**Asian Affairs Commission**

Regular Meeting| October 1, 2024 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center| Committee Room 411

**Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Sarah Gilpin, Athan Lau, Hieu Lê, Masood Kasim, Bee Paredes, Parisa Pilehvar, Anna Thao, Cecilia Nguyen

Commissioners Absent: Meg Chang, Ha Huynh, Tina Tran, Vivian Wang, Yi Zhang

1. **Call to Order and Introductions** 
   1. Meeting called to order at 12:02 pm by Chairwoman Gilpin.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
   1. Amendment: Change September to August in Section Two.
   2. Chairwoman Gilpin motions to approve September meeting minutes.
      1. All in favor.
   3. Meeting minutes approved.
3. **Award Ceremony Planning**
   1. Commissioner Kasim spoke about the upcoming award ceremony and shared the slate of nominees.
      1. Tulsa Golden Dragon Award: Nam Hai
      2. Tulsa Jade Education Award: John Thao
      3. Champion of Workforce Development Award: Dr. Dayal T. Meshri
   2. Next committee meeting will discuss award ceremony (Oct 14)
   3. Commissioner Kasim entertained a motion to approve the award nomination slate.
      1. Chairwoman Gilpin seconded.
         1. Aye: 8
      2. Motion approved.
4. **Chair/Vice Chair Report** 
   1. Chairwoman Gilpin shared excitement for upcoming Lunar New Year celebration.
      1. Mindful of Black History Month, sharing space in the community.
      2. Partnering with Magic City Books and Circle Cinema.
      3. Discussing with OK Pop to have space available for the event.
      4. This will be the first major hosted event for the commission.
   2. Chairwoman Gilpin thanked everyone who participated in Welcoming Week, hosted by City of Tulsa.
      1. Transparently noted there was room for improvement with communication & marketing when hosting events.
   3. The communication team at the City are working on business cards, name badges, and other marketing materials to support a stronger presence when representing commission.
   4. Mythic Press is in conversation to produce a short & long sleeve shirt for commissioners.
      1. Call to action: Ask me about Asian Affairs Commission.
      2. Chairwoman Gilpin will cover cost.
   5. The commission is set up with Tulsa Community Foundation to host funds for commission programming.
   6. Vice Chair Pilehvar’s report will be covered in Data Committee report.
5. **Committee Reports**
   1. **Data Committee**
      1. Vice Chair Pilehvar passed out an updated data one pager.
      2. Updates that were made to the data one pager include:
         1. Added statement of who AAC represents/serves.
         2. Revised and condensed graphics and sections.
      3. Wants commissioner feedback on how to tell the story that the community’s needs & strengths are diverse.
         1. Don't want to only highlight strengths or only needs. The Data Committee needs to find a way to put information together in a way that isn’t disorienting.
      4. Maybe there is more to learn to be able to tell that story. What is the purpose of the data one pager? What is the call to action?
      5. Will discuss more at next committee meeting, to be scheduled.
      6. Commissioner Paredes suggested adding a QR code to take them to City’s website that describes AAC.
      7. Next step: Identify what additional information is needed.
   2. **Cultural Hubs Committee**
      1. Commissioner Lau reported that first event at Hannah Hall had great vendors and partners, though attendance could be improved. Need to improve communication and social media presence and partner with City more closely.
      2. Future Events:
         1. TYPROS Mayoral Candidate Meet & Greet at Tulsa City County Library (10/3 from 6 – 8pm)
         2. Voter Registration Tabling at Pan Asia (10/5 from 11 am – 1 pm)
         3. Moon Festival at TU, AAC will be tabling (10/11 from 6 – 9 pm)
            1. Commissioner Lau made a request for AAC to sponsor sparklers

Commissioner Kasim, Commissioner Paredes, Commissioner Lau, and Chairwoman Gilpin contributed.

* + - 1. APIDA Ice Cream Social at Kremee Taiyaki (10/21 from 5 – 7 pm)
      2. OK Policy Institute Event on Youth Justice (10/22 at 6pm)
      3. Williams Diwali event (10/23 at 11am)
      4. Oklahoma Hmong New Year Festival in Inola (10/26 and 10/27)
         1. AAC will have table without fee

Commissioner Lau invited commissioners to table and offered to carpool people.

* 1. **Education/Workforce Committee** – covered in Awards Ceremony discussion

1. **Guest Speaker: Cynthia Jasso, Senior Program Officer at George Kaiser Family Foundation**
   1. Cynthia Jasso presentation on Elevate East and how the program works for Tulsa to be a welcoming community, a soft place to land, and a city for all, including immigrant community. Elevate East focuses on capital, connections, and capacity building
   2. The Global District was organically created by Latino & Asian communities, need to ensure it receives the support it deserves.
   3. Initiatives to expand postsecondary opportunity.
      1. Partnering with THEC to help students & families fill out Oklahoma Promise (only 6% enrolled at East Central High School).
      2. Provided gap scholarship to Tulsa Honor Academy graduates who needed financial support between graduating high school and starting college.
   4. Initiatives to grow place keeping.
      1. Students elevated that buildings don’t look good, small business owners talk about sidewalks and repairs needed.
      2. Purchased building at 18th & Garnett, conversations with 150+ community members to gather ideas, landed on 125-unit mix-used development (housing, business space for those graduating incubators), community hub for events, park, worked with Latino & Asian architecture styles.
   5. Building pathways to prosperity.
      1. Access to capital
      2. Postpartum cash transfers
      3. Afghan auto loan fund
   6. Question and Answer
      1. Chairwoman Gilpin offered to partner in the future, reflected on how aligned Elevate East’s objectives are with AAC.
      2. Commissioner Kasim: What is the timeline on 18th & Garnett?
         1. Cynthia: The project is at step one, conceptual. Next step will be financing, then breaking ground in next 18 – 24 months. The building is not currently vacant, it’s being utilized to co-locate five nonprofits. Want to honor history & significance of the building to Hmong community.
2. **New Business**
   1. Vice Chair Pilehvar raised a question around not meeting for two months and urged committee leads to convene to ensure progress is happening.
3. **Old Business** – no old business
4. **Announcements**
   1. Chairwoman Gilpin will send Google Docs calendar with events.
   2. Commissioner Lau raised a question about commission vacancies.
      1. Lexi: There are two vacancies, one held for a policy/legislative expert and one held for a Burmese community representative.
   3. Commissioner Lê: Empower-ED started monthly workshops on the third Thursday of the month from 6 – 7pm for families & students.
5. **Adjournment**
   1. Chairwoman Gilpin made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Kasim seconded.
      1. Aye: 8
      2. Motion approved.
   2. Meeting adjourned at 1:01pm.