possible action on the recent February 2023 winter ice storm, the city response, and calls for new leadership in the City Manager’s Office.

Key Points: (1) Standardized emergency alerts were still not offered in different languages. (2) Little information was translated, Vincent worked closely with EOC for language resources. (3) No prepared materials regarding power outages for limited English groups. (4) Rapid development of the storm impacted response and timeliness.

Action Steps & Recommendations: (1) After-Action Report is being conducted, communicated and language access has been identified as a priority. (2) A *Simulated Emergency Activity* will help test communication. (3) Debris/Disaster information needs to be more shareable (i.e., Instagram) with downloadable images. (4) Promote the emergency language website.

Commissioner Lily Trieu would like to schedule a time to walk-through the current EOC protocol.

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3. Discussion and possible action on appointments & reappointments for at large positions; including updates on the marketing strategy to solicit applications to fill stakeholder vacancies.

No updates currently. Chair Kirk Yoshida recommends that the Community Stakeholder Workgroup bring 1-2 recommendations forward by the March regular meeting, as it takes a couple of months to onboard new commissioners. Jeremy will update on the marketing strategy at the next meeting.

4. Discussion and possible action on FY23-24 Budget Recommendations

Timeline Update: All FY23-24 Budget Recommendations need to be voted on at the regular meeting in March with action to submit select recommendations to the Joint Inclusion Committee for joint endorsement.

A meeting with Tony Vo is set up for February 22 at 11AM to talk about AARC unmet/underfunded needs such as *Language Access* and *Senior Community Services Support*.

Austin Public Health (APH): Kirk and Vince have been meetings with APH staff around mental health funding, other commissioners are invited to come.

YWCA got a grant for AAPI engagement and the Commission would like to hear formal briefing from them (Jeremy may have been CC'd). Binh Ly at APH may be able to help.

Immigrant Legal Services: Last year recommendation 250k (one-time funding). One-time funding can be problematic, Kirk wanted to push for ongoing funding.

Historical note: Hailey Easily @ the Asian American Community Health Initiative (AACHI) was able to get some funding due to commission recommendations.

Commissioners able to assist Kirk with budget recommendations: Sarah Chen, Hanna Huan, Anna Lan, & Vincent Cobalis.

5. Discussion and possible action on creating a Housing Workgroup, or, appointing select commissioners to work with other commissions on Housing priorities in the City.

Commissioners interested in this topic include Commissioner Cobalis, potentially Commissioner Huang if needed. No formal action taken.

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WORKING GROUPS/COMMITTEE UPDATES

6. Budget Workgroup – Updates on the FY23-24 Budget Recommendation Process, including a report back from the Joint Budget Workgroup Meeting on January 18th, 2023. JIC budget priorities include: Affordability, Public Safety, Health, & Transportation.

No action taken. Commissioners Kirk Yoshida, Anna Lan, and Vincent Cobalis will convene before the March regular meeting to draft budget recommendations.

7. Community Stakeholder Workgroup – Updates on commissioner vacancies and marketing strategy to solicit applications to fill stakeholder vacancies.

No action taken. The workgroup will convene before the April regular meeting to go through the list of applicants and select top candidates to fill the vacant community stakeholder positions on the commission.

8. Spring/Phase II AARC Workgroup – Update on AARC Master Plan and Update on upcoming meeting with Laura Esparza to discuss fundraising for AARCH Phase II

No action taken. No new updates.

9. Joint Inclusion Committee – General Update on Current Work, including QoL Study Joint Workshop that was cancelled on February 5th due to the winter storm.

No action taken. No new updates.

INFORMATION SHARING

10. Open Mic for Commissioners to share information with each other, especially regarding future agenda and pending deadlines on action items.

Pramod Patil: Austin Sister Cities: Pune art exhibition reception at AARC Friday evening, February 24th, Council Member Allison Alter will be in attendance. The Diversity Band will perform at SXSW on March 10 at 9AM.

Anna Lan: Project Connect & Cap Metro will have multiple engagement opportunities in the Spring Public Workshop.

AARC Urban Bike Trail: will go through the AARC Property. Ayshea can send out information and the commission can decide if a meeting is required.

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City Council Highlights:

**THRIVE Grants are on the agenda (Hotel Occupancy Tax), quite a few AAPI orgs on there – List sent out to the full commission.
CapMetro & Transport EDT Plan Approval is before city council.
Offering affordable/accessible student housing
Capital Express Project – Cap and Stitch
OPO Community Leaders Breakfast was postponed**

Commissioner Anna Lan: Austin Transit Partnership (ATP)'s Initial Release Presentation will be on March 21,

Economic Development Department: Souly Austin, North Lamar International Business District) – see backup

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. Call for items from Committee members:

Laura Esparza – Fundraising training (TBD)

Housing & Development – Erica Leak & James May (March or April 2023)

Intergovernmental Relations – Brie Franco (After the legislative Session, in June, July or August 2023)

Human Resources Department Staff Report Update (TBD)

Activation of the Joint Cultural Committee (TBD)

YWCA – Metal Health Contract with APH for Asian American Mental Health Services (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

12. The meeting is adjourned at: **7:16PM**

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The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access, and hybrid virtual meeting attendance is now available. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice of at least two days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call the Equity Office Commission Liaison, Jeremy Garza, at (512) 978-1797, or email at jeremy.garza@austintexas.gov, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission, please contact the Equity Office Commission/Neighborhood Liaison, Jeremy Garza, by phone at (512) 978-1797, or (preferably) via email at jeremy.garza@austintexas.gov.

***The minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting on April 18th, 2023 on COMMISSIONER HANNA HUANG's motion, COMMISSIONER FANG FANG's second on an 11 – 0 vote.**