



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
(OCTOBER 14, 2015)**

The Commission on Seniors convened in a regular meeting at Boards and Commissions, First floor in room 1101, 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair, Dan Pruett, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Pruett, Chair	Joyce Lauck	Jennifer Scott
Janee Briesemeister	Fred Lugo	Sally Van Sickle
Erica Garcia-Pittman	Martin Kareithi	Peter Varteressian

Board Members not in Attendance:

David Gray, Vice Chair	Thomas McDowell	Mary Milam
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Staff in Attendance:

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

- Roundtable of introductions of those present.
- Jean Crawford – Citizen
 - Informed everyone of Seniors in Law Enforcement Safety Care Event
 - Provided flyers with information

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 MEETING.

- Commissioner Martin Kareithi mentioned there was a revision to the language under Capital Metro that he submitted to Edna Staniszewski. As per Edna, the revision has been noted and changed.
- Commissioner Janee Briesemeister would like to be more specific concerning the letter written for ECHO on Page 2 of the minutes to explain that the support was for reducing/eliminating homelessness and continued support with a focus on aging veterans.
- Commissioner Janee Briesemeister would like to include the names of Commissioners who have voted for or against a motion in future meetings.
 - Commissioner Jennifer Scott seconded that motion.
- Motion passed 9-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update from AustinUp! – Angela Atwood, Chair

- Ms. Atwood announced the new hire Director Teresa Ferguson.
 - Teresa Ferguson worked on multiple communications within the community.
 - She provided various handouts and information on senior livability.
 - Ms. Atwood attended AARP 3rd Annual Network of Age Friendly Communities conference in Washington, DC as Austin representative:
 - There were 5 Texas cities in attendance: Fort Worth, Dallas, San Antonio, Brownsville, and Austin as well as 35 other cities from other States.
 - It was an opportunity to see how other communities are sustaining their senior livability.
 - Completing project at Mueller to make it more livable and accessible for seniors.
 - Provided an empty spreadsheet with Domains and Community Partners for everyone to work on together.
- Director of AustinUp! Teresa Ferguson
 - Introduced herself and informed everyone she has been onboard since June 2015.
 - AustinUp! is working with various people to create different resources and possible apps for seniors.
- Commissioner Dan Pruett added how important it was for AustinUp! to get the support it needs. He suggested they should partner/collaborate with other non-profit agencies.
- AustinUp! is currently working on sponsorships from local businesses and partner memberships.
 - They do not compete with non-profits for funding.
 - Membership sign-up is taking longer than expected but some businesses are providing gifts and requesting letters.

B. Sidewalk Master Plan – John Eastman, Project Manager

- Program Goal: Enhance pedestrian connectivity by completing priority sidewalks within ¼ mile of all identified schools, bus stops, and parks.
- There are 230 miles of sidewalk maintenance needed in the City of Austin.
- There is a rating system used to determine how good or bad a sidewalk is.
- Receive about \$250k per year for sidewalk maintenance.
 - There are two (2) programs:
 1. maintenance for old sidewalks
 2. new sidewalks
- The general public can call 311 to have vegetation obstructions removed.
- Mr. Eastman would like to have feedback from Commission on Seniors and other groups on how to prioritize working on sidewalks.
 - Access to hospitals and food for the elderly.
- Pilot results for Forefront of Sidewalk Evaluation: 87% Noncompliant, 70% Functionally Deficient.
- The 2012 Bond Package allocated was about \$25 million over 5-6 years for stand-alone sidewalk projects.

C. Updates from Working Groups.

Transportation

- Met last month:
 - i. Discussed ordinance and scope of the working group
 - a. What they can and cannot do and where they can put their efforts.
 - ii. Looked at the hierarchy of the types of transportation services the City of Austin has available.
 - a. Public Transit
 - b. Partners in the Non-profit field
 - c. Role of private people
 1. Yellow cab
 2. Uber

3. Lift
4. Others
- iii. The next step is to look at various partnerships and possible people to invite into the meetings on a smaller scale.

Livable City

- i. Had a meeting on the Age Friendly Community Action Plan on October 2nd.
 1. They will be relying on AustinUp! assistance in pulling the Livable Plan together.
 2. There is plenty of information in the City of Austin that can be used in the plan.
 3. If more information and handouts are needed they can be provided.
- ii. The next meeting is November 13, 2015 at AARP.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item.
 - o The old items will be taken off and adding 2016 new items.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors
 - i. Texas Veterans Commission
 - Veteran’s Commission was one shared goal between the Commission on Seniors and Mayors Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD).
 - The MCPD scheduled meeting time is 12pm-2pm.
 - We could look at sharing various workgroups between both Commissions.
 - Meeting on November 9th will have 2 agend.as
 1. Each person could add one item.
 - ii. Calendar for 2016
 - Possibly changing the time of the meetings to 11:15am or 12:30pm.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Complete Board and Commissions Training
 - i. Deadline is December 16, 2015

ADJOURNMENT