



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2016**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Richard Jung called the Board Meeting to order at 06:10 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Aletta Banks, Nu Chanpheng, Vince Cobalis, Janki DePalma, Richard Jung, Thuy Nguyen, Ann Okamura (arrived @6:16PM), Pramod Patil (arrived @6:12PM), Shubhada Saxena, Kara Takasaki, Kirk Yoshida

Staff in Attendance: Sarah Chen, Taja Beekley, Jorge Morales, David Taylor, John Miller

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jack Chen addressed the Commission regarding the quality of life survey results and referenced the petition the Taiwanese community submitted in the June 2016 meeting, as well as asking for information from Dr. Jang's team.

Ms. Pearl Wu thanked the Commission for the work and requested that Taiwanese be identified as a separate category in the survey report, as well as provided a copy of the petition submitted in June 2016.

Mr. Schiller Liao stated this being his third time before the Commission to request a separate Taiwanese category in the report. He also addressed the issue of having a pedestrian bridge between the AARC and the overflow parking lot at the Rutherford Campus.

Ms. Darlene Watkins discussed Council Resolution 2016030320, the SNAP program, and access to healthy food for the community.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no change to the July 19, 2016 meeting draft minutes. Recommendation to approve the July 19, 2016 meeting minutes as presented in draft form was approved on Commissioner Shubhada Saxena motion, Commissioner Nu Chanpheng second on an 11-0 vote.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on the AAQOL Initiative

Both the CPIO staff and Dr. Jang were overseas at the time, thus not available for discussions.

Mr. Francis Pan provided historical perspectives of Taiwan and China being separate entities and reiterated the request that Taiwanese be a separate category in the survey report.

Vice Chair Cobalis stated that Dr. Jung has a strategy to work on this issue and suggested that it

would be more appropriate to have a dialogue with the Taiwanese community in the Community Assessment Working Group meeting. Chair Jung stated the full Commission should address the issue since the community has come three times. He suggested the community engage Dr. Jang first because the Commission could not speak for the survey author, and that Dr. Jang should be afforded the opportunity to explain her methodology and address the community concern. Chair Jung expressed that the survey needed to be done with economy and efficiency, that the Quality of Life Initiative was commissioned by City Council, explained the Commission's advisory role, and the need to maintain the integrity of the study. Commissioners discussed the need of balance in the survey, and that the goal of the survey was not to identify by race but by language, to make sure people who don't speak English can receive services.

Chair Jung thanked the Taiwanese community for coming to the meeting.

b. Status report on the AARC Kitchen Renovation by the Public Works Department

David Taylor, PWD project manager, and Jorge Morales, Assistant Director, reported that the AARC Kitchen project cleared the Quality Control review but did not have an executed assignment with the contractor yet. Meeting was set up with the Job Order contractor on pricing process and schedule. Contract might be in place at the end of the month with completion in January 2016.

There were questions and discussions about bids (not a bidding process - Job Order Contractor under a Master Agreement), project scheduling responsibility, issues related to the roof and large hood to be installed with warranty, estimated completion time after agreement is signed, work-around plans during construction. Chair Jung advised staff to provide updates to Commissioner Cobalis who chairs the AARC Working Group.

Chair Jung moved item 4(a) to allow staff to present and leave the meeting early.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. HHSD FY17 Budget Briefing

John Miller, Financial Manager of HHSD, provided briefing on the HHSD FY17 Proposed Budget. Chair Jung asked if all HHSD Federal grants require translations, to ensure the City is in compliance with rules and requirements. Commissioners requested information regarding the number of social service contracts that target Asian Americans or target Asian language minorities. John Miller will provide responses. Vice Chair Cobalis asked if HHSD keeps demographics information on people served by social service contracts. The reply is yes but by zip code only. Though ethnicity is a priority for the department, there is no resource or system to track it without uniform requirements. Commissioners discussed issues including health equity, federal grants language access requirement, communication with underserved communities, emergency preparedness and budget for translation services (use of volunteers for interpretation during floods was not possible due to confidentiality issue), HHSD Initial Funding Requests, possible legal liability or civil rights litigation due to lack of language access. Commissioner Cobalis would like a future agenda item on HHSD language access initiative. Chair Jung stated AAQOL's intention to be a resource and strategic partner with departments, and would like a SPOC from HHSD, similar to that of PARD. John Miller suggested Stephanie Hayden, Deputy Director, as the contact on health equity and community development issues.

Commissioners discussed setting up a new Health Working Group for the partnership, membership in the Arts and Culture Working Group, and the original language for the Asian American Quality of Life Initiative. Chair Jung explained that the study was a collection of information from large segments of the Asian community who are not English proficient, to find out what services are available and needed for the population, and was not intend to make racial

differentiations. The determination on the five major languages was based on the US Census which would allow us to correlate data, and the survey attempted to reach the maximum possible population and the majority groups. Commissioner Cobalis indicated that the contract listed the five languages to be used in the survey. Commissioners discussed the intent to listen and respect the perspectives of self-identification, but emphasized the need to work together as a community on what is needed.

Returned to item 3(c).

c. Update on annual Internal Review Report

Chair Jung shared the official report submitted to the City Clerk's Office and thanked Commissioner Yoshida for his work on the report.

d. Update on proposing names of Asian Americans for AISD school renaming

Item removed.

e. Working Group Reports

1) Arts and Culture Working Group

Commissioner Patil stated the group is open to membership. Chair Jung suggested finding out about City grants and educate Asian American community organizations on the existence of grants and help them with the applications.

2) Human Resources Diversity Issues Working Group

Commissioner DePalma reported that the HR working group did not meet last month but met today before the Commission meeting. The group asked to meet with the HRD staff assigned to the AARC. HRD was not able to attend the meeting today. Commissioners wanted to address the memo of understanding on what PARD promised and what HRD is doing, and how to make the staffing productive. The group is also working with AAEN on promotion opportunities. Commissioner Cobalis indicated former AAEN Chair Julia Joseph has an innovation project, and Commissioner DePalma stated they would be a resource but not interfere. Commissioner Saxena asked what the working group can/cannot do in terms of promotions. Commissioner Banks stated collecting data to seek patterns, and to see what can be changed policy-wide. Commissioner DePalma pointed MCS rules as limitations. Commissioner Patil stated he saw the first South Asian newspaper with City jobs ad. Commissioner Saxena expressed the need for an outreach plan to reach to various Asian communities. Chair Jung recognized that ads being run in different Asian papers as a positive indicator.

3) Education Working Group

Commissioner Chanpheng reported the group agreed not to meet in the summer. She shared that the AISD language program executive director resigned, and that the group found out about the international high school a few months ago and would schedule a tour.

4) Business Plan Working Group

Commissioner Yoshida reported the annual report has been completed and submitted.

5) AARC Oversight Working Group

Commissioner Cobalis reported he will write up the meeting notes and send to Commissioners. Subjects included budget priorities, master plan, public event FTE.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action on prioritizing FY17 Budget Recommendations

Chair Jung shared that Council Member Ora Houston put the complete wish list of all Quality of Life Commissions on the Concept Menu. However, the chance of getting all of them funded is zero since departments are told to cut budget. Commissions were asked to list the top 5 biggest needs, which are urgent needs but reasonably priced. Vice Chair Cobalis shared that three Council Members proposed \$1MM per Quality of Life Commission for items that affect the eastern crescent (eastside of I-35), and AARC is in east Austin. Chair Jung explained the considerations and advised each Commissioner to consider individual conflict of interest and recuse from voting on those items. Commissioners discussed the AARC master plan, bond priorities, future project for long term investment, services that will provide immediate impact vs. short and long term impact for the community. Commissioners each ranked their respective priorities and gave their lists to Commissioner Yoshida to tally and finalize the list.

Recommendation to approve the AAQOL budget recommendation priorities for submission to City Council and CMO was approved on Commissioner Kirk Yoshida motion, Commissioner Nu Chanpheng second on a 10-0 vote (Commissioner Thuy Nguyen left the meeting at 9:39PM).

b. Nomination and vote on a Community Stakeholder Commissioner vacancy

Item tabled and moved to next month's agenda. Sarah Chen will follow up with the City Clerk's Office for copies of applications/resumes. Commissioner Cobalis suggested reconvening the Community Stakeholder Commissioner Nomination Working Group. Chair Jung stated to allow Commissioner Banks review the resumes first.

c. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)

Commissioner Saxena shared the City's Cultural Assets Mapping Project CAMP and will send information to Staff Liaison Sarah Chen to distribute.

Commissioners requested digital copy of the HHSD presentation. Sarah Chen will ask John Miller for file.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioners discussed agenda items for the September 20, 2016 meeting and added one item to New Business: HHSD language access.

7. ADJOURN

Recommendation adjourning the meeting was approved on Commissioner Shubhada Saxena motion, Commissioner Janki DePalma second on a 10-0 vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.