

Asian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | November 4, 2025 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm
City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 411

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Sarah Gilpin, Ha Huynh, Masood Kasim, Hieu Lê, Yasamin Nawabi, Cecilia Nguyen, Sofia Noshay, Parisa Pilehvar, Anna Thao, Vivian Wang

Commissioners Absent: Meg Chang, Bee Paredes, Yi Zhang

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

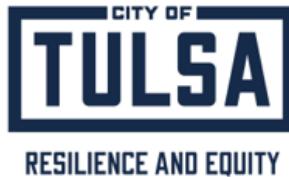
- a. Chairwoman Gilpin entertained a motion to approve October minutes.
 - i. Vice Chair Pilehvar made a motion, Commissioner Kasim seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 9
 - a. Commissioner Nawabi was not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, October minutes approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin read section 900 of Title V of City Ordinance related to residency requirements, shared that conversations will start with the City of Tulsa and Tulsa County to see if there is an opportunity to have AAC expand to add seats open to County residents.
- b. Chairwoman Gilpin reminded commissioners that all Tulsa Asia Fest materials need to include the AAC identifier to ensure alignment.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Cultural Hubs and Community Advocacy
 - i. Commissioner Nguyen shared about recent events at which AAC tabled (TU Moon Festival and Oklahoma Hmong New Year) and the AAC's award from the PRSA Tulsa Silverlink Awards.
 - ii. Commissioner Nawabi arrived at 12:08.
 - iii. Shared a list of upcoming events.
 - iv. Compiling a list of community leaders to reach out to for the leadership forums but not moving forward with planning the forums until 2026.
- b. Workforce and Education
 - i. Commissioner Kasim noted that the Luminary Awards Ceremony is two weeks away.



- ii. Commissioners do not need to purchase a ticket but do need to notify Commissioner Kasim before November 10 if you are not available to attend.
- iii. Raised almost \$5k for the event.
- iv. Set up will begin at 9 am, so if commissioners are available, they are encouraged to come help.
- c. Data and Research
 - i. Vice Chair Pilehvar shared that four stories have been submitted for the Stories of Asian Tulsa project so far: Commissioners Wang and Le, Vice Chair Pilehvar, and her dad.
 - ii. Vice Chair Pilehvar directed commissioners to pull out their calendar and schedule time to submit their story or connect with someone they know to help them submit their story.
 - iii. Next meeting: November 20th at 6pm on Zoom
 - 1. Invited a Cultural Committee member to attend to help review stories.
 - iv. Vice Chair Pilehvar will create a small flyer to place on tables at Luminary Awards with a QR code to the story submission form.
 - v. Discussion ensured about where and how the form will be shared, prioritizing relationship building and security for those who are sharing their stories. Plan to have a booth or table at Tulsa Asia Fest to gather stories during the event. Also discussed ways the Workforce and Education Committee can partner on this project.
 - vi. Could have a showcase at Circle Cinema for Asian Heritage Month.
 - vii. This project is an opportunity to show size and diversity of Tulsa's Asian community. While it may seem simple, commissioners sharing the form with friends and family and helping to gather the stories demonstrates the connectivity and power of the Asian community.
 - viii. Commissioner Noshay suggested including a video or message from AAC at the top of the form to help explain the project to community members who access the form and are unsure of what the commission is or what the project's intent is.
 - ix. What are ways AAC can build knowledge with the community other than tabling at events?
 - 1. Data one-pager and leadership forums Commissioner Nguyen will be organizing. Inviting community to AAC meetings. Writing op-eds, earning media attention.
- d. Cultural Event
 - i. Commissioner Nguyen provided the update on Tulsa Asia Fest planning.



- ii. Sponsorship update: \$6k raised, \$2,500 pending
- iii. Arvest Convention Center Grand Ballroom is booked and setup begins at 7am on January 30th (day of event).
- iv. Starting to gather interest from vendors, food trucks, nonprofits and other organizations that will table.
- v. Will reach out to universities, schools, and churches to get them involved.
- vi. Committee will begin meeting twice a month in November, then weekly in January.
- vii. Chairwoman Gilpin left the meeting at 12:46 and Vice Chair Pilehvar began presiding over the meeting.

V. Old Business – no old business

VI. New Business – no new business

VII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Public Comments
 - i. Athan Lau talked about his commitment and excitement for continuing to lead Tulsa Asia Fest as a community member.
 - ii. Mike Tangella introduced himself, glad to hear about AAC's work.
 - iii. Libby introduced herself and shared about Tulsa Flyer. Looking forward to connecting with commissioners and report more about the Asian community.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Vice Chair Pilehvar entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Nguyen made a motion, Commissioner Noshay seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 9
 - a. Chairwoman Gilpin left the meeting prior to the motion.
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm.