



Asian Affairs Commission

Special Meeting | December 2, 2025 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm
City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 411

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Meg Chang, Sarah Gilpin, Masood Kasim, Hieu Lê, Sofia Noshay, Parisa Pilehvar, Vivian Wang

Commissioners Absent: Ha Huynh, Yasamin Nawabi, Cecilia Nguyen, Bee Paredes, Anna Thao, Yi Zhang

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

II. Update from Chairwoman Gilpin on AAC's 2026 Cultural Event

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin opened by stating that the AAC wants to bring transparency and integrity to everything they do. This meeting is to update commissioners and provide the community the opportunity to ask questions about Tulsa Asia Fest.
- b. Tulsa Asia Fest being hosted by AAC (and be extension City of Tulsa) enables AAC to use Arvest Convention Center facilities for free. Clarifying that Tulsa Asia Fest is solely hosted by AAC, although other organizations will contribute by having booths, selling food, and other ways.
- c. Chairwoman Gilpin talked with Committee Member Athan Lau, who mentioned he is interested in starting a nonprofit, which prompted the question if he would retain the name "Tulsa Asia Fest" or if AAC will. Chairwoman Gilpin believes there is more than enough room for everyone; however, clarity is needed to proceed together. Athan agreed that AAC can retain "Tulsa Asia Fest" as the signature cultural event name.
 - i. Discussion ensued regarding what the relationship between AAC and Athan's future nonprofit might be like.
 - ii. Vice Chair Pilehvar noted that it's beneficial to build out institutions that are part of and support Tulsa's Asian community. This commission and other institutions are new or don't exist yet, so everyone is learning how to navigate partnership, collaboration, and other aspects together as planning takes place.
- d. Chairwoman Gilpin underscored that we are all working towards the same goal of uplifting the Asian community. This is an opportunity to build trust.
- e. Chairwoman Gilpin invited Athan to the table to share. Athan noted that the community cares more about having an inclusive celebration of Asian cultures than what the event is called, so while he originally proposed his future nonprofit using "Tulsa Asia Fest" in years to come, he is happy for AAC to keep this name. He is very understanding that his



initial proposal won't work under the City's structure, and he appreciates having more clearly defined roles for all individuals and organizations participating in the event.

- i. Vice Chair Pilehvar mentioned that AAC's goal of leadership development is being lived out through Athan's plans to form a new organization.
- f. Commissioner Noshay noted that many of AAC's goals, such as providing professional opportunities and preservation of culture, are fulfilled by this event. Reflected on how wonderful the partnership with Arvest Convention Center is and what a huge value it is to AAC. This event could be a model to other communities. After the event, would like AAC to have strategic discussions about the future of Tulsa Asia Fest.

III. Election of Interim Cultural Event Committee Chair: Commissioner Sofia Noshay

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin entertained a motion to elect Commissioner Noshay as Interim Cultural Event Committee Chair.
 - i. Vice Chair Pilehvar made a motion, Commissioner Chang seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 7
 - ii. Motion carried, Commissioner Noshay elected as Interim Cultural Event Committee Chair.

IV. Discussion and Vote on New Cultural Event Name

- a. Per discussion, AAC will retain the name "Tulsa Asia Fest" as the cultural event name.
- b. Chairwoman Gilpin also noted the need for AAC to maintain the Tulsa Asia Fest website, tulsaasiafest.com.
 - i. Athan added that currently a committee member is paying for the domain, Chairwoman Gilpin shared AAC will pay this going forward and reimburse the committee member for what they've paid thus far.
- c. Commissioner Noshay added that Lexi is working on an MOU between the City and Athan to have signed documentation of this decision.
- d. Vice Chair Pilehvar made a motion for AAC to retain the name "Tulsa Asia Fest" contingent on an MOU being signed, Chairwoman Gilpin seconded.
 - i. Aye: 7
 - ii. Motion carried, AAC will retain the name "Tulsa Asia Fest" contingent on an MOU being signed.
- e. Chairwoman Gilpin encouraged all commissioners to participate in the event, now is crunch time and it's important everyone contributes. All ideas need to be funneled through Commissioner Noshay.
- f. Chairwoman Gilpin motioned to continue using "Asian Affairs Luminary Awards" as the name of the annual awards ceremony event, Vice Chair Pilehvar seconded.
 - i. Aye: 7, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, "Asian Affairs Luminary Awards" will continue as the annual awards ceremony event name.

V. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin adjourned the meeting at 12:56 pm.