COMMISSION ON SENIORS RECOMMENDATION 20160608-04iia

Date: June 8, 2016

Subject: Age Friendly Community Action Plan and Imagine Austin

Motioned By: Martin Kareithi Seconded By: Dan Pruett

Recommendation
The Commission on Seniors voted 13-0 to recommend amending the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan to include a policy and action to address key issues and challenges faced by seniors.

Description of Recommendation to Council
1. Add new Society policy (S P30) (p 174): "Austin commits itself to becoming an age-friendly city that enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age."
2. Add new action (S A55) (p 262): "Develop and an Age Friendly Action Plan for Austin that provides a framework including the elements of outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and health services."

Rationale:
The senior population in the Austin metro area is one of the fastest growing in the country. In 2012 the Mayor's Task Force on Aging recommended that Austin be designated an "age-friendly" community under the AARP Network of Age-friendly Communities, an affiliate of the World Health Organization's Age-friendly Cities and Communities Program. However, Austin lacks an Age Friendly Action Plan and is at risk of losing its age-friendly designation, as well as lagging behind other U.S. cities. In September 2015, Austin's Commission on Seniors formed a working group comprised of members of the Commission, AARP, AustinUP, and regional aging-related service organizations, to bring to fruition recommendations from the Mayor's Task Force on Aging, including the development of an Action Plan to transform Austin into an Age-friendly City. An Age Friendly Action Plan is consistent with, and builds upon the goals of Imagine Austin.

Vote
For: Briesemeister, Varteressian, Cagle, Cohen, Garcia-Pittman, Gray, Kareithi, Lauck, Lugo, McDowell, Pruett, Scott, Van Sickle

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Attest: