



## ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission (AAQOLAC) convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Vince Cobalis called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Vince Cobalis, Sarah Chen, Kirk Yoshida, Debasree DasGupta, Peter Chao, Pooja Sethi, Shubhada Saxena, Kavita Radhakrishnan, Catherina Conte, and Molly Wang

**Staff in Attendance:** Rey Arellano, Joe Silva, Greg Montes, Johnathon Tomko, Mandy DeMayo, and Veronica Briseno

### 1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:

- Emlyn Lee, BRAVE Communities Conversation and Festival
- Meghan Uppal, South Asians' International Volunteer Association, (SAIVA)

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The approval of the minutes from the AAQOLAC meeting on December 18, 2018 was approved without objection by Chair Cobalis.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

#### a. Workgroup Reports

1. **AARC** – The workgroup report was submitted. No discussion from Commission.
2. **Health** - No meeting. No discussion from Commission.
3. **Arts and Culture** – No meeting. Discussed attempts to build workgroup. Trying to reach out to Vietnamese community. Will schedule future activities after a discussion of workgroup goals.
4. **Community Engagement** – Will submit minutes from Community Engagement event in November. No meeting since event. In February, will follow up with attendees on how to stay involved.
5. **Business Planning** – Commissioner Yoshida provided a FY2019 summary budget document and reviewed the status of the FY2019 budgeted or funded items. The Commission will follow up with the Communication and Public Information Office (CPIO) on the use of translation funds.
6. **Human Resources** – No meeting. Commissioners Cobalis and Chen have been working with the City of Austin Asian American Employee Network (AAEN) and the Network of Asian American Organizations (NAAO) on human resource related items.

- b. **Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC)** – Commissioner Conte reported that the JIC will have a strategic planning session in February to clarify mission and values.

- c. **Discuss Commission Workgroup structure** – The Commission Workgroup structure will be discussed at a Business Planning workgroup meeting. Any proposal will focus on projects that cut across projects.
- d. **Update on the mini-grant process** – Commissioner Yoshida provided an update. Seventeen finalists were narrowed down to seven. No decision has been made but do anticipate a January announcement.
- e. **Follow-up Action Items**
  - i. Austin Police Department (APD) response to questions from 12/18/2018 AAQOLAC meeting: The Commission reviewed the APD responses.
  - ii. 2018 Bond Implementation Plan Update: The Commission reviewed the Implementation Plan and inquired about the community engagement contracts.
- f. **Update on AARC projects:**
  - 1. **Asian American Resource Center (AARC) Master Plan**  
Citizen Communication: Liao Schiller provide comments regarding the progress of the AARC Master Plan. He provided some specific questions to the Commission.  
  
Greg Montes, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, provided a status report on the AARC Master Plan. He committed to responding to the questions provided by Mr. Schiller.
  - 2. **Bridge for Overflow Parking**  
Chair Cobalis provided an update on the funding for the bridge. It is still on the PARD Bond List. Will know more by early February. The location of the bridge is another item of concern.

#### 4. STAFF BRIEFING(S)

- a. **City of Austin Five-year Strategic Plan (FY 2019-23 Consolidated Plan)**  
Johnathon Tomko, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD), presented the FY2019-23 Consolidated Plan.
- b. **City of Austin 2018 Affordable Housing Bond**  
Mandy DeMayo, NHCD, presented the status of the 2018 Affordable Housing Bond program.
- c. **Disparity Study**  
Veronica Briseno, Director, Small & Minority Business Resources Department, provided an overview of the department and statistics of the number of firms certified by race/ethnicity.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Community Stakeholder Appointments**  
Commissioner Saxena moved to recommend the appointment of Pramod Patil as a Community Stakeholder. Commissioner Sethi seconded the motion. The motion was approved 10-0  
  
Commissioner Wang moved to recommend the appointment of Catherina Conte as a Community Stakeholder. Commissioner Yoshida seconded the motion. The motion was approved 9-0 with Commissioner Conte abstaining.  
  
Commissioner DasGupta moved to recommend the appointment of Sarah Chen as a Community Stakeholder. Commissioner Conte seconded the motion. The motion was approved 9-0 with Commissioner Chen abstaining.

Commissioner Conte moved to recommend the appointment of Pooja Sethi as a Community Stakeholder. Commissioner Saxena seconded the motion. The motion was approved 9-0 with Commissioner Sethi abstaining.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA**

- a. Stronger Austin Initiative - Parks and Recreation Department
- b. Austin Fire Chief – Austin Fire Department
- c. 2018 Bond Program – Neighborhood Housing and Community Development
- d. Austin Public Health contracting process
- e. American Gateways Communities
- f. Asian American Community Health Initiative (AACHI)

7. Chair Cobalis adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:07 P.M.