



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

REGULAR
(August 9, 2017)

The Commission on Seniors convened a regular meeting at the Dottie Jordan Recreation Center – 2803 Loyola Lane, Austin, Texas 78723

Chair, Janee Briesemeister, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

<i>Janee Briesemeister, Chair</i>	<i>Emily De Maria Nicola</i>	<i>Adam Hauser</i>	<i>Patricia Bordie</i>
<i>Peter Varteressian, Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Erica Garcia-Pittman</i>	<i>Natalie Cagle</i>	<i>Fred Lugo</i>
<i>Jacqueline Angel</i>	<i>Karen Grampp</i>	<i>Martin Kareithi</i>	

Board Members not in Attendance:

Josue Guillen, Sandra Serna, Billy Jackson, Sally Van Sickle

Staff in Attendance:

Michelle Friedman, Austin Public Health
Laura Williamson, Austin Public Health

The board introduced themselves.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- i. No speakers present

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COMMISSION ON SENIORS
JUNE 14, 2017 AND JULY 12, 2017 MEETINGS**

- Vice Chair Varteressian motioned to pass the minutes
- Commissioner Kareithi seconded the motion
- Motion passed 11-0

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation and discussion regarding a policy proposal for low-income housing and community care for seniors at the Rebekah Baines Johnson Center (Sam Storey, graduate of the LBJ School of Public Affairs)

- Mr. Storey presented the results of a one year Policy Research Project (PRP) analyzing managed care programs, “Senior Community Care Center Initiative.” The team consisted of 8 students from the LBJ School. The premise of the study is based on the positive and significant impact an integrated housing and care model has for low-income seniors.
 - i. Primary focus of the study was to answer the question: how can Austin create a center like PACE that integrates affordable care for seniors, social

services and healthcare that is co-located at an affordable housing complex?

- The team hosted the first annual Eldercare Summit, where the analysis was presented to the community. The team received significant reception from the community including support from Lucy Baines Johnson.
- The team proposed that the Rebekah Baines Johnson complex become a center for integrated care, and that the City-owned buildings that house the clinic and the administrative offices for Austin Public Health be incorporated into the model.
- Mr. Storey requested feedback from the Commission on Seniors and requested supporting the initiative to the City Council and Austin Public Health.
- Questions and discussion:
 - i. Chair Briesemeister lauded the efforts of the LBJ team and commented that the project is complex, involving multiple actors and it is key to having all stakeholders involved before the Commission on Seniors can take a supportive stance on the incorporation of the City facilities into the center.
 - ii. Commissioner Grampp asked if there will be volunteer opportunities. Mr. Storey responded that volunteers will be needed at every level of program execution. Volunteers will also be needed during the Eldercare Summit.
 - iii. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman asked what the reception has been from the City regarding displacing the administrative workers at RBJ. Mr. Storey responded that the City has not yet been involved in the conversations and that the team does not intend to displace workers. A community clinic can be co-located with the current clinic at RBJ.
 - iv. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman commented that there currently is not a set group of geriatricians in Dell Medical and asked how the initiative plans on bringing in geriatric doctors. Commissioner Angel responded that the coming semester, the PRP will work on a plan to create a geriatric center for excellence.
 - v. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman emphasized the need for social services being provided by the clinic as well as counselling and psychiatric care, not only medical services. She encouraged the team to look at the Collaborative Care Model that incorporates behavioral health. She offered to connect the team with the University of Washington.
 - vi. Mr. Storey commented that to ensure the financial success of the center, services from the Holly and 78702 area will be brought into the center so that it is not only serving the residents of RBJ. Patients from various income levels will have access to and be encouraged to use the center. The PRP group has been speaking to the community in these areas and conducting outreach with individuals who have private insurance.
 - vii. Commissioner Cagle asked what the role of Community Care will be. Mr. Storey responded that Community Care will staff the clinic.
 - viii. Commissioner Bordie commented that this initiative will create opportunities for medical education in geriatrics. Programs will be created to support family and primary care physicians to work with older adults. This is currently occurring in Kentucky, Washington and Tarrant County.
 - ix. Chair Briesemeister asked if the PRP has communicated yet with the City. Mr. Storey responded that the group has not communicated with the City; they are being strategic and will initiate conversations after the development of a business plan.
 - x. Vice Chair Varteressian asked when the second annual Eldercare Summit

will take place and what the role of Family Eldercare is. Mr. Store responded that Family Eldercare will be providing case management and individualized services such as healthcare navigation and counselling. There are currently not enough resources to meet the needs of all residents.

- xi. Commissioner Cagle asked if Emergency Medical Services has been part of the conversations as well as dental, vision and hearing specialists. Commissioner Angel responded that the PRP will work with all service providers in the development of the business plan.
- xii. Commissioner Hauser commented that he supports the program. He asked for clarification on the governance structure, given the number of partners involved. Mr. Storey responded that an operational plan will be developed which is a focus for this coming year.
- xiii. Chair Briesemeister commented that the Commission will discuss over the next couple of months how the Commission on Seniors can best support this initiative.

B. Presentation and discussion regarding the Adoption of an Inclusion Statement for the Commission on Seniors (Richard Bondi, LGBT Coalition on Aging)

- In the Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information (Domains 4-7) working group meetings, the need for a guiding principal that addresses inclusion within the Commission on Seniors has been discussed.
- The inclusion statement developed by the working group comes from several sources including the Austin LGBT Coalition and the Urban School of San Francisco. The statement reads as follows:

The City of Austin Commission on Seniors is committed to building a strong inclusive community where all seniors are valued and supported regardless of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, national origin, religion, socio-economic status, or disability. We honor the uniqueness of each individual, and embrace diverse backgrounds and points of view.

- Chair Briesemeister commented that the statement will be included in the meeting minutes as a way that the Commission on Seniors approaches their body of work. In the future, she suggests that it be added to the Age Friendly Action Plan.
- Commissioner Lugo commented that the working group wanted to leave the Commission on Seniors with the ability to determine how best to incorporate the inclusion statement, which was initiated as a result of the working group’s budget deliberations.
- Commissioner Garcia-Pittman suggested that the Annual Internal Report for the Commission on Seniors also include that the statement.
- Vice Chair Varteressian thanked the working group for putting together a strong and cohesive yet succinct statement.
- Commissioner Grampp made a motion to include the statement in the meeting minutes and to incorporate into the Annual Internal Report.
- Commissioner Garcia-Pittman seconded.
- The motion passed 11-0.

C. Presentation and discussion regarding the Aging Services Council (Amy Temperley, Aging Services Council)

- The Aging Services Council (ASC) is comprised of 20 members within the private

sector, non-profit organizations, City and County stakeholders. The ASC meets monthly to address the needs of the aging population, identify challenges in the larger systems that impact seniors, fill service gaps, work on joint projects, educate the community and seniors about the needs and available resources, serve as an advocate for senior issues and share information.

- Programs within the ASC, called “Continuum of Supports” are numerous and vary from chronic disease management to volunteer and learning opportunities and programs to address social isolation.
- Ongoing programs include statistics on aging in Central Texas, Caregiver Guides and Ride Guides.
- 2017 initiatives include social isolation, outreach kits, cultural competency, advocacy and emerging issues.
- More information can be found at www.agingservicescouncil.org.
- Questions and discussion:
 - i. Chair Briesemeister asked when the data used by the Aging Services Council was most recently updated, as the Age Friendly Action Plan is currently creating metrics that will be including data. Ms. Temperley responded that the data was updated in February and is available on the website.
 - ii. Chair Briesemeister asked Ms. Temperley what are the main issues in the community the Council is concerned with that they would like to share with the Commission on Seniors. Ms. Temperley responded that the main concern is keeping track of Federal funding for the upcoming year.
 - iii. Commissioner Kareithi commented that there is also concern regarding possible reduction in the City of Austin’s funding for social services. Ms. Temperley commented that currently social service funding by the City does not adequately represent the needs of the senior population.
 - iv. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman commented that the Commission on Seniors would like to work with the Council on their annual goals to be in sync with each other and not duplicate efforts.
 - v. Ms. Temperley commented that it is crucial to bring in the private, for-profit sector into the discussions.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion regarding developing recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 City of Austin budget – Standing Item
 - i. Chair Briesemeister informed the Commission that she met with Council Member Kitchens office, who were appreciative of the focus of the Commission’s recommendations. She and Commissioner Van Sickle met with Council Member Tovo’s office who also expressed gratitude on the budget proposals recommended by the Commission. Chair Briesemeister recommended that all Commissioners review the City Manager’s recently published budget recommendation.
 - ii. Laura Williamson commented that the City Manager’s budget proposed level funding for social service contracts in the upcoming year.
 - iii. Chair Briesemeister commented that Council Members have set aside \$5 million in addition to level funding for next year.
 - iv. Commissioner Angel stated that she met with Council Member Alter’s office who appreciated the Commission’s recommendations and were

positive regarding the funding for wheelchair accessible vans for seniors.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding CodeNEXT recommendations.

- i. Chair Briesemeister informed the Commission that the subcommittee of the housing and outdoor spaces working group developed the characteristics of senior living which will be key to the Commission making recommendations to CodeNEXT.

C. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item

- i. No discussion.

D. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item

i. Transportation

- a. Commissioner Kareithi: Reviewed and discussed Metrorail questions and considerations from Commissioner Angel. Reviewed Age Friendly metrics for transportation and will continue to review before forwarding final versions.
 - The working group forwarded information regarding CapMetro’s 5310 program to Parks and Recreation, who will be pursuing application for the ADA-compliant vans.
- b. Chair Briesemeister: the Multi-Modal Community Advisory Committee received an update from Project Connect, which has identified projects for the next phase of program implementation. Project Connect has identified the corridors for projects, and are currently reviewing what mode of transportation is appropriate for each corridor. Project Connect is prioritizing these programs for what would be most competitive for Federal funding. The next meeting, the different options (mode) will be discussed such as light rail (street rail, elevated or subway), circulators, rapid busses, street cars, gondolas, automated vehicles.
- c. Commissioner Kareithi will participate in focus group conducted by City on corridor projects and specifically what the City will be doing with the \$720 million bond approved by residents.
- d. Chair Briesemeister: Austin Strategic Mobility Plan is the City of Austin’s plan for prioritization. Significant community engagement has been occurring by the Department of Transportation. DOT has received 3000 responses from in-person and online priorities. For all participants, the most important priority is affordability; for seniors specifically, most important priority is commuter delay. The City is interested in meeting with additional stakeholders.
 - The next phase is scenario planning. Chair Briesemeister will be sending DOT feedback on planning based on recommendations and comments previously made by the Commission on Seniors.

ii. Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

- a. Vice Chair Varteressian: the working group is progressing on development of the metrics for their two domains. Currently looking at timelines for how metrics will be measured and expectations for data timing. Next meeting will be on September 12 at 10am at Wildflower Terrace.

iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information

- a. Commissioner Lugo: the working group has completed approximately 1/3 of their metrics. The asset mapping effort across the community is a huge effort with numerous categories. Instead of a GIS map, the

working group is considering the creation of a directory with URLs for each resource.

- b. With AustinUP, the working group is exploring grants with AARP and South by Southwest (\$5,000 for a Dashboard).
- iv. Community Health Services
 - a. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman: received a presentation from Amy Price at 211 with disaggregated data on seniors. Suggest to request Ms. Price to present to the entire Commission. Ms. Price will be presenting to the Commission in September.
 - b. The working group continues to work on the metrics. Some metrics proposed will be qualitative while others will be data-driven (quantitative).
 - c. Commissioner Bordie informed the Commission that in order to move forward on the next step, all partners and stakeholders need to come together. Working group will work with ASC on who to invite to the working group meetings and be strategic regarding participation and work towards not duplicating efforts across the community.
- v. Age Friendly City
 - a. Chair Briesemeister: the World Health Organization has a hard deadline to submit the metrics for each domain in order for Austin to maintain its designation as an Age Friendly City. AARP shared metrics from other City's plans. The working group has developed an outline for the Plan.
 - b. Commissioner Van Sickle has requested that working groups submit their metrics to the Age Friendly City working group by September 1. This will give the working group sufficient time to incorporate the metrics into the Plan and standardize wording.
 - c. Following submission of the metrics to the WHO, the Commission will begin fulfilling its obligation on metrics for Imagine Austin.
- E. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)
 - a. Chair Briesemeister informed the Commission that the Quality of Life initiatives will include language access in their recommendations to Council.
- F. Update on Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily De Maria Nicola)
 - a. No discussion.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors
 - i. The September 9, 2017 meeting will occur at the Pan American Recreation Center in District 3.
 - ii. The September meeting will be the final meeting attended by Laura Williamson as she transitions off of her role as a liaison for the Commission on Seniors.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- i. 211 (Amy Price) will present to the Commission in September.
- ii. Staff to include the listing of previous future agenda items on minutes to retain items discussed.
 - 1. Affordable Housing

COMMISSION ON SENIORS MEETING MINUTES

(AUGUST 9, 2017)

2. Texas Veterans Commission
3. Hispanic Quality of Life
4. Veterans Affairs Office
5. Google representative
6. State Veterans Services
7. Foundation Communities
8. Austin Energy – Weatherization and home repair
9. Home renovation for seniors
10. Housing and resources for senior musicians and artists
11. Dell Medical School
12. Falls Prevention Course, tentatively scheduled for October
13. CodeNEXT

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Kareithi motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Cagle seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0 with Commissioner De Maria Nicola off the dais.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:48pm.