



SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Commission On Seniors convened in a special called meeting on *FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014, Executive Session, First floor in room 1027, 301 W. 2nd Street* in Austin, Texas.

The Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Ann Kitchen at 12:05p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Cecilia Crossley
Jacqueline Angel

Erica Garcia-Pittman
Martin Kareithi

Ann Kitchen
Fred Lugo

Staff in Attendance:

Willie Williams, HHSD
Edna Staniszewski, HHSD

Sly Majid, Mayor's office

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- None at this time

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. Establishment of Work Plan

- The suggestion was made and accepted by those present to start with the three goals from the "Recommendations for the City of Austin" identified by the Mayor's Taskforce on Aging.

Goal 1: Focus on Age Inclusive Policies

Strategy 1.1 Integrate Age Inclusive Policies as a Criteria for City Decision-Making Policies should focus on reducing negative impacts and promoting positive impacts on seniors (for the complete strategy see Mayor's Task Force on Aging Recommendations).

- a) The following areas were identified as a focus: transportation, affordable housing, land development, affordable utilities and taxes

b) Suggested actions:

- i. Draft a letter to send out to selective City departments, other governmental entities and selected community organizations requesting information about their policies that directly impact seniors. Suggested entities included Austin Energy, Capital Metro, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD), and the Park and Recreation Department. Specifically, each entity would be asked to identify the policies related to age inclusivity and how these policies are used in decision making as it may relate to land development, transportation, affordable housing, affordable utilities and taxation. Once the responses are received by the Commission, a decision will be made to determine which entity will be invited to present to the Commission.

c) Actions Taken:

- Commissioner Jacqueline Angel made a motion to have Chair Ann Kitchen construct a letter to the suggested entities above requesting that they send to the COS their policies related to age inclusivity and a summary of how these policies are used in decision making, future planning, and budgetary impact.
- Member Cecilia Crossley seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 6-0-0.

Goal 2: Focus on Affordable Housing

Strategy 2.1 Research and Analyze the Impact of Property Tax Deferrals/Caps and Utility Cost Subsidies on Seniors and Recommended Appropriate Action.

a) Suggested actions:

- i. Collect data on the number of households receiving tax exemptions and property tax deferrals. Are all zip codes eligible for property tax deferrals? What are the qualifications to receive an exemption or deferral? How many exemptions or deferral were approved and how many denied last year?
- ii. Commissioner Jacqueline Angel agreed to research the issue and report back to the Commission at a future meeting.

Strategy 2.2 and 2.3 Affordable Housing Funding and Process for secondary apartments

a) Suggested actions:

- i. Ask appropriate groups for specific information to the related topics then have them come and possibly present in a future meeting.
 - No action taken

Establishing the Work Plan

- a) Commission to list the Work Plan on the monthly agenda under Old Business as a standing item and revaluation in six months.

B. Discuss recommendation from Boards and Commission Transition Taskforce of merging Commission on Seniors with Austin Mayors Committee on People with Disabilities (AMCPD).

- Commissioners Ann Kitchen, Joyce Lauck, Dan Pruett, and Cecilia Crossley attended the Boards and Commission Transition Taskforce meeting on April 21, 2014. Commissioners discussed the distinct differences in the needs of the two commissions, and expressed concerns about the logistics to require covering needs of the two populations. There was an agreement that there are some overlapping individual needs in each population; however, this is not true for the targeted populations (Seniors and individuals living with a disability).

- Commissioner Martin Kareithi made a motion for Chair Ann Kitchen to construct a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Boards and Commission Transition Taskforce opposing the merge of the Commission on Seniors and Austin Mayors Committee of People with Disabilities for several reasons:
 - Each committee has different perspectives
 - Distinct responsibilities
 - Distinct management
- Commissioner Jacqueline Angel seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 6-0-0.

3. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- Request was received from HHSD budget department to present the FY 14 Budget to the Commission at the next meeting.
- No edits received from Commissioners on “Complete Street Policy” were forwarded to the Austin Transportation Department
 - Place item on the May agenda under old business.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentation from the City of Austin Health and Human Services Budget Department with a focus on the impact to seniors on the May’s agenda.
- Request for identified entities to present at a future meeting on housing funding, and secondary apartment’s minimum.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.