



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a special called meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at Asian American Resource Center in Austin, Texas.

Chair Richard Jung called the Board Meeting to order at 06:08 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Richard Jung, Vince Cobalis, Sonia Kotecha, Thuy Nguyen, Shubhada Saxena

Staff in Attendance: Rey Arellano, Nancy Chan, Esther Chung, Taja Beekley, Laura Esparza, Harry (intern)

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no previous minutes to approve.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Jill C. Ramirez, CEO of Latino Healthcare Forum Center for Healthy Communities, also Chair of Latino Quality of Life Commission, signed up to speak.

Ms. Ramirez shared that Latino Healthcare Forum organization was previously hired to conduct a Rundberg Assessment community based health assessment January 2015 engagement forum, HHSD & St. Davis 78753, 78758. Addresses inability of Rundberg residents to communicate, Focus groups resulted in a major finding being communication in English

Qualitative and Quantitative assessments and Focus groups in Arabic, Burmese, Spanish and English clerical services in the area. 30 languages in two zipcodes, most popular English, Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Burmese and Nepali.

Major findings, people require visits: chronic conditions, mental care and specialist care, and reproductive care. Also, substandard housing conditions, long wait times, broken sidewalks – also cited as barriers to good health.

They would like to recommend a “train the trainer” model to promote use of community health workers in the next phase of their proposal, to provide efficient cost effective, translator, teach doctors on how to interact with populations. Certification of skills proposes to address civic, community engagement and health issues.

The center for healthy communities, under Latino Healthcare forum is Request Funding from city HHSD & private firms (technology component health, literacy e.g. native languages, tech platform with IBM speech to text and vice versa), as well as a letter of support from AAQOL commission.

Commissioner Richard Jung requests a copy of the LHC quantitative and qualitative survey for AAQOL Survey team to mine/share. Commissioner Vince Cobalis proposes a possible presentation to Dr. Yuri Jang /UT to integrate with health component of Commissioner Richard Yuen's subcommittee monitoring AAQOL survey. Also get more information on Center for healthy communities more info needed for an informed decision.

Latino Healthcare Forum would like Letter of support by 8/5, Commissioner Richard Jung targets for this item to be discussed and actioned by July 2015 meeting.

Chair Richard Jung introduced Harry the new summer intern for research, organizing AAQOL working with Richard Jung, and possibly formalize intern support/volunteer to the commission.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

There is no old business to discuss at this meeting.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS: FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

#### **a. Discussion and possible action on recommendations to City Council on budget enhancements**

Taja Beekley presented Parks and Recreation Department's (PARC) City Council budget enhancements relating to the AARC.

- Review PARC budget forecast Recreation program FY 2014/15 – not to be confused with budget proposal
- Taja Beekley provided a breakdown of # FTE and people served by each facility ratio under History Arts & Nature division. Division Manager Laura Esparza says a total of 346k people per year are served by the division, growing exponentially. Two extra FTEs are being requested to cope with demand. Utilization and responsibilities, skills e.g. languages of staff varies heavily by facility.
- Commissioner Richard Jung welcomes discussion and analysis of public number served, participation rate in facilities as a measure of justification of new FTE. Laura Esparza can provide this information.
- Question Volunteer hours tracked through give pulse
- Commissioner Richard Jung question of diversity of park rangers, no current Asian American employees, though small percentage of African American and Hispanic , 20 some vacancies remain to be filled

Regarding AARC Seniors PARC budget forecast – Unmet Service needs

- No current funding for senior meal program to expand
- Budget proposals requested for Rice 'meals on wheels' and seniors e.g. van (could also be utilized for after school program), Rice proposed capacity to increase from 3 to 4 days (extra Monday, currently TWT) to bring total 190 days AARC services availability a year in total
- 50-60 meals daily currently served with existing funding – recommend expansion, evaluation of issues to forecast and growth. Currently running at max capacity, <10 individuals are current waiting list. 100 seniors signed up at recent Asian Pacific American (APA) senior talent show.
- Commissioner Vince Cobalis enquires about issues surrounding increasing capacity and moving from catering model to food prep model. Commissioner Cobalis enquired

about supply versus demand, numbers of individuals not served, what are issues, and recommend expansion of the program and seeing what issues arise.

- AARC highest utilized due to daytime use, new FTE will support extended hours at AARC on Tuesday evenings.
- ACM Rey Arellano says Finalizing budget July 30<sup>th</sup> presents City managers budget to council, recommendations by need to be mindful of this.
- Commissioner Vince Cobalis recommendations that PARD prioritizes needs from the 8 proposed, only priority 1(FTE) is currently in the PARD budget.
- Commissioner Thuy Nguyen recommends FTE justifications include more information on responsibilities and gains from this position e.g. supporting facility rental and new projected collaborations anticipated, as well as extra services.

Recommendation to appoint Commissioner Vince Cobalis to draft a letter recommending all but items #6 and 8 of budget enhancements was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-0 vote. Commissioner Cobalis will write letter for Chair Richard Jung to sign.

Recommendation to get community support letters to support AARC budget enhancement was approved on Commissioner Thuy Nguyen motions, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-0 vote.

- b. Discussion and possible action on recommendations to the Commission on Seniors for the top priorities of the Asian American community
- Nine recommendations from commission on seniors are reviewed. Recommendation to appoint Commissioner Shubhuda Saxena to draft the top 5 AAQOL recommendations letter: item 1 (absorbing items 6 & 7) and item 3 (absorbing 8 & 9) was approved on Commissioner Sonia Kotecha motion, Commissioner Thuy Nguyen second on a 5-0 vote.

Letter due by Commissioner Vince Cobalis by week beginning 6/10/15. Commissioner Shubhuda Saxena will base hers on that.

## **5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commission members did not discuss additional items for the June 16, 2015 meeting.

- 1) Commissioner Vince Cobalis requests a staff briefing on board and commission process, appointment and structural changes, including super committees.
- 2) Commissioner Sonia proposes town hall meeting for refugee populations, Iraqi and Nepalese
- 3) Commissioner Vince Cobalis proposes review of CoA Employment Diversity Report review, and invites AAEN to speak on their perspective.

## **6. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

There were no staff briefings at this meeting.

## **7. ADJOURN**

Recommendation adjourning the meeting was approved on Commissioner Vince Cobalis motion, Commissioner Sonia Kotecha second on a 5-0 vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.