



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019

Commission on Seniors

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

The Commission on Seniors shall serve as an advisory board to the council concerning the quality of life for senior citizens in the Austin area and to help ensure older adults are productive, independent, and healthy.

The commission shall:

- (1) advise the council on issues related to the senior population in the Austin area;
- (2) evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices that create a positive impact and reduce the burden on seniors;
- (3) determine the needs of seniors in the Austin community, and advise council regarding these needs; and
- (4) promote the contributions of seniors to the cultural, economic, and historical value of Austin.

The council encourages the commission to hold periodic joint meetings with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

Source: Ord. 20130926-081; [Ord. No. 20141211-204, Pts. 17, 18, 7-1-15.](#)

1. **Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

This annual report for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019, highlights the accomplishments of the Commission on Seniors based on the responsibilities outlined in the mission statement of the Commission, the implementation of the Age Friendly Action Plan, Council's Strategic Direction, and other important issues facing seniors.

Advise the Council on issues related to the senior population:

Recommendation Number 20181010-4C: Comments on Proposed Regulations on Shared Small Vehicle Mobility Systems, Rule No. R161-18.09

Recommendation Number 20181114- 4B: Recommendation on Senior Property Tax Assistance (Strategic Outcome Economic Opportunity and Affordability)

Recommendation Number 20181212-04B: Support for Innovative Housing Models, Including Cooperative Housing for Seniors

Proposal for use of \$125,000 in FY 2019 directed towards “Low-Income Seniors for Access to Physical, Mental and Dental Health Services” Adopted by the Commission on Seniors January 9, 2019

Recommendation Number 20190313-04a: Recommendations on the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan

Recommendation Number 20190213-04b: Additional Priority Indicators for Strategic Direction 2023: Timeliness and quality of emergency response

Recommendation Number 20190410-04C: Recommendations to Support Increased Transparency and Accountability in City Programs and Services

Recommendation Number 20190612-04B: Ensuring that Seniors are Educated About and Able to Take Advantage of Existing Tools to Reduce their Property Tax Burden Property Tax Burden

Evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices that create a positive impact and reduce the burden on seniors:

In addition to the actions above the Commission has adopted the model of working groups to study, analyze and evaluate major strategies identified in the larger strategic Age Friendly Action Plan. Working groups allow the Commission to involve interested community representatives and City of Austin and Travis County personnel to help drive the implementation of the Action Plan.

The Commission has four working groups aligning with the eight Domains of the Age Friendly Action Plan and the Council’s Strategic Direction 2023. Annually each Working Group reports on its work and established goals for the coming year. Below is the report of the Working Groups established on February 14, 2018:

Housing, Transportation and Open Spaces Working Group:

1) Met several times with Daniel Brooks of the City of Austin Transportation Department with the goal of understanding and if necessary, modifying the departments' new Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP). Ultimately, the Working Group made several recommendations (relating to sidewalks, traffic intersections, urban trails, volunteer driver programs and ADA parking requirements) that were passed by the full

Commission and largely adopted as amendments by the City Council when they passed the ASMP.

2) Discussed, researched and ultimately acted on a resolution of support for tools to enhance education and public awareness of the State authorized legal opportunities reducing the burdens of the property taxes for seniors (e.g. exemptions and deferrals).

3) Met with John Rooney of the Austin Parks Foundation and David Crabb of City and Austin's Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) regarding improving parkland and parks services for seniors. John described how his organization advocates for the parks and parks bonds. We reminded him to keep needs of seniors in mind when advocating for new park facilities. David talked about the new program services that PARC was launching and expanding within the Senior Centers and the Recreation Centers. He also was thankful of our advocacy of PARC finally getting the new vans for senior transportation to various PARC sponsored senior activities.

4) Met with Stephanie Lane, a representative of the organization Drive A Senior and discussed her efforts to get the word out on the value their program.

5) Met with Kim McKnight of PARC on the PARC master plan.

6) Met with John Michael, Jason Redfern and Jason Culberson of the City of Austin Transportation Department to discuss our concerns about the Dockless Transportation plan and scooters in particular. Drafted a resolution related to regulations on dockless mobility that was adopted by full Commission.

7) Met with Mandy DeMayo of the City of Austin Housing and Neighborhood Development Department to discuss the recently passed housing bond program. She outlined how the bonds becoming available and the programs that will see the benefit of the bond money. We stressed our continuing support for the home repair and other programs designed to help seniors age in place.

8) Met with Steven Linnet of PARC to get a better understanding of how the department was going to utilize the recently passed parks bonds.

Community and Health Services Working Group:

Identified 2018 – 2019 Goals (numbers reference Age Friendly Action Plan):

8.1.2: Create focus groups of city and community representatives with the charge of developing a strategic plan to integrate aging, mental health and wellness programs.

Domain 8 working members continued to participate in the following community initiatives focused on aging, mental health and wellness:

Austin/Travis County 2018 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

- Feedback was provided regarding the following priority health issues addressed in the CHIP
 - Stress, Mental Health & Wellbeing
 - Access to and Affordability of Health Care
 - Chronic Disease, with a focus on Primary and Secondary Prevention and the Built Environment
- Members participated in the February 2019 Action Planning Summit and assisted in confirming objectives and strategies for Year 1 Implementation and developing the Year 1 CHIP Action Plan
- Members participate in working groups focused on the above priority health issues

Aging Services Council of Central Texas

- Feedback was provided the regarding the creation of the 2019 Community Needs Assessment
- Feedback was solicited from members of Aging Services Council regarding Domain 8 Goals and Strategies – to better understand what goals are being met by the community.

"Building an Intergenerational Metropolis in the City of Austin: Findings and Recommendations"

- Support and feedback were provided to the LBJ School research exploring an operational plan to establish a multigenerational day and wellness center at the city-owned RBJ Health Center for low-income seniors.
 - Specifically, Domain 8 working group assisted with preparing students for the Community Engagement Surveys performed for the project.
- Results were later shared at the 2019 Livability for Longevity Symposium

East Austin Age Well, Live Well Collaborative

- Members of the Domain 8 working group are assisting with preserving stories of older adults living in East Austin with the ultimate goal of creating a resource fair and story map in Summer 2019.

8.3.3: Provide emergency response, preparedness strategies on the COA website specific to the needs of the senior population.

Domain 8 did not successfully achieve this goal during 2018 – 2019 but are excited to work towards this goal next year as the City of Austin has hired a Vulnerability Planner who will likely assist us with this task.

8.2.1: Expand community outreach and public awareness around caregiver support and in-home support programs, including respite care, palliative care and other homebased services.

Domain 8 working members continued to participate in the following community initiatives focused on community outreach and public awareness around caregiver support and in-home support programs, including respite care, palliative care and other homebased services.

- Austin/Travis County 2018 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
 - Feedback was provided regarding the following priority health issues addressed in the CHIP
 - Access to and Affordability of Health Care
 - Chronic Disease, with a focus on Primary and Secondary Prevention and the Built Environment
 - Members participated in the February 2019 Action Planning Summit and assisted in confirming objectives and strategies for Year 1 Implementation and developing the Year 1 CHIP Action Plan
 - Members participate in working groups focused on the above priority health issues
- Aging Services Council of Central Texas
 - Distributed the updated Caregiving Guide book (available in English and Spanish)
 - Feedback was provided the regarding the creation of the 2019 Community Needs Assessment
 - Feedback was solicited from members of Aging Services Council regarding Domain 8 Goals and Strategies – to better understand what goals are being met by the community.
- "Building an Intergenerational Metropolis in the City of Austin: Findings and Recommendations"
 - Support and feedback were provided to the LBJ School research exploring an operational plan to establish a multigenerational day and wellness center at the city-owned RBJ Health Center for low-income seniors. Specifically, Domain 8 working group assisted with preparing students for the Community Engagement Surveys performed for the project.
 - Results were later shared at the 2019 Livability for Longevity Symposium

Additional community activities supporting this goal include

- New Central Health Mobile Vans to Hornsby Bend area where residents have limited access to primary care. (Central Health Home Visit)
- Mike's Place
- St. David's Foundation funding the Central Texas Home Visiting Grant Program
- Family Eldercare Health Connections telephone-based program allowing older adults to participate in recreational/leisure activities

Other Activities Implementing the Age Friendly Action Plan:

Age Friendly Action Plan Coordinator: Tabitha Taylor, the City's first Age Friendly Action Plan Coordinator was hired in February 2019, fulfilling a top priority of the Commission. Ms. Taylor has worked closely with the Commission and across city departments in implementing the Age Friendly Action Plan.

Land Development Code Update: Council Member Kitchen included direction to City staff to include Age Friendly Action Plan goals on housing in development of the new land use code.

AustinUP: AustinUP, a community partner helping to implement the Age-friendly Austin Action Plan, is especially engaged in Domain 6, "Civic Participation and Employment." AustinUP is expanding outreach to business leaders by 1) hosting a series of 50+ job fairs and 2) developing an Age-friendly Business Certification that can be used by business owners in their marketing and customer relations efforts.

Determine the needs of seniors in the Austin community, and advise council regarding these needs:

More than 100 people participated in the Community Forum on the Austin 2020 Budget hosted by the Commission on Seniors at the Asian American Resource Center on March 28, 2019.

Invited and requested presentations on issues of interest to the Commission:

July 11, 2018: Presentation on Boomers Collaborative Senior Co-op Housing Project, Carol Lilly and Karen Meschke, Austin Boomer's Collaborative. **Presentation on City of Austin's Collaborative Work on the Age Friendly Action Plan,** Michelle Friedman, Austin Public Health.

August 8, 2018: Presentation on City of Austin Legislative Agenda, Brie Franco, Government Relations Department. **Presentation on Parks and Recreation Department's Senior Service Asset Map,** Allison Hardy, Parks and Recreation Department. **Presentation on 500 Cities Initiative,** Estephanie Olivares, Austin Public Health.

September 12, 2018: Presentation on findings of the Equity Assessment and Update on Equity Office activities, Kellee Coleman, Equity Office, City of Austin.

Presentations on findings of “Senior Shuffle,” Lisa Sepulveda, Emergency Medical Services Department, City of Austin. **Presentation on Title VI Program requirement for the Parks and Recreation Department Federal Transportation Administration grant, which funds the Senior Transportation Program,** David Crabb, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Austin

November 14, 2018: Age Friendly Business Certification, Patrick Buchta, Candice Erickson, Jarrod Wise, Better Business Bureau

December 12, 2018: Co-working and co-living housing model for seniors, Carol Lilly, Boomer’s Collaborative

January 9, 2019: Presentation of the senior asset map project, Marbenn Cayetano, Ashley Parsons, and Happiness Kisoso, Communication and Technology Management, City of Austin.

February 8, 2019: Joint Meeting with the Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities. General Obligation Bonds and Home Repair Program, Mandy DeMayo, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development. **Update the Commissions about the City’s next 5-year strategic plan (the FY 2019-23 Consolidation Plan) and FY 2019-2020 Action Plan,** Angela Sommers, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development. **Report on ADA Program Office,** David Ondich, ADA Program Manager

March 13, 2019: Presentation on the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, Dan Brooks and Leanne Miller, Austin Transportation Department.

April 10, 2019: PARD Budget presentation, Vanorda Richardson, Parks and Recreation Department.

May 8, 2019: Briefing on Council Resolution re: feasibility study of city-owned building at RBJ Senior Housing site. Alex Abbott and Emma Nye, students at LBJ School of Public Affairs.

June 12, 2019: Presentation Age Essential Texas, Suzanne Anderson and Annette Juba, Age of Central Texas.

Held meetings outside of City Hall to further engage the community, including at the Anderson Mill Limited District Community Room, Meals on Wheels and the Chestnut Community Center.

Promote the contributions of seniors to the cultural, economic and historical value of Austin:

The Commission promotes the contributions of seniors through engagement with the community, our participation in community events and committees, presentations to other planning and community bodies, and meetings with City staff.

- The Commission on Seniors is represented on the Joint Inclusion Committee and currently holds the chairmanship
- The Commission on Seniors is represented on the Equity Office's Equity Action Team
- Members of the Commission on Seniors participated on the Aging Services Council
- Members of the Commission on Seniors accepted the Mayor's Proclamation of Older Americans Month May 9, 2019
- Members of the Commission participated in the "Senior Shuffle" sponsored by Austin Travis County EMS Senior Home Safety Program
- Members of the Commission attended AARP's Open House
- Chair Briesemeister participated in a Facebook Live panel on affordable housing sponsored by Housing Works (September 9, 2018)
- Chair Briesemeister participated on a panel at the Aging 2.0 Housing Summit (October 2018)
- Members of the Commission participated on Working Groups of the Anti-displacement Task Force
- Chair Briesemeister participated on the Multi-modal Community Advisory Committee
- Members of the Commission volunteered at the Senior Games sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department (November 2018)
- Commissioner Van Sickle participated in the Aging and Innovation Summit sponsored by AustinUP (November 2018)
- Commissioners Briesemeister and Lugo made the annual presentation to the Travis County Commissioners Court (March 5, 2019)
- Members of the Commission participated in the Age Friendly Austin Media briefing sponsored by AARP and AustinUP (March 6, 2019)
- Chair Briesemeister participated on the City of Austin Budget Teletown Hall held by AARP (March 19, 2019)
- Members of the Commission participated in the Livability for Longevity Symposium at the LBJ School of Public Affairs (April 3, 2019)
- Commissioners participated in the development of the 2018 Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Commissioners are participating in working groups (Mental Health and Stress, Chronic Disease, and Access to Health Care) of the Community Health Improvement Plan.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

The Commission on Seniors has acted to fulfill the scope and the responsibilities as outlined in the mission statement as identified in Ord. 20130926-081.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

Concurrently with approval of the Annual Review the Commission establishes the following Working Groups and the Commission's goals and objectives for the coming year.

1. Age Friendly Action Plan Working Group:
 - a. The Age Friendly Action Plan Working Group will oversee implementation of the Age Friendly Action plan and coordinate with other working groups on items related to the Action Plan. It will include the Communications and Information Domain.
 - b. Strategic Direction 2023: Government that Works
 - c. Commissioners: Van Sickle (Chair), Varteressian, Briesemeister, Lugo, Bordie, Garcia-Pittman
 - d. Community members: Shubhada Saxena, SAIVA/AAQL; Jessica Lemann, AARP; Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP;
 - e. Other invited members: Representatives of Hispanic Latino Quality of Life Commission; African American Quality of Life Commission; LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission; Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities; Planning and Zoning/Imagine Austin staff; other staff as requested.
 - f. Goals and Objectives for 2019-2020:
 - i. Continued implementation of Age Friendly Action Plan across the city;
 - ii. Support the Age Friendly Action Plan Coordinator in identifying data for Age Friendly Action Plan metrics
 - iii. Serve as the Commission's Budget Committee, including monitoring implementation of the Commission's budget recommendations.
 - iv. Develop a plan for required reporting on the Age Friendly Action Plan
 - v. Develop a communications plan for the Age Friendly Action Plan
2. Transportation, Housing, and Open Spaces:
 - a. The Working Group will review and make recommendations on city budget, city programs and policies and other policies (such as from Cap Metro) related to the Age Friendly Action Plan Domains 1 (Outdoor spaces and buildings), 2 (Transportation), and 3 (Housing).

- b. Strategic Direction 2023: All
 - c. Commissioners: Varteressian (chair), Kareithi, Briesemeister, Jackson, Angel
 - d. Community Members: Tommi Ferguson, Capitol City Village, Diana Deaton, Aging 2.0; Shubhada Saxena, SAIVA/AAQL; Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP; Charles Curry, Austin LGBT Coalition on Aging and LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission; Carla Penny, AARP Volunteer; Jessica Lemann, AARP
 - e. Staff from Austin Transportation Department, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Parks and Recreation and other departments as requested.
 - f. Goals and Objectives for 2019-2020:
 - i. Policies and programs to serve seniors are included as Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and corridor plans are implemented;
 - ii. Policies and programs to serve seniors are included as the Strategic Housing Blueprint and Affordable Housing Bonds are implemented
 - iii. Policies and programs to serve seniors are included in the Parks and Recreation Department Strategic Plan
 - iv. Expanded and/or innovate transportation and housing options for seniors
 - v. Policies in the land development code that support seniors
3. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment.
- a. The Working Group will review and make recommendations on city budget, city programs and policies and other policies related to the Age Friendly Action Plan Domains 4 (Social participation), 5 (Respect and social inclusion) and 6 (Civic participation and employment)
 - b. Strategic Direction 2023: Culture and Lifelong Learning; Economic Opportunity and Affordability
 - c. Commissioners: Lugo (Chair), Grampp, Van Sickle
 - d. Community Members: Claire Irwin, Texas Health and Human Services Commission; Richard Bondi, Austin LGBT Elder Task Force; Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP.
 - e. Rebecca Rich-Wulfmeyer, Austin Public Library; David Crabb, Parks and Recreation Department; Preston Stewart Economic Development; and staff from other departments as requested.
 - f. Goals and Objectives for 2019-2020:
 - i. Finalize Asset Map
 - ii. Provide opportunities for senior employment, including through work with partners such as AustinUP
 - iii. Identify opportunities to expand and/or enhance programs for seniors:
 - 1. Intergenerational

2. Civic and volunteer engagement
 3. Cultural and lifelong learning
4. Community and Health Services
- a. The Working Group will review and make recommendations on city budget, city programs and policies and other policies related to the Age Friendly Action Plan Domain 8 (Community support and health services).
 - b. Strategic Direction 2023: Health and Environment; Safety
 - c. Commissioners: Bordie and Garcia-Pittman (co-chairs), Angel, Cagle, Nicola, Hauser
 - d. Community Members: Mary Teeters - Gerontology Consultant - Meals on Wheels of Central Texas; Barry Waller, LGBT Coalition on Aging; Jose "Chema" Saenz, AARP state office and South Austin Chapter 2426; Korey Darling, LMSW, Research and Planning Division at Travis County Health and Human Services; Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP.
 - e. Austin Public Health staff (including the Office of Emergency Management), the Travis County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and other city and county staff as requested.
 - f. Goals and Objectives for 2019-2020
 - 8.1.2: Create focus groups of city and community representatives with the charge of developing a strategic plan to integrate aging, mental health and wellness programs.
 - Expand on work completed during 2018 – 2019
 - Increase work on mental health wellness
 - Extend invitation to join the working group
 - 8.1.4: Expand opportunities for affordable and accessible health care services not covered by Medicare, e.g., dental, hearing and vision.
 - Prioritize dental services by coordinating with community agencies (St. David's Foundation, People's Clinic, Manos de Christo, Texas Mobile Dentist, and others not yet identified) to understand current resources with goal to expand resources
 - Consider scheduling a dental week where all agencies could be available to the community
 - Consider a meeting to invite community partners and build strategic plan.
 - Focus on transportation to assist with accessibility to health services
 - 8.3.3: Provide emergency response, preparedness strategies on the COA website specific to the needs of the senior population.

- Complete this item with the assistance of the COA Vulnerability Planner
- 8.2.1: Expand community outreach and public awareness around caregiver support and in-home support programs, including respite care, palliative care and other homebased services.
 - Expand on work completed during 2018 – 2019