



## **Asian Affairs Commission**

Regular Meeting | January 8, 2026 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm  
City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 411

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Meg Chang, Ha Huynh, Masood Kasim, Yasamin Nawabi, Cecilia Nguyễn, Sofia Noshay, Bee Paredes, Parisa Pilehvar, Anna Thao, Vivian Wang

Commissioners Absent: Sarah Gilpin, Hieu Lê, Yi Zhang

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Vice Chair Pilehvar called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

#### **II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Vice Chair Pilehvar entertained a motion to approve November and December minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Chang asked about the Stories of Asian Tulsa project, Vice Chair Pilehvar noted that it will be discussed later in the meeting.
  - ii. Commissioner Nguyễn made a motion, Commissioner Kasim seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10, Nay: 0
  - iii. Motion carried, November and December minutes approved.

#### **III. Chair / Vice Chair Report**

- a. Vice Chair Pilehvar shared remarks from Chairwoman Gilpin:
  - i. Tulsa Asia Fest (TAF) is three weeks away! Commissioners should plan to volunteer that day. Thank you to Dion'trae, Lexi, the Arvest Convention Center team, Commissioner Noshay, and all volunteers part of the planning team.
  - ii. Urging commissioners to attend the Broken Arrow City Council meeting next Monday, January 12 at 6pm at NSU Broken Arrow in the Administrative Services Building to stand in solidarity with the Muslim community peacefully and proactively. Appreciate Commissioner Kasim for submitting an op-ed on this topic.

#### **IV. Tulsa Asia Fest: Preview and Commissioner Roles**

- a. Commissioner Noshay provided an overview of the event.
- b. Will have a welcome/info table with an opportunity for attendees to enter a raffle, allowing AAC to collect some data and contact information.
- c. The community has stepped up with much excitement and enthusiasm, such as a photo booth owner who has offered her services.
- d. There are 20 organizations hosting tables in the cultural and education space. TAF volunteer Karina has lead this with Commissioners Paredes and Nguyễn



supporting. Commissioners Paredes and Nguyễn are gathering artifacts to coincide with did you know facts.

- e. Tulsa City County Library is hosting a reading nook, there will be an activation from Islamic Society of Tulsa (IST), mahjong tables, and a Stories of Asian Tulsa station.
- f. Marketplace and food vendors showcasing diverse Asian offerings.
- g. Mayor Nichols will open the event, Deputy Mayor will close, Commissioners Nguyễn and Noshay will emcee.
- h. Largest undertaking for Arvest Convention Center through City of Tulsa partnership, 100% for free.
- i. Website put together by TAF volunteer, Manut: [tulsaasiafest.com](http://tulsaasiafest.com). The event also has social media channels.
- j. Commissioner Noshay elevated that there has been a substantial amount of work largely without commissioners' involvement, need the help and there is opportunity for everyone to shine. We owe it to the communities represented at the table. Commissioner Noshay hopes everyone can dedicate the time to make the event a resounding success. Will be very important to debrief after the event to discuss what worked, what didn't, and what opportunities are there.
- k. Commissioner Noshay noted specific ways commissioners can help:
  - i. Distribute flyers at pre-determined locations (sign up on list with Commissioner Noshay)
  - ii. Volunteer day before and/or day of (sign up through link provided by Commissioner Noshay)
  - iii. Volunteer to be available for media
  - iv. Write thank you notes
  - v. Social media management
  - vi. Data/paperwork management
- l. Commissioner Nawabi asked if there is still opportunity for organizations to sign up to table, Commissioner Noshay said yes.

**V. Discussion: Supporting Islamic Society of Tulsa's New Broken Arrow Facility**

- a. Lexi shared background on the issue.
- b. Commissioner Kasim submitted an op-ed as a private citizen.
- c. Commissioner Kasim added that IST has worked over the last decade to meet all necessary requirements and it's important to elevate facts in this discussion. Coming together as a community brings goodness.
- d. Commissioner Noshay: Is there a letter that has already been put out for public signature? Possible for AAC to lead this. Could be beneficial for multi-denominational organizations or other faith community leaders to sign onto a letter. Thinks this is an important opportunity for AAC to take a stand.
- e. Vice Chair Pilehvar noted this is unique opportunity to provide advocacy.



- f. There was agreement amongst commissioners that AAC should make a statement. No official action was taken.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

- a. Cultural Hubs and Community Advocacy
  - i. Commissioner Nguyễn reported the committee had a powerful meeting in December. Next year's goal is to host first roundtable discussion with AAPI leaders in Tulsa. Opportunity to bring in more voices together to discuss community challenges, opportunities, and solutions so AAC can better support. Focus on making the space inviting for all voices, even ones that have been underrepresented in other AAPI spaces. The committee is ready to generate a list of leaders who would be an asset to the conversation, providing an opportunity for commissioners to add their contacts.
  - ii. Vice Chair Pilehvar noted they should merge spreadsheets with Data and Research Committee's list of stakeholders.
- b. Workforce and Education
  - i. Commissioner Kasim: Workforce & Education Committee meeting will be moved so members can attend and support TAF planning meeting.
  - ii. Goal: Strategically use portion of funds to establish a scholarship. Tight timeline to make it happen within this school year. Simple, transparent, and meaningful process so local Asian students can access it.
  - iii. Thinking of ways to secure multi-year sponsorships.
  - iv. Commissioner Noshay suggested away to tie scholarship essays with Stories of Asian Tulsa.
- c. Data and Research
  - i. Vice Chair Pilehvar: Goal of 50 stories by January 23 for TAF. Want Tulsa to see the rich diversity of who AAC represents. Shift to only collecting written stories.
- d. Cultural Event – covered earlier in the meeting

## **VII. Old Business – no old business**

## **VIII. New Business – no new business**

## **IX. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. Public Comments
  - i. Kadija with Tulsa Flyer offered to take materials and promote AAC's topics of discussion.

## **X. Adjournment**

- a. Vice Chair Pilehvar entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - i. Commissioner Nguyễn made a motion, Commissioner Chang seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 10
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1:01 pm.