



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2014**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Friday, November 7, 2014 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Vince Cobalis called the Board Meeting to order at 06:12 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance: Rey Arellano, Sarah Chen

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no change/correction to October 21, 2014 regular meeting draft minutes. Recommendation to approve the October 21, 2014 regular meeting minutes as presented in draft form was approved on Commissioner Shubhada Saxena 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

Commissioner Richard Yuen, Chair of the AAQOL Community Assessment Committee, provided the following update: Executive Liaison Rey Arellano met with Dr. Yuri Jang twice to discuss the Scope of Work. Dr. Jang will present a proposal to the AAQOL Community Assessment Committee during the meeting on November 10, 2014. The Visioning session has been rescheduled to the next Commission regular meeting date of December 9, 2014.

Commission Members discussed the meeting date for the Committee, and Commissioner Yuen stated that for transparency, the official Committee's meeting time needs to be consistent and remains on the second Monday of the month through the end of 2014. Commissioner Shubhada Saxena expressed interest to join the Committee. Recommendation to nominate and approve Commissioner Shubhada Saxena as a member of the AAQOL Community Assessment Committee was approved on Commissioner Sonia Kotecha motion, Commissioner Thuy Nguyen second on a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Vince Cobalis requested that the meeting agenda for Old Business be modified to reflect the following items:

- a. Update on the AAQOL Initiative – to be presented by Executive Liaison Rey Arellano
- b. Update from the AAQOL Community Assessment Committee
- c. Update from AARC Workgroup

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Commissioner Vince Cobalis reported that there is no update from the AARC Workgroup, since the Workgroup just sent the request today to AARC Facility Manager Taja Beekley, asking AARC to delineate subpopulation demographic data utilizing the same way as the American Community Survey, for consistency purposes.

4. NEW BUSINESS

b. Discussion and action on 2015 Meeting Dates

Commission Members reviewed the chart Staff Liaison Sarah Chen prepared based on availability of each Member. It was determined that 6-8PM on the second or third Tuesday of the month would be preferable to all Commission Members present. Sarah Chen has been instructed to check with Chair Richard Jung and bring the time to a formal vote during the December regular meeting.

c. Presentation and discussion of the impact of the NHCD 5-year housing plan on the Asian American community

This item was postponed. Commissioner Vince Cobalis stated he and Chair Richard Jung met with Rebecca Giello, Assistant Director of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD), and discussed the impact on the Asian American community. She proposed that the Commission present specific questions for her to respond.

a. Presentation and discussion of the Asian American Health Assessment results

Commissioner Vince Cobalis presented the 44-page document delineating results of the assessment conducted by the AARC Non-Profit, under contract with the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department (HHSD). The full presentation would also be presented to the Travis County Healthcare District Board. Commissioners discussed lessons learned from the survey, such as awareness of the population groupings and sub-groupings of Asian Americans for public media outreach, the relationship of BMI to diabetes, the difference between foreign born and US born Asian Americans in terms of inclination to obesity, etc. The recommendations focused on prevention. Commission Members were interested in which entities would receive the report, and suggested attention on generation gap and recommended areas to explore, such as LGBT, youth suicide rate, bullying, sexual health and sexuality, advanced care planning, ADD/ADHC, and developmental delay/autism, genetic factors.

d. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)

- Commissioner Vince Cobalis shared that he and Chair Richard Jung had a meeting with NHCD to look at fair housing issues. Vince had an ad hoc meeting with VACAT (Vietnamese American Community of Austin Texas) but did not obtain formal information, but received information from Asian Family Support Services of Austin. Staff Liaison Sarah Chen was asked to forward information Commission Members provide for NHCD to send to HUD for federal requirements. NHCD invited the Chair and Vice Chair of the three minority cultural commissions, but only the Asian American and African American Commissions were at the meeting. African American Commission desired a more robust cultural center. Commission Members discussed coordination and outreach to other cultural commissions to promote art and culture.
- Commissioner Richard Yuen asked about the AARC Workgroup composition. Due to quorum issue, the AARC Workgroup is limited to three Commissioners. Commissioners Thuy Nguyen and Vince Cobalis reported that the Workgroup met three times, and discussed the following:
 - Ask how AARC collects data for program and services;

- **How to engage the community and get data from the AARC;**
- **Invite more Asian American community groups to understand what they want (dialogue with community groups of their needs and how AARC can be utilized); since certain subgroups utilize the AARC but not other groups, need to know if limited budget/employees/hours were the issues, thus requiring community input as to needs.**
- **Commissioner Shubhada Saxena reported on A+ Vote Project results and discussed that phone bank was not a good vehicle to reach the Vietnamese community; and proposed that civic engagement be an agenda item in the future.**
- **Commissioner Vince Cobalis provided information regarding the Asian American Film Festival the following weekend.**
- **Commissioner Sonia Kotecha shared Insure Central Texas outreach and new enrollment information. Press conference on Monday at Highland Mall and meeting on Saturday.**
- **Commissioners asked about information sharing, and confirmed that all information to come to Staff Liaison Sarah Chen for dissemination to all Commissioners.**
- **Commissioner Richard Yuen talked about the Travis County Model Court on Disproportion survey, which targets CPS clients from communities of color. The survey aims to assess the quality of service and effectiveness to reunite with children. The link will be emailed to Staff Liaison Sarah Chen for dissemination.**
- **Commissioner Vince Cobalis shared the Bullying Project meeting the previous weekend. The focus is on four avenues: film project, survey college and high school students, outreach/education for parents/families, and initiative to change ways teachers look at bullying and bystanders.**
- **Commissioner Thuy Nguyen shared information about the Veterans Day parade on November 11, 2014.**

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commission members discussed items for the December 9, 2014 meeting. Two items have been discussed for placement on the agenda:

- 1) Visioning process (Invite Dr. Yuri Jang)**
- 2) Community Emersion (to be placed on the January 2015 meeting agenda)**
- 3) Information sharing (standing agenda item)**

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 5-0 vote. Vice Chair Vince Cobalis adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.