



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
(SEPTEMBER 9, 2015)**

The Commission on Seniors convened in a regular meeting at the YWCA, 1000 W. Rundberg, Room Meeting #2 in Austin, Texas.

Chair, Dan Pruett, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Pruett, Chair	Erica Garcia-Pittman	Mary Milam
David Gray, Vice Chair	Martin Kareithi	Jennifer Scott
Janee Briesemeister	Thomas McDowell	Peter Varteressian

Staff in Attendance:

Tameka Houston, COA HHSD	Edna Staniszewski, COA HHSD
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1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- Roundtable of introductions of those present.
- Jessica Lehman – AARP
 - In order for Austin to stay in the network the City of Austin needs to develop an action plan which lists the steps the City will take to address the aging issues.
 - The city joined AARP and made a commitment to improve 8 domains around the city where one can age comfortably. The 8 domains of Livability are:
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Respect and Social inclusion
 - A variety listing (Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Social Participation; Work and Civic Engagement; Communication and Information; Community and Health Services)
 - Age-Friendly for All Ages.
 - Plan needs to be formed with data collected by Mayor Leffingwell and the Mayors Taskforce on Aging and the list of recommendations.
 - There have been a few cities that have developed a plan such as New York and Des Moines, Iowa but each city has to look at their community and their needs.

- Commissioner Janee Briesemeister made a motion to create a working group to develop the action plan and matrix to maintain the status with AARP age friendly community network. Working group to include someone from AARP and AustinUP. The working group can present a recommendation to the board and the board can then recommend to Council.
- Vice-Chair David Gray seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 9-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 12, 2015 MEETING.

- Commissioner Martin Kareithi made a motion to accept the minutes.
- Commissioner Peter Varteressian seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 9-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. (ECHO)

– Ann Howard, Executive Director.

- Bree Williams presented in place of Ann Howard.
- Major challenge to end veteran homelessness is affordable housing.
- Of the 434 veterans accessed:
 - 30 are 65+ years (7%)
 - 162 are 55-64 years (38%)
 - Total of 45% are over 55+ years
- Negative barriers are the challenges and difficulties in placing a veteran.
- Chair Dan Pruett mentioned that the board could draft a letter of support for housing older veterans. Commissioner Peter Varteressian offered to draft the letter.
 - Commissioner Erica Garcia-Pittman made a motion to create a letter of support for reducing/eliminating homelessness and continued support with a focus on aging veterans.
 - Commissioner Thomas McDowell seconded the motion.
 - Motion Passed 9-0.

B. Presentation by Department of Aging & Disability Services (DADS)

- Wendy Settles, Volunteer Coordinator for Foster Grandparent Program.
- Emily Fankell presented in place of Wendy Settles.
 - Approximately 360 seniors, in Texas, involved in the program.
 - In Austin area, approximately 45 seniors.
 - Agency received funding to expand and is searching for more volunteers.
 - Transportation assistance plus one meal available.
 - Takes one month for processing paperwork.
 - Searching for those that meet the 175% poverty level.

C. Discuss and/or amend Bylaws.

- Question on letter ‘O’ on briefings.
- Commissioner Peter Varteressian motion to pass bylaws once clarification received on briefings.
- Commissioner Martin Kareithi seconded the motion.
- Commissioner David Gray opposed the motion.
- Motion passed 8-1.

D. Capital Metro Access ADA Service Area – Commissioners Martin Kareithi and David Gray.

- Vice-Chair David Gray mentioned app on 311. Software availability for possible access for rides.
- Commissioner Martin Kareithi mentioned that this kind of service is a demand response service and goes beyond traditional public transit.
- Suggestion to take item for discussion to the transportation working group.
 - Vice-Chair David Gray motion to create a working group for Transportation.
 - Commissioner Peter Varteressian seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed 9-0.

E. District Meetings – Commissioner Gray.

- Commissioner Mary Milam suggested we have every other month at each of the districts and the others at City Hall.

- Commissioner Janee Briesemeister suggested meeting at senior centers.
- Vice-Chair David Gray suggested the Representatives could use their distribution list to deliver our meeting notifications.
- Chair Dan Pruett made a motion that the commission meet at least 3 times in the next year at senior centers located at different parts of the city and the other meetings to be held at the boards and commissions room. If the boards and commissions room is not available to take that opportunity to have the meeting at the senior centers.
- Commissioner Janee Briesemeister seconded the motion.
- Commissioner David Gray opposed the motion.
- Motion passed 8-1.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item.
- Staff liaison to send out update to group.
 - No action taken.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors.
- i. Michelle Meaux, Capital Metro.
 - Meeting in October has been postponed. Michelle will collaborate with the Transportation working group.
 - ii. Meeting with the Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities in November.
 - Meeting going forward as scheduled.
 - iii. Jacqueline Angel, presentation in December.
 - Presentation scheduled.
 - iv. No action taken on above items.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Google representative
- Veterans Affair
- Public Works, Sidewalk Master Plan

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Peter Varteressian made a motion to adjourn.
- Vice-Chair David Gray seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 9-0.