



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Richard Jung called the Board Meeting to order at 06:04 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Vince Cobalis, Richard Jung, Miyong Kim, Sonia Kotecha, Richard Yuen

Staff in Attendance: Rey Arellano, Sarah Chen, Marion Sanchez

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no change/correction to the January 20, 2015 regular meeting draft minutes.

Recommendation to approve the January 20, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented in draft form was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-0 vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There was no citizen communication at this meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on the AAQOL Initiative

Dr. Yuri Jang presented update to the planning of the Initiative, including an organization chart and major components of the survey. Sixteen students and staff are working on a database in Google Doc. Tasks included mapping physical addresses layered with census based ethnic information and City services, Asian businesses and resources, as well as ethnic community leaders network. Dr. Jang reported UT Dean has waived indirect cost, for a total project budget of \$139,758 and direct cost of \$127,053. Chair Jung asked about projects to cover small populations, and Dr. Jang replied \$2,500 would be needed for the refugee population. Commissioners discussed funding from the community for special projects, including possible indirect funding from the Hogg Foundation. There were discussions of questions included in the 10-page survey, which will include culturally sensitive questions related to health, social, economic, civic engagement, interpersonal, family and business components. The draft instrument will be presented to the Commission for review. Due to the number of issues and generations to cover, Commissioner Kim suggested that the instrument cannot be tailored too tightly to certain populations, to allow comparison of data. Committee Chair Yuen suggested identifying key issues to be addressed later as special projects, and thanked Dr. Jang for her efforts.

Marion Sanchez introduced the UT Team from the School of Architect class of participatory planning, to present their project scope of work and tasks. Collaborating with Dr. Jang, the team will build an Asian American database with updated contact information, develop recommendations for future engagement and create GIS mapping.

Commissioner Vince Cobalis asked about next steps in branding. Marion Sanchez will present a proposal with three choices in the next meeting.

Recommendation to the City Council for approval of the Scope of Work as presented by Dr. Yuri Jang in the April 6, 2015 Health and Human Services Committee meeting was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Miyong Kim second on a 5-0 vote.

b. Update from AAQOL Community Assessment Committee

Committee Chair Richard Yuen provided updates from both the 2/10/2015 and 3/10/2015 Committee Meetings. Full funding of the \$138K for Dr. Jang's proposal has been identified and pending Council approval. Additional funds from the community should be directed to UT for Dr. Jang to conduct special projects not included in the scope of work. Chair Richard Jung asked to clarify if funds from other City departments are accepted. Executive Liaison Rey Arellano stated the departments may fund specific areas of the Initiative of interest to them. Commissioners discussed possible inclusion of public safety departments in the survey or as special projects. Commissioner Vince Cobalis asked for a brief summary of Dr. Jang's revised proposal. Committee Chair Yuen stated the proposal expanded age group to include 25-85, with n=500 from each of the five major subgroup for a total N=2500. In addition, all 7 graduate students for the project would coordinate with City of Austin CPIO to ensure synergy.

In terms of community engagement, Marion Sanchez has a group of UT graduate students working with Dr. Jang on GIS-related mapping of Asian American community data, with input from City Demographer Ryan Robinson. She's been meeting with Dr. Jang monthly for collaboration. The CPIO Marketing and Branding team conducted a preliminary brainstorming session with Committee members. They will outreach to Tier 1 community leaders for ideas and feedback on the conceptualization and development of branding the AAQOL Initiative. Marion Sanchez reported meeting with staff at AARC, Linda Phan, and AAQOL Commissioners for input and the formulation of color palettes, icon and feedback on tagline. Chair Jung suggested meeting with the NAAO (Network of Asian American Organizations) before going out to the larger community.

Committee Chair Yuen continued with update from the 3/10/2015 meeting and asked Commissioners to forward names of higher tier community leaders to Marion Sanchez to contact, for direction and insights. In addition, Committee Members recommend having the 5 major cultural groups earmarked in the Initiative make presentations to the CPIO Branding Team for cultural sensitivity input. Third party donations are tax deductible and should be sent directly to UT. Dr. Jang agreed to organize these funds for the most appropriate special projects.

On April 6, 2015, Executive Liaison Rey Arellano will present an update to the City Council's Health and Human Services Committee. Committee Chair Richard Yuen, Commission Chair Richard Jung and Commissioner Miyong Kim will attend.

c. Update from AARC Workgroup

Commissioner Vince Cobalis reported that the AARC Workgroup met at the AARC and discussed information collection and reporting format, as well as ways to engage the community. On April 10, 2015, there will be a meeting with VACAT (Vietnamese American Community of Austin Texas). The AARC Workgroup will also schedule a meeting with a citizen regarding his suggestions regarding operations at the AARC.

Commissioner Kim brought up language service issues at the AARC, specifically the City requirement that all materials are to be translated by certified services. She suggested utilizing UT linguistics experts supervised translators to reduce cost. Commissioner Cobalis echoed the concern

and provided an example of AARC presenting sample documents for translation into three languages to City certified translators and received a quote of \$550/each. Commissioner Cobalis suggested developing a system with UT to translate general information and public service announcements. Commissioners discussed the need for culturally and linguistically sensitive translation, and the fact that certified translation agencies could hire non-qualified translators, and that further discussion in the Workgroup is necessary.

Next Step: Executive Liaison Arellano will check on the Council resolution related to culturally sensitive translations.

d. Update on 2015 Meeting Dates

Staff Liaison Sarah Chen reported that the Commission approved the 2015 Commission meeting dates last month, and the Board and Commissions Room has been reserved for the year.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Recommend Asian American subpopulation tracking for certain AARC programs

Commissioner Cobalis presented an AARC demographics tracking form which was based on the American Community Survey with four groups added. Commissioners reviewed and discussed functionalities of the instrument, provided input as to data collection methodology, suggested additional communities and generational data collection. This item is not ready for action and will be further discussed in the next AARC Workgroup meeting.

b. Presentation and discussion of request for Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission presentation on April 8, 2015 at the Commission on Seniors regular meeting

Edna Staniszewski, Staff Liaison for the Commission on Seniors, invited Commissioners to speak at the April 8, 2015 Commission on Seniors meeting, to provide a brief summary of AAQOL Initiative and information on gaps, challenges, and issues in the Asian senior community. Representatives from the African American Quality of Life and Hispanic Quality of Life will also present. With his background in health assessment and housing, Commissioner Vince Coblis will coordinate the presentation with Commissioner Shubhada Saxena who is familiar with South Asian senior issues.

Commissioners were interested in the composition of and minority representation on the Commission on Seniors, and discussed inviting Asian Americans to apply to serve on this Commission.

c. Review and discuss City of Austin diversity report and possible recommendation

At the request from Commissioners, Staff Liaison Sarah Chen distributed the FY02-FY14 year-end (4th Quarter) Representation reports, excluding Civil Service. Commissioners observed that the Asian American percentage of representation increased over the years but not proportionate to the increase in Asian Americans within the community. In the 2000 Census, Asian American population was at 3%, and in the 2010 Census, Asian American population was at 6%; whereas Asian American employees peaked at 3% in the City of Austin.

Commissioner Cobalis asked if the City of Austin currently has a goal of 3% for Asian Americans. Executive Liaison Arellano responded the City tries to recruit a workforce that is representative of the community. Chair Jung requested that the Asian American Employee Network (AAEN) be invited to do a formal presentation about Asian American employee views on representation. He expressed that it is crucial and important to have employees in departments to assist the population in access to service. Commissioners discussed data

collection methodology and visualization, as well as putting data in context; and requested reports on Civil Service Representation.

d. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)

- Commissioner Vince Cobalis shared CommUnityCare is looking at diversity issues and the meeting on Asian American issues is in April. He also attended Open Cities meeting regarding expanding access to immigrants.
- Commissioner Sonia Kotecha shared that the Welcoming Cities Initiative report will be out in April or May and suggested inviting representatives for a presentation.
- Commissioner Vince Cobalis reported that the CAN Language Access Forum will be held at 1:30 pm on 3/24/2015. He will send information on the free registration.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commission members did not discuss items for the April 21, 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 Vince Cobalis second on a 5-0 vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.