



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014**

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at Asian American Resource Center, Texas.

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

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Vince Cobalis, Richard Jung, Miyong Kim, Sonia Kotecha, Thuy Nguyen, Shubhada Saxena, Richard Yuen

Staff in Attendance: Rey Arellano, Sarah Chen, Robin Otto, Taja Beekley, Hanna Huang, Yvonne Lim Wilson

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was one change/correction to the July 10, 2014 regular meeting draft minutes. Meeting location was changed from City Hall to One Texas Center.

Recommendation to approve the July 10, 2014 regular meeting minutes as presented in draft form with one correction was approved on Commissioner Richard Yuen motion, Commissioner Vince Cobalis second on a 7-0 vote.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Jagdish N. Kothari, Hon. Secretary of Indo-American Senior Citizens Association Austin, signed up to speak about problems faced by senior immigrants, to include social security benefits application issues and recreational transportation needs.

Samineni Suryanarayana, a retired teacher, signed up to speak about need for culturally sensitive senior assisted living and nursing home care for incapacitated and immobilized senior Asians in Austin.

Jaysukh R. Thanki, signed up to speak about senior outing activities in PARD facilities and requested free entry and parking for senior Asian Americans, as well as solution to transportation issues.

Commissioners expressed that transportation was an issue and indicated that it was to be addresses in the Asian American Quality of Life Study.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

Executive Liaison Rey Arellano reported on 07/16/2014 meeting with UT representatives on preliminary agreement and introduced the UT Team for introduction and to present study proposal. Commissioners suggested employing a social work instead of business and economics approach for the survey, and to include UT scholars/researchers with connection/credibility with the Asian American community, who specialize in Asian American issues and studies; as well as

involving Asian American community stakeholders and identify outreach to non-mainstream Asian Americans to ensure a diversified study. Rey Arellano reported that a community outreach staff from the Public Information Office, who served in the Hispanic Quality of Life study, had been added to assist with this study, which will require an interlocal agreement with UT after receiving and incorporating feedback from Commission members on the scope of work. The next presentation will focus on more concrete steps such as collaboration with other UT researchers. Commissioners will email questions to Staff Liaison Sarah Chen. Sarah Chen will locate information regarding duration and funds spent on the African American Quality of Life Study and the Hispanic Quality of Life Study.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **c. Staff presentation, discussion and possible action on the Asian American Resource Center's Senior Meal Program (moved to top by Commissioner Vince Cobalis)**

Taja Beekley, Cultural Facility Manager, and Hanna Huang, Culture & Arts Education Specialist, of the Asian American Cultural Center, presented the RICE (Recreational & International Community Education) Program. Ms. Beekley provided background, timeline, participation and budget information on RICE and its various program components including the Senior Meal Program. Commissioners discussed and showed interest in the provision of multi-lingual translation service and breakdown of participant data. Chair Richard Jung advised Commissioners to send questions to Staff Liaison Sarah Chen who will forward to the AARC Work Group to address. The AARC Work Group has also requested 1) review of master plan for program expansion in order to provide input, and 2) data on all program participation. Chair Richard Jung would like the AARC Work Group to discuss AARC related issues before presenting to the Commission AARC's needs. There was no motion or recommendation.

##### **a. Discussion and action on outreach to the community**

Sarah Chen shared the City of Austin Policy on Business Usage of Social Media and reported that the City requires a staff member serve as the administrator of a Facebook account, and that the account be used for information sharing instead of discussions. Commissioners discussed other options such as a newsletter, website, and agreed to table the topic until the next meeting to allow for research. There was no motion or recommendation.

##### **b. Presentation, discussion and action on ICE Detainer and Secure Communities**

Due to time constraint, this item has been moved to the next meeting. Recommendation moving this item to the September regular meeting was approved on Commissioner Shubhada Saxena motion, Commissioner Richard Yuen second on a 7-0 vote.

##### **d. Information Sharing (Standing Agenda Item)**

- Commissioner Vince Cobalis shared the 2014 CAN Safety Net Series Cultural Proficiency and Interpretation/Translation Services on 9/3/2014.
- Commissioner Sonia Kotecha shared the APIA Vote Leadership training on 08/23/2014.
- Commissioner Shubhada Saxena shared the Indian-American Civic Day on 08/15/2014.
- Commission Members asked if they would be allowed to speak at community events as individuals. Staff Liaison Sarah Chen will check with the City Clerk's Office and provide response.

##### **g. Future Agenda Items**

Commission Members discussed agenda items for September, 2014 meeting. Four items have been tentatively placed on the agenda:

- 1) Discussion and action on use of social media
- 2) Presentation, discussion and action on ICE Detainer and Secure Communities
- 3) Report on White House initiative on Asian Pacific Islander Initiative
- 4) Information sharing (standing agenda item)

**Commissioner Vince Cobalis proposed an item for presentation in the October meeting: Asian American Health Assessment Project.**

**Commissioners discussed rescheduling future meeting dates due to the addition of a new Commissioner and scheduling conflicts of several other Commissioners. Commissioners discussed and unanimously agreed upon the following dates for 2014: 09/12/2014, 10/21/2014, 11/07/2014, and 12/09/2014. Staff Liaison Sarah Chen will look for meeting locations for these dates.**

**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 7-0 vote. Chair Richard Jung adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.**