



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Vince Cobalis called the Board Meeting to order at 06:03 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was one change/correction to the March 17, 2015 regular meeting draft minutes. Recommendation to approve the March 17, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented in draft form with one change/correction was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Miyong Kim second on a 6-0 vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Rabi Sinha signed up to speak about the need of Asian American centric senior citizen residence (condo/home) with community center for meetings and food preparation. Vice Chair Vince Cobalis encouraged communication and follow-up meeting with the AARC Facility Manager to determine service needs.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on the AAQOL Initiative

Marion Sanchez reported that the Health and Human Services Committee held a special called meeting and voted unanimously to recommend the AAQOL Initiative for full Council vote on the 4/23/2015 agenda (item number 46). Executive Sponsor Rey Arellano and Marion will attend the Council meeting.

Marion stated that the CPIO team has created an Outlook account to share Asian American events. Official email is aaqol@austintexas.gov Emails to this account goes directly to Marion. Preliminary budget and visioning narrative will be presented to the Executive Liaison for feedback. Social Media strategy is done. Marion also introduced Nancy Chan with Code Compliance as the backup to Staff Liaison Sarah Chen. Nancy will be creating project timeline and milestones with Microsoft Project. Tea in a Box draft will be presented to the Commission in the May meeting. Marion presented the branding design concepts and preliminary logos for feedback. Commissioners provided input for revisions, also suggested seeking other stakeholders feedback before presenting to the next AAQOL Community Assessment Committee.

b. Update from AAQOL Community Assessment Committee

Committee Chair Richard Yuen stated that the Committee did not meet on April 14, 2015.

c. Update from AARC Workgroup

Commissioner Thuy Nguyen reported that the AARC Workgroup met with VACAT last week and planned to meet with different groups monthly. Vice Chair Cobalis stated that the health assessment focus group outcome Vietnamese portion was shared with VACAT and received positive reaction. Commissioner Nguyen shared that VACAT was very pleased with the recommendations and indicated community language barrier and senior emotional well-being as issues. The Vietnamese community did not know about AARC and made the following recommendations to AARC:

- Fixed time and date for classes
- Exercise room for seniors
- Better customer service in provision of directions and helpful information
- Have intern at AARC
- Senior housing/nursing home for Asians (have a portion of the facility with Asian theme)

Commissioner Nguyen suggested the AARC Workgroup be more open with time and location when meeting with community groups to facilitate communication. Next meeting will be with either the Chinese or Korean group.

AARC Facility Manager Taja Beekley shared events at AARC, including a book reading (4/23/2015), CelebrAsia (5/2/2015), and World Tai Chi and Qigong Day (4/25/2015).

d. Review and discuss City of Austin diversity report and possible recommendation
Item postponed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve and submit recommendations to the Commission on Seniors

Vice Chair Cobalis stated that the Commission on Seniors wanted feedback to address the budget process. In the next regular meeting, there will be presentation from the Budget Office for the Commission's input on AARC staffing and resources.

b. Discuss housing issues and provide comments to the NHCD Community Needs Assessment

Jim Padilla, Senior Research Analyst with Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD), presented the FY2015-16 Action Plan Community Needs Assessment. This is the City's application to access federal funding. Commissioners requested electronic copy of flyer and survey be sent to Staff Liaison Sarah Chen for distribution and inquired how input should be sent to NHCD. Commissioners discussed various needs of the Asian community, focusing on senior housing, multigenerational household needs, culturally sensitive care facility, parameters for new program development. Vice Chair Cobalis suggested the Commission's role is to speak for the community and the route would be to endorse a set of recommendations and signed off by Chair Richard Jung as a formal recommendation to NHCD.

Recommendation to have Chair Richard Jung draft a formal letter with AAQOLAC supporting the NHCD to address four specific issues: 1) special needs assistance including multigenerational families; 2) intergenerational community development; 3) culturally-responsive housing continuum; and 4) outreach to ethnic minority groups, was approved on on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Shubhada Saxena second on a 6-0 vote.

Vice Chair Cobalis will work with Chair Jung on the draft, with assistance from Commissioners Yuen and Saxena.

c. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)

- Commissioner Sonia Kotecha shared that the Welcoming Cities Initiative report will be out in June and suggested inviting representatives for a presentation during that month.
- Commissioner Shubhada Saxena shared the City of Austin project for each district to have an art project and approached the Asian American community for recommendation of Asian Art.
- Commissioner Thuy Nguyen shared 4/25/2015 is commemoration of Black April, and will send information to Staff Liaison Sarah Chen.
- Commissioner Miyong Kim shared UT School of Nursing will be hosting a community networking event on 4/24/2015.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commission members did not discuss items for the May 19, 2015 meeting. Four items have been placed on the agenda (Old Business) from discussions:

- 1) Update on the AAQOL Initiative
- 2) Update from the AAQOL Community Assessment Committee
- 3) Update from AARC Workgroup
- 4) Review and discuss City of Austin diversity report and possible recommendation

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 Sonia Kotecha second on a 6-0 vote. Vice Chair Vince Cobalis adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.