



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Richard Jung called the Board Meeting to order at 06:01 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Vince Cobalis, Richard Jung, Miyong Kim, Sonia Kotecha, Thuy Nguyen, Shubhada Saxena, Richard Yuen

Staff in Attendance: Rey Arellano, Sarah Chen, Robin Otto

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no change/correction to the September 12, 2014 regular meeting draft minutes. Recommendation to approve the September 12, 2014 regular meeting minutes as presented in draft form was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 7-0 vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

State Representative Celia Israel signed up to speak about her support of diversity in her district and the Asian American Quality of Life issues.

Mai Tran, President of Austin Vietnamese Senior Citizens Association, signed up and deferred to Huy Nguyen to speak on his behalf about the needs for assistance in terms of transportation, meeting location and special cultural ceremonies. Chair Richard Jung indicated that transportation has been an issue of interest to the Commission and other Asian American groups, and offered information sharing after the meeting.

Huy Nguyen, President of VACAT (Vietnamese American Community of Austin, Texas), signed up to speak about resources needs for ESL, Vietnamese as a Second Language classes, and AARC operating hours. Chair Richard Jung indicated that the AARC Non-Profit has partnered with various institutions to offer free ESL, citizenship classes and legal clinics. Chair Jung suggested VACAT contact the AARC N-P for further discussion and coordination.

Nancy Bui, a Commercial Developer, signed up to speak about meeting space needs for the Austin Vietnamese Senior Citizens Association.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on the AAQOL Initiative

Commissioner Richard Yuen reported that the Community Assessment Committee met twice to discuss the UT proposal, collaboration with the City of Austin, and received the City of Austin community engagement presentation.

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano provided the update. Based on staff's evaluation of the Innovation, Creativity & Capital (IC2) Institute proposal as compared with the Council Resolution requirements, staff informed IC2 that the City was going to explore different alternatives, and will explore working directly with social services faculty at UT and other higher education institutions. Executive Liaison Arellano met with Dr. Yuri Jang on October 20, 2014, to develop a new proposal, and reported that the School of Social Work was well positioned to help with the project. He anticipated a November sign off. She will work with the Community Assessment Committee.

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano shared the presentation CPIO Community Engagement Consultant Marion Sanchez made to the Community Assessment Committee on October 13, 2014. During October through December, work will be done to prepare for the three phases of Inform, Educate and Engage, to commence in February 2015. Dr. Jang's work will also be incorporated.

Commission members discussed timeframe for Visioning activity and community outreach. Chair Richard Jung thanked the City of Austin for being open and flexible. Recommendation to accept the process as presented, including the November sign-off and Visioning session, was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Miyong Kim second on a 7-0 vote.

b. Update from AARC Workgroup

Commissioner Vince Cobalis reported that the AARC Workgroup met at 5:15 p.m. today and decided to recommend that the AARC staff to do the following:

- 1) ask PARD Administration to use demographics used by the Travis County Community Survey, in terms of desegregated data collection,
- 2) develop handouts for accessing AARC services,
- 3) make sure to recognize Asian American groups instrumental in making or contributing to the establishment of AARC programs,
- 4) invite community groups to talk with the AARC Workgroup about their perspective on using the center.

Chair Richard Jung appreciated the work of Commissioners Vince Cobalis and Thuy Nguyen, and reiterated the desire to make sure City facilities are customer service friendly, with hours of service to accommodate community needs.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Due to request from APD, Chair Richard Jung moved item 4e to be addressed first.

e. Presentation and discussion on APD Booking Center

Due to time constraints, Chair Richard Jung asked APD Assistant Brian Manley to skip the reasons for the new magistration center and focus on discussion of the planned location. Assistant Chief Manley shared the definition of magistration (every APD arrest that is Class C/traffic/public intoxication/certain Class A and B meeting criteria) and the rationale for selecting the Rutherford Campus:

- ✓ City owned
- ✓ Significant police presence
- ✓ Centrally located
- ✓ Major Capital Metro transfer station
- ✓ Though residential neighborhood, large portion is business, industrial and the AARC

Chair Jung requested numbers of these arrests and releases, as well as shared concerns that the new booking center would be next to the AARC, given the fact that the AARC and AARC N-P are raising funds for a bridge between the AARC and APD parking lot, and that AARC being a public facility, anyone released or waiting for people to be released can go there and substantially increase usage at the facility. Assistant Chief Manley will provide projections based on San Antonio numbers. Commissioner Shubhada Saxena asked if people would still be intoxicated when released. Assistant Chief Manley explained that people under protective custody will be sober before release. Commissioner Vince Cobalis questioned the length people would be held in the booking center, and asked if other options were being considered. Assistant Chief Manley replied the goal is to release or transport to jail within 6 hours. Regarding alternatives, Assistant Chief Manley stated there is an ongoing City/County workgroup actively discussing possible joint venture or lease options, but there is no other proposed location at this time. Commissioner Sonia Kotecha asked about timeframe. Assistant Chief Manley replied 18 months before it would be up and running. Commissioner Richard Yuen asked for information regarding percentages of Class C and Class A+B special circumstances. Assistant Chief Manley would get San Antonio estimates of Class A+B releases and use that as guideline. He also stated that additional stakeholder meetings would be held in various neighborhoods. Commissioner Yuen stated the security risk concern at the AARC due to possible overflow from the booking center, since most AARC users are seniors and children. He further raised drug and health issues associated with public intoxication cases that might lead to unruly behaviors. Assistant Chief Manley replied most individuals released would not stay at high police presence area, and that there will be transport vans or individual transports. Commissioner Shubhada Saxena asked where the nearest social service agency is located. Assistant Chief Manley replied downtown, as there is no social service agency in this neighborhood.

Chair Jung thanked APD staff for the presentation and recognized the need for a facility. He expressed the following points for serious consideration:

1. Strong objection to the process of one location selection, which is problematic;
2. APD is studying the impact on current neighborhood but not a public facility such as the AARC which will be overwhelmed. The danger of violation is less of a concern than the number of people being released that do not have anywhere to go to wash up or means to travel the long stretch to WalMart for CapMetro.

Assistant Chief Manley left his contact information for future conversation and feedback.

c. Report on Whitehouse initiative on Asian Pacific Islander Initiative

Linda Phan, one of 16 Commissioners of the Whitehouse Commission on Asian Pacific Islanders, spoke about the Whitehouse initiative and the different projects. Ms. Phan's focus is on social service projects which include the following:

1. Immigration issues, in particular DACA (Deferred Action for Child Arrivals)
2. Desegregation of data for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, at both national and local levels
3. Bullying of Asian American children: coordinating with Dept. of Justice and Dept. of Education regarding reporting issue
4. April 2015 Federal Regional Interagency Roundtable, an opportunity for Asian Americans to provide input regarding immigration, healthcare law, and small businesses.

Ms. Phan invited input as to our community needs and areas of interest to partner with the Federal government. Chair Richard Jung suggested the Commission set up a separate meeting with Ms. Phan for further discussions.

d. Presentation and discussion of Austin Voices for Education and Youth

Allen Weeks, Executive Director of Austin Voices for Education and Youth introduced the history of the non-profit organization and presented the work at AISD schools from a community school approach. Chair Richard Jung announced he recently joined the Austin Voices board and invited Mr. Weeks to present, so as to ensure the Asian American community is not left out. Commissioners and Mr. Weeks discussed approaches towards bullying and health issues, and the difference between the family/community-based Austin Voices and the student-based CIS (Community in Schools), and recognized the need for a bilingual staff speaking an Asian language.

a. Officers Elections (For term between November 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015)

Commission Members elected Richard Jung to be Chair of the AAQOLAC, on a 6-1 vote, with Richard Jung voting against.

Commission Members unanimously elected Vince Cobalis to be Vice Chair of the AAQOLAC.

b. Presentation, discussion and action on ICE Detainer and Secure Communities

Due to time constraint, this item has been tabled.

f. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)

- Commissioner Vince Cobalis shared he asked Staff Liaison Sarah Chen for City department demographics to ensure the City meets diversity goals. Staff Liaison Chen shared the third quarter reports which were available. Updates will be provided when the fourth quarter reports are available. Commissioners discussed diversity in public safety departments. Commissioner Thuy Nguyen shared the community emersion program and would like to put it on the agenda for next month. Commissioner Miyong Kim would like to see printed materials, types of interpreter service (bilingual services and how many languages), technology assisted programs, etc. Chair Richard Jung suggested making the AAQOL survey a dual-sided survey, adding to the services people need, to also ask service providers what they can provide. Executive Liaison stated that Marion Sanchez could assist with providing information as to what internal City service is available in terms of interpretations during the next meeting.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commission members discussed items for the November 7, 2014 meeting. Two items have been placed on the agenda:

- 1) Visioning process (Invite Dr. Yuri Jang)
- 2) Presentation and discussion of the Asian American Health Assessment results
- 3) Information sharing (standing agenda item)

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

There were no staff briefings at this meeting.

7. ADJOURN

Recommendation adjourning the meeting was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Shubhada Saxena second on a 7-0 vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.