



Asian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | March 3, 2026 | 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, Yasamin Nawabi, Bee Paredes, Anna Thao, Yi Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Hieu Lê, Cecilia Nguyễn, Sofia Noshay, Cing Nuam, Parisa Pilehvar, Vivian Wang

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. A quorum was not yet present.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. As a quorum was not yet present, the voting of the meeting minutes was delayed.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin is meeting with Tulsa People next week to discuss a feature article on AAC, possibly for publication in May. Would like all commissioners to have the opportunity to be interviewed.
- b. Open Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair
 - i. Chairwoman Gilpin reminded AAC that her and Vice Chair Pilehvar's terms end in May. Opening nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and committee chairs. If you're interested, contact Vice Chair Pilehvar.

IV. Tulsa Asia Fest 2026 Wrap Up Discussion

- a. AAC Chairs met to discuss Tulsa Asia Fest (TAF) last week. Will reconvene to continue discussing the future of the event.
- b. Volunteer Recognition
 - i. In AAC's February meeting, Commissioner Noshay made an ask for \$5k of remaining TAF funds to go towards volunteer recognition.
 - ii. The Chairs have agreed to give volunteers a commemorative gift signed by Mayor Nichols alongside a photo from TAF. Cost is under \$500.
 - iii. Commissioner Noshay is coordinating an event at American Solera. Chairwoman Gilpin and Commissioners Kasim and Noshay are contributing personal funds so the money doesn't come out of the TAF account, as this was agreed to be the most fiscally responsible route to



show appreciation to volunteers. Chairwoman Gilpin encouraged commissioners to contribute.

1. Commissioner Zhang volunteered to contribute.
- iv. Tulsa Community Foundation Financial Report
 1. Chairwoman Gilpin wants transparency for AAC's financials.
 2. Commissioners received a handout with a list of all deposits since the account opened, color coded to distinguish between TAF and Luminary Awards Ceremony (LAC).
 - a. Total donations for LAC: \$9,280.25
 - b. Total donations for TAF: \$10,125.73
 - c. Current Balance: \$12,459.28 (excluding \$1,000 of pending reimbursements)
 3. About \$5,500 to carry over to 2027 for TAF and \$7,000 for Luminary Scholarships and 2026 LAC.
- c. Lexi shared a report from Commissioner Noshay in her absence highlighting TAF survey results, will email to Commissioners after the meeting.
- d. Chairwoman Gilpin reported the Chairs also discussed timing of future events. Will likely push back into spring to avoid being right after the holidays.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Workforce and Education
 - i. Commissioner Kasim gave a shoutout to Amanda at RumbleDrum and University of Tulsa, as they are not charging for the venue rental for the 2025 LAC, putting more money into the scholarship fund.
 - ii. The committee originally discussed doing scholarships in spring and decided not to rush the process and plan for in fall instead. This also opens the opportunity of presenting scholarship recipients at the LAC, uniting community leadership with student achievement.
 - iii. They are also proposing the scholarships be a two-year award, making AAC part of the students' long-term mission.
 - iv. Proposed scholarship amounts:
 1. 2 students: \$2,000 per year, 2 years (\$8,000 total)
 2. 2 students: \$1,000 per year, 2 years (\$4,000 total)
 3. Can always grow in future years.
 - v. Chairwoman Gilpin commented that the scholarship highlights the need for Asian students, there is a big wealth disparity in the Asian community. This is creating opportunity for Asian students.
- b. Data and Research – no report
- c. Cultural Event – covered earlier in the meeting
- d. Cultural Hubs and Community Advocacy



- i. Lexi gave a report from Commissioner Nguyễn.
- ii. Commissioner volunteer opportunity for Gathering Place's Global Gatherings: Japan on March 21 from 12 – 5. AAC has been given a spot at the welcome table to engage with attendees.
- iii. AANHPI Leadership Roundtable: Applications are due March 17. Call to action for all commissioners is to personally invite 3 – 5 trusted community leaders to encourage them to apply. Lexi will send an invite template and other important details in a follow up email.
- iv. Next committee meeting: March 19 from 6 – 7 pm.

VI. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. A quorum was now present in the meeting, so Chairwoman Gilpin returned to the approval of meeting minutes.
- b. Chairwoman Gilpin entertained a motion to approve February meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Gilpin made a motion, Commissioner Kasim seconded.
 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, February minutes approved.

VII. Old Business

- a. Commissioner Thao brought thank you cards for Tulsa Asia Fest. Cards are from a local Asian Woman-owned stationary business.
- b. Commissioner Kasim recapped Mayor Nichols's visit to the Islamic Society of Tulsa (IST) in February. Deputy Mayor Reyes and Dion'trae were also present. Visitors took a tour, saw a prayer, and met kids. Commissioner Thao shared how great it was for someone from City government to show up.

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Commissioner Kasim is coordinating with IST to see if AAC can table at an Eid celebration on March 20 at 7pm. Will share more once confirmed.
- b. Title V and Beyond Apology Commissions Retreat is July 24. Lexi reminded commissioners to complete the topic interest survey by March 13.
- c. Public Comments
 - i. Appreciation from IST for City visit, very heartfelt gratitude.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Thao made a motion, Commissioner Chang seconded.
 1. Aye: 8
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.