



## Asian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | April 7, 2026 | 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, Yasamin Nawabi, Cecilia Nguyễn, Sofia Noshay, Cing Nuam, Bee Paredes, Anna Thao, Vivian Wang, Yi Zhang

Commissioners Absent: Ha Huynh, Parisa Pilehvar

#### I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

#### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin entertained a motion to approve March meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Kasim made a motion, Commissioner Paredes seconded.
    1. Aye: 9, Nay: 0
      - a. Commissioners Noshay, Zhang, and Chang were not yet present in the meeting.
    - ii. Motion carried, March minutes approved.

#### III. Guest Speaker: Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission Chair Jackiez Gonzalez Presents 4th Amendment Worksites Playbook

- a. Commissioners Noshay and Zhang arrived at 12:04 pm.
- b. Jackiez Gonzelez is the Chair of the Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission (GTAHLAC). All AAC members received a copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Worksites Playbook (4AWP).
- c. The 4AWP is an employer-friendly handbook to offer guidance that aim to reduce the risk of illegal practices around unconstitutional search and seizure.
- d. GTAHLAC was inspired by the Tulsa Women's Commission to take on a research project focused on barriers to having and utilizing identification (ie: driver's license). Due to the shifting political climate, they had to put that research on pause and focus on something that can provide immediate support to the community.
- e. Commissioner Chang arrived at 12:09 pm.
- f. 4AWP was developed over a six-month period, with GTAHLAC commissioners contributing through resource adaptatiion, approving the toolkias an official commission product, and r, and resource promotion and distribution (still in progress)..
- g. Three primary sections of the 4AWP:
  - i. Management questions for discussion
  - ii. Management checklist for creating a safe business environment
  - iii. What to do if/when federal agents enter your place of work



- h. Main goals of 4AWP of 4AWP:
  - i. Supporting a demonstrated need: so much uncertainty, fear, and confusing messaging. Partnering with Siembra NC and their team of professionals allowed GTAHLAC to provide a practical resource.
  - ii. Helping businesses build smarter protocols.
  - iii. Engage the community right now with a low with a low-effort, high impact document.
- i. Next steps: distribution, resource tracking, evaluation, and future playbook ideas
- j. Commission Discussion
  - i. Chairwoman Gilpin asked about the distribution process. Jackiez: GTAHLAC is prioritizing sharing with trusted community organizations (ie: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce) so they can help disseminate. Received input from businesses that hard copies will be helpful, so that is still in process. Hope to continue bringing visibility over time. Thinking through how to let businesses request and utilize 4AWP in a safe way.
  - ii. Commissioner Kasim asked about the current climate with federal agent activity in Tulsa. Jackiez: There is still a lot of fear in the community. Students are not showing up to school.
  - iii. Commissioner Kasim: Is there pro-bono legal help folks can receive in the event something happens? Jackiez pointed to resources included at the end of 4AWP. Local resources are very strapped for capacity.
  - iv. Commissioner Thao: Will it be available in different languages? Jackiez & Lexi shared this is in progress.
  - v. Chairwoman Gilpin reflected how nice it is to have folks attend from other commissions, she hopes to attend a GTAHLAC meeting.

#### **IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report**

- a. Tulsa Community Foundation Account Report Overview: Current balance is \$10,433.26
- b. AAC Chairs meeting on 4/13 to discuss future of Tulsa Asia Fest (TAF) such as volunteer and hiring support, 100% commissioner involvement, and other items.
- c. Reminder: Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair
  - i. Chairwoman Gilpin read an update from Vice Chair Pilehvar in her absence.
  - ii. As shared on March 18 via email, in accordance with AAC's bylaws, Vice Chair Pilehvar will present a slate of candidates for election at the May commission meeting for all leadership positions. This includes: chair, vice chair, cultural event chair, workforce and education committee chair, cultural hubs and community advocacy chair, and data and research chair.
  - iii. Two asks for commissioners:
    - 1. Let Vice Chair Pilehvar know ASAP if you are interested in being a part of the nominating committee who will present the slate.
    - 2. Send your nominations—for yourself or for others—for commission leadership positions to Vice Chair Pilehvar via email. Her goal is to have a slate by the May



AAC meeting made up of interested candidates ready to usher in the next chapter of AAC.

## **V. Committee Reports**

### **a. Cultural Hubs and Community Advocacy**

- i. Commissioner Nguyễn shared an update about the AANHPI Leadership Roundtable. Received 16 applicants, selected 13, and waiting on two people to confirm their participation. Sent a baseline survey to gauge participants' experience and interest coming into the roundtable. So far, the group seems very focused on civic engagement, advocacy, and mental and physical health.
  1. Next step is meeting with participants.
  2. Wednesday, April 29, 6 – 7:30 pm: Virtual onboarding meeting for roundtable participants. Lexi will talk about City 101 and AAC Chairs will present about the commission and committees.
  3. Commissioner Nguyễn needs help coordinating with participants and other logistics, having one on one touchpoints with participants
    - a. Commissioners Nuam, Kasim, and Nawabi and Chairwoman Gilpin volunteered.
    - b. Commissioner Chang volunteered to help with a mental health focus, should it arise.
- ii. Global Gatherings: Japan at The Gathering Place – Event had a great turnout, about 10,000 people came. AAC was the welcome table. Japanese know your rights cards are gone, 14 people joined AAC's listserv, and committee members talked to many Tulsans who were curious about Tulsa's Asian community.
- iii. Upcoming tabling event in collaboration with GTAHLAC: Cultural Showcase at Union Public Schools on Friday, April 10 from 7 – 9 pm. Most attendees will be international students and their families.
  1. Ask: Commissioners volunteer to table
    - a. Commissioner Thao volunteered. Commissioner Nawabi tentatively volunteered.
- iv. Chairwoman Gilpin recognized Commissioner Nguyễn was accepted into Southeast Asian 2026 Leadership and Advocacy Cohort, hosted in Washington D.C.
  1. Commissioner Nguyễn will be working on the immigration cohort. Will bring updates back to AAC.

### **b. Workforce and Education**

- i. Commissioner Kasim thanked Lexi for her help reviewing and offering edits to scholarship documents.
- ii. Ready to send sponsor letters to raise money for scholarships. Need link for online donations to the TCF account.
- iii. Asian Affairs Luminary Awards and Scholarship Ceremony will be November 10 in the evening.



1. Chairwoman Gilpin will reach out to BOK to see if AAC can reserve the parking lot.
- c. Data and Research
- i. Chairwoman Gilpin read an update from Vice Chair Pilehvar in her absence.
  - ii. The committee has worked with a community member interested in data to break down Tulsa County census data into a study of where different ethnic groups within AAC's constituency live in Tulsa. The dashboard allows us to get a general idea of which census tracts different Asian and Pacific Islander groups are most concentrated in. The committee would love to offer this data to support with other AAC planning efforts. If you're interested in helping pilot using this data to better support our community, reach out to Vice Chair Pilehvar!
- d. Cultural Event
- i. Closing out 2026 event: scheduling volunteer appreciation event. Commissioner Noshay passed around a sheet for commissioners to mark their availability.
    1. Want to make sure the event volunteers continue to embrace the commission's work. Appreciation event will be a reception. Thankful some commissioners volunteered to contribute funds to the event.
    2. Commissioner Kasim asked if Commissioner Noshay has a dollar amount needed for the event. She shared that there isn't necessarily a specific amount, but if each commissioner contributed \$25 it would be covered. Likely will be \$200 – 300 total for the reception. Can follow up after the event with the cost.
    3. Volunteers will receive a framed certificate as well.

## VI. Old Business

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin: Top three Asian populations in Tulsa has changed: Hmong, Burmese, and Indian. Vietnamese is no longer in the top three, so Hieu will be moved into the Community Leader seat. If you know folks who are Indian, please get the word out and encourage them to apply.
- b. Commissioner Kasim: Jerusalem Market celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This was an opportunity for the City and AAC to connect with Asian businesses. Would love to see an Asian Chamber of Commerce developed.
- c. Commissioner Noshay asked if AAC has a strategic plan, Chairwoman Gilpin shared that the leadership development goal is still in place. Encourages the next chair to set data-driven goals.
  - i. Commissioner Chang reflected that so far AAC's direction has been built by consensus, but there isn't a formal strategic plan.
  - ii. Chairwoman Gilpin noted that AAC is still laying the foundation and raising awareness through media and attending community events.
  - iii. Commissioner Chang wonders if it would be helpful to have a formal strategic plan. The work is guided by all commissioners. Chairwoman Gilpin noted that AAC needs not only to be representatives but also problem solvers.

## VII. New Business – no new business



**VIII. Announcements / Public Comments**

- a. Commissioner Nguyen shouted out Tulsa Flyer for writing a great article highlighting Tulsa's Hmong community. Lexi added that the article came out of Stories of Asian Tulsa.
- b. Tulsa Recovery Summit on May 16
- c. Commissioner Kasim shouted out community members in attendance who he invited.
- d. Chairwoman Gilpin is working on an AAPI Heritage Month proclamation.

**IX. Adjournment**

- a. Chairwoman Gilpin entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - i. Commissioner Nguyễn made a motion, Commissioner Kasim seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 12
  - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.