



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Asian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | January 7, 2025 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 411

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Meg Chang, Sarah Gilpin, Ha Huynh, Masood Kasim, Athan Lau, Hieu Lê, Cecilia Nguyen, Bee Paredes, Parisa Pilehvar, Vivian Wang, Yi Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Anna Thao, Tina Tran

- I. Call to Order and Introductions**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 12:01 pm by Chairwoman Gilpin.
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a. Chairwoman Gilpin motioned to approve October and November meeting minutes, Vice Chair Pilehvar seconded.
 - b. Meeting minutes approved.
- III. Commissioner Oath**
 - a. Lexi passed around a document for commissioners to sign the oath of office. All commissioners present signed.
- IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report**
 - a. Chairwoman Gilpin recapped what she submitted to MORE for AAC's 2024 End of Year Report. That report will go to Mayor Nichols to be briefed on AAC's accomplishments in its first year.
 - b. Chairwoman Gilpin noted that the Lunar New Year Festival has a lot of planning in a short amount of time. Commissioner Lau has been instrumental in securing sponsors. Circle Cinema, and Magic City Books are partnering to highlight AAPI filmmakers and authors leading up to the event. APIDA and Williams are other sponsors/partners.
 - i. Showing of Parasite on 1/26 at Circle Cinema will promote Lunar New Year Festival.
 - c. Vice Chair Pilehvar shared a story of a friend who grew up in Tulsa and visited over the holidays, exciting for him to see the progress of representation and celebration of the AAPI community in Tulsa.
- V. Committee Reports**
 - a. Cultural Hubs and Community Advocacy
 - i. Commissioner Lau reflected on 2024, which had lots of engagement, volunteering, and tabling. Hope to continue in 2025 in a more organized and focused way.
 - ii. Lunar New Year Festival: February 1 at 101 Archer
 1. Williams sponsoring with a \$2,500 grant.



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2. Secured performers, pianists and dance group, lanterns, and Kremee Taiyaki & Ice Cream gift cards.
 3. Would like to invite special guests such as other AAPI community groups and elected officials.
 4. If you are interested in supporting with planning, reach out to Commissioner Lau.
- b. Workforce and Education Committee
- i. Paused on the committee work after the awards event. Commissioner Zhang stepped down as the committee chair and has nominated Commissioner Kasim as chair.
 - ii. Chairwoman Gilpin called for a vote to conform Commissioner Kasim as the chair of the Workforce and Education Committee.
 1. Aye: 11
 - iii. Commissioner Kasim stated the committee will support the Lunar New Year Festival.
- c. Data and Research Committee
- i. Vice Chair Pilehvar recapped where the committee left off at the end of 2024. Grappling with representing a multitude of stories and identities.
 - ii. The committee is working to identify gaps in existing data to know what more is needed.
 1. What organizations might have the data already?
 - iii. Moving in a direction to strategically integrate with other committees to gather information from within commission's networks.
 - iv. Committee meetings for next four months are set for the week after commission meetings.

VI. Discuss 2025 Goals

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin directed committee chairs and members to lead the conversation to form goals.
- i. Cultural Hubs and Community Advocacy:
 1. Commissioner Lau would like to actively involve community members in the commission by making connections, serving on committees.
 2. Commissioner Lau also shared an idea about supporting emerging leaders in the AAPI community through Asian leadership development programming.
 - a. Vice Chair Pilehvar noted that Leadership Tulsa could be a partner to organize a workshop. It takes a lot of resources to develop a program like Hispanic Leadership Institute. Reflected on how powerful it is for someone to be told they are a leader.
 - b. Commissioner Nguyen shared that LT has discussed what programming for Native and AAPI communities could look like. Potential opportunity to develop a workshop focused



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on developing AAPI leaders. Will take time to develop an HLI-like program.

- i. Commissioner Chang: What format might the workshop take? Commissioner Nguyen: This is still in development.
3. Commissioner Kasim: Commission is still in the early stages of finding data and gathering resources, will need to organize resources to engage and connect.
4. Commissioner Zhang: Career development fits into Workforce Committee. Helps AAPI students and emerging leaders as well as AAPI led businesses.
- ii. Data and Research:
 1. Vice Chair Pilehvar: Build awareness of communities in Tulsa, awareness of the Commission, and awareness of resources and institutions. Fill in gaps of data and integrate into other commission work.
- iii. Commissioner Paredes: Fill two vacant positions on Commission.
- iv. Chairwoman Gilpin noted that fostering future AAPI leaders in Tulsa is a great overarching goal. Data fits in. Can address chronic absenteeism, mental health within this larger goal.
 1. Previously met with Dr. Hubbard to discuss developing materials that resonate with AAPI community.
 - a. Commissioner Chang: Stigma prohibits people from getting help until it is at crisis. Can reframe mental health as mental wellness or resilience to reach folks before the crisis point.
 - b. Generational trauma plays a role in immigrant communities. Breaking the cycle is a long process but have to start somewhere. Finding key leaders in different communities and disseminating materials to support.
 2. Down the road, could have mentorship program within schools.
- v. Commissioner Wang: What impact do we want to make for the community? How does the commission best advise the Mayor?
- vi. Commissioner Huynh: Streamline communication/advertisement/media presence.
- vii. Chairwoman Gilpin stated the commission will vote on goals at the next meeting.

VII. Old Business – no old business

VIII. New Business

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin announced AAC now has an account with Tulsa Community Foundation for donations.
- b. Commissioner Lau: TU Lunar New Year event is inviting AAC to table.

IX. Announcements / Public Comments



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- a. Monday, March 17 from 9am to 2pm at Martin Regional Library: Leadership Tulsa Intergenerational Summit focused on AAPI community
- b. Lexi shared two programs MORE is coordinating for National Day of Racial Healing.
 - i. Equity Dialogue: Title V Commissioners are invited to participate in equity dialogues. Look for the January Title V Blast for more information and a registration link.
 - ii. Art Contest: TPS High School students are eligible to submit a piece of art showcasing their thoughts and feelings on racial healing and social justice. The winner will have Mayor Nichols visit them at their school.
- c. Global Gatherings at Gathering Place: showcasing culture opportunity
- d. Chairwoman Gilpin received a Pinnacle Award.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Lau seconded
 - i. Aye: 10
 - 1. Commissioner Huynh left the meeting prior to the motion.
 - ii. Motion approved, meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.