



***ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, October 17th, 2023***

The ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on *TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 2023, at AUSTIN CITY HALL - BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ROOM #1101, 301 W. 2ND STREET in AUSTIN, TEXAS.*

Chair HANNAH HUANG called the ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING to order at 6:03pm CST.

Commissioners in Attendance:

***Hannah Huang (Chair)
Nayer Sikder
Padmini Jambulapati
Seonhye “Sonny” Sin***

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

***Sarah Chen (Vice-Chair)
Lily Trieu
Anna Lan
Kuo Yang
Mohsin Lari
Sabrina Sha***

Commissioners Absent:

***Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan
Fang Fang
Satyajeet Dodia
Pierre Nguyen***

Staff in Attendance:

***Alejandra Mireles – Community Services Program Coordinator, Equity Office
Jeremy Garza – Business Process Consultant, Equity Office (Virtually)***

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.

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the COMMISSION's REGULAR MEETING on SEPTEMBER 19th, 2023.

The minutes from the meeting of SEPTEMBER 19th, 2023, were approved on COMMISSIONER MOHSIN LARI'S motion, COMMISSIONER SARAH CHEN's second on a 10 – 0 unanimous vote. (Absent: *Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan, Fang Fang, Satyajeet Dodia, Pierre Nguyen*)

STAFF BRIEFING

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Discussion on Mark Duval, CEO & President of Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce's (GAACC) [update](#).

ERIC PELLETIER presented virtually, an update from the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce's efforts to survey the AAPI Community of Austin, and surrounding areas. He stated to Commissioners that there is a knowledge gap in regard to the API population in central Texas. ERIC PELLETIER stated that there is a lack of current data, gap in the census data, and rigorous analysis. However, GAACC is connecting with demographers; and Accenture; to gather and analyze data to tell deeper stories. The GAACC requested Commissioner's help in sharing the survey for a few weeks with their AAQOL networks. VINCE COBALIS joined at the end of the presentation (previous AAQOL Commissioner) and commented that the GAACC's effort is an ambitious one. COMMISSIONER TRIEU asked if the report will aggregate between the different terms the GAACC was using in its presentation, Asian, Asian American, API. ERIC PELLETIER said the report does not do at this time and that it also does not include immigrant status. COMMISSIONER TRIEU also asked about the timeline and the possibility of refreshing the data because it sounds like it is a long range/longitudinal study. ERICK PELLETIER responded stating that the short answer is yes, the Accenture team has completed the first phase of their data. COMMISSIONER SONNY

commented that the census just released additional AAPI data. COMMISSIONER TRIEU asked what different ways GAACC was using to engage with the community, including different language supports given the AAPI diversity within the community. ERIC PELLETIER stated to Commissioners that at this time, the survey is only in English and in regards to engaging with the community, coming to the commission is the first step. COMMISSIONER SONNY SIN asked how long the survey will be open for and ERIC PELLETIER answered through January. COMMISSIONER SONNY SIN asked a follow up question about the GAACC being available during “pop up” events, etc. to promote the survey and ERIC PELLETIER answered that they do not have plans to do so at this time.

3. Discussion on Gus Garcia Recreation Center updates by Gus Garcia Senior’s MARTHA LANGFORD (virtually) and NEOMI DELGADO.

MARTHA LANGFORD stated to Commissioners that she and NEOMI DELGADO were visiting the AAQOL to ask for help for a senior use building, that would be apart of the Gus Garcia Recreation Center. Currently, the seniors who visit the center are limited to access by time and space. However, the Gus Garcia has 47 acres and has room for an additional building. MARTHA LANGFORD stated to the Commissions that if they look at the city map, there is no recreation center north east of the city (for districts 4, 1, 6, & 7). Gus Garcia is the only designated recreation center that also serves other towns that are near by. Compared to the other 3 recreation centers in the city, there are discrepancies that Gus Garcia does not have: dedicated space; seasonal available space, storage for activities like the sewing which teachers have to hold onto personally (sewing machines/gardening supplies that stink up cars); other centers have crafts with shelves and pottery furnace; Gus Garcia does not have the space and it can be deadly; the other centers have whole wings for senior games and restrooms. MARTHA LANFORD stated to Commissioners that Austin has the largest percentage of newly incoming seniors in the whole state and ask for the AAQOL’s support for an additional building to the center by giving feedback to PARD/CITY COUNCIL, as the Gus Garcia Senior support the AARC’s updates. COMMISSIONER SONNY SIN asked what is MARTHA LANGFORD’S priority between programs or new facility and MARTHA LANGFORD responded that they need to have the building first because that limits the additional programs. MARTHA LANFORD also stated it has taken time after the pandemic for seniors to return. NOEMI DELGADO stated that pre pandemic, they had 60-80 seniors for the daily exercise (ages 50-96) and now some people are intimidated after the pandemic. They have had to cut the size of people. People would like more programs or to stay at the center longer, but there is no room for seniors at the enter. Number of AAPI is increasing at the center as well. COMMISSIONER HUANG shared that this is something that the Commission has been paying attention to and she knows that the last time senior center that has been built was in 1992 in the south. COMMISSIONER HUANG asked MARTHA LANGFORD if there are any other Commissions writing recommendations for the Gus Garcia Recreation Center? MARTHA LANGFORD responded, stating not yet and COMMISSIONER HUANG stated that she could bring the request to the JIC.

Specifically, for an additional building there because an expansion would not be a feasible solution because it would be limited in time and other groups.

COMMISSIONER LILY TRIEU asked about the use of demographic data to use for a realistic projection of what is needed for the building. COMMISSIONER LILY TRIEU mentioned looking at [CITY OF AUSTIN'S PARKS AND RECREATION'S VISION PLANS](#) as well.

4. Discussion on upcoming JIC budget workshops: October 18th, October 24th, November 4th. Please try to bring 2 community members. Interpretation services will be provided in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin.

COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG asked the Commissioners what was their plan for attendance to avoid a quorum. COMMISSIONER LILY TRIEU stated she would go on 10/18, COMMISSIONERS SONNY AND HUANG will attend 10/24 and 11/4; COMMISSIONER ANNA LAN will go on 11/4.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5. Discussion and possible action to affirm AAQoL regular meeting dates for 2024.

COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG discussed removing one date for a break in the summer. COMMISSIONER LILY TRIEU mentioned that July 16th is in the middle of Republican National Convention and August 20th is in the middle of the Democrat National Convention. *COMMISSIONER SARAH CHEN motioned to APPROVE the all calendar dates and locations and COMMISSIONER SONNY SIN seconds the motion on a 9-0 vote; (Abstain: Lily Trieu, Absent: Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan, Fang Fang, Satyajeet Dodia, Pierre Nguyen)*

6. Discussion on leadership vacancies across City Departments for possible action with a Recommendation to City Council.

COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG took notes during a meeting with the CITY OF AUSTIN's recruiter. A detail from that meeting was that the any executive leadership hires of City Departments would be working with an interim city manager and that this could create uncertainty for applicants. COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG stated that the plan is to hire the deputy manager by the end of this calendar year.

7. Discussion and possible action on appointing a primary and alternate representative to the Joint Inclusion Committee.

Currently, COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG AND COMMISSIONER NAYER SIKDER will sit in the next meeting. *This item will be tabled until next month.*

8. Review and discuss the scope of all current working groups and possible action to update membership.

See below.

9. Discussion and possible action about Activation of Joint Cultural Committee or workgroup.

COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG explained to Commissioners that she met with Commissioners from other Commissions earlier this year and the discussion about the formation of the new Committee has ceased. *New Joint Cultural Committee will not be created and if the commission ever wants to bring it up in the past, we have the notes.*

WORKING GROUP UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

10. Budget Workgroup (*Commissioners Sarah Chen, Hanna Huang, Sabrina Sha, Mohsin Lari & Sonny Sin*) – Updates on the FY25 Budget Recommendation Process.

COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG shared the dates of three community budget sessions coming up.

11. Community Stakeholder Workgroup (*Commissioners Fang Fang, Sabrina Sha, & Mohsin Lari*) – Updates on commissioner vacancies and discussion on the marketing strategy to solicit applications to fill stakeholder vacancies.

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER WORKGROUP DISSOLVED due to new Commissioners and time.

12. Asian American Resource Center (AARC) Workgroup (*Commissioners Hanna Huang, Kuo Yang, Lily Trieu, Anna Lan, Satyajeet Dodia, Pierre Nguyen, Kirk Yoshida & Vincent Cobalis*) – Updates & discussion on Phase II, staffing & budget, friends of AARC group development.

COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG asked COMMISSIONER ANNA LAN if she was receiving the workgroup updates and she is not. COMMISSIONER LILY TRIEU provided updated on the AARC and the waste found near the dumpster and trash. The Workgroup's discussion on solutions, including staff safety, maybe port-a-potties (requires financing) and connecting with organizations that serve unhoused communities, or perhaps the unhoused are being served under the watershed protection? COMMISSIONER SONNY SIN asked about lighting and COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG mentioned that it had been replaced. COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG then gave an update on Phase over \$3.2-3.4 million – and with the pause of the bonds for 2024, there is a pause on the development. It may not be related to the Phase II. Like a pavilion space with an

outside performance space. COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG also stated to Commissioners that the AARC's 10th anniversary is coming up on 10/27, which a COMMUNITY INTEREST NOTICE was posted for.

13. Public Health & Safety Workgroup (*Commissioners Lily Trieu, Kuo Yang, Pierre Nguyen, and Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan*).

COMMISSIONER LILY TRIEU stated to Commissioners that the workgroup would resume in December. The work group is experiencing attendance struggles and some options for solutions are too narrow the scope of the workgroup, recommit to the schedule, or sunset the commission. COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG also updated the Commission about a meeting with the Hope Clinic in regards to language access, who are they serving, engagement, case support, patient wrap around services. Recommended that the person come and present in the next few months. They learned a lot, the 100K from APH, choose between case management and not for mental health. Also, Hailey Easley would be a great addition to the commission or workgroup and has been given the information on how to apply.

14. Joint Inclusion Committee (*Commissioners Hanna Huang, Nayer Sikder, & Sonny Sin*) – General update and discussion on the coalition building work of the JIC.

COMMISSIONER HANNAH HUANG updated the Commission on the 5 JIC Recommendations that were approved in the September regular meeting of the JIC.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion and possible action on appointing a primary and alternate representative to the Joint Inclusion Committee.

Human Resources Department Staff Report Update (Scheduling TBD) w/ Interim

Communications and Public Information Office Update on Language Access Audit with Marion Sanchez, Tuesday, January 16th, 2024

Possible Legislative update during January 2024 regular meeting.

Possible Hope Clinic update in November 2023 regular meeting .

Possible update on changes to Code for building housing during December 2023 regular meeting.

Discussion on the City of Austin's Anti-Hate Education and Outreach Initiative (CPIO/Transportation).

Chair HANNAH HUANG adjourned the meeting at 7: 52 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the NOVEMBER 14TH, 2023 meeting on COMMISSIONER PIERRE NGUYEN motion, COMMISSIONER NAYER SIKDER second on an 8 – 0 unanimous vote. (Absent: *Lily Trieu, Mohsin Lari, Sabrina Sha, Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan*. Off camera because of Webex issues: *Anna Lan*)