



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
(February 10, 2016)**

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 12:08 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Pruett, Chair	Erica Garcia-Pittman	Thomas McDowell	Peter Varteressian
David Gray, Vice Chair	Fred Lugo	Jennifer Scott	
Janee Briesemeister	Martin Kareithi	Sally Van Sickle	

Board Members not in Attendance:

Joyce Lauck

Staff in Attendance:

Edna Staniszewski, COA HHSD

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- None at this time.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 13, 2016 MEETING.

- Commissioner Martin Kareithi made a motion to accept the minutes
- Commissioner Jennifer Scott seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Boomers Collaborative (Carol Lilly, Lead Organizer)

- Including, Karen Meschke and Susanna Finnell
- Boomers Collaborative is collecting information regarding a cooperative housing for seniors.
- Currently working and trying to find assistance with developing properties, zoning, services for transportation and are talking to a developer.
- A co-op is owned in common. Members come in and buy shares and all members share ownership of the entire project.
- They are not a 501C3 at this time.
- They have met with Ryan Donovan, Executive Director of Austin Cooperative Business Association, on a mechanism to bring those who don't qualify for share

loans but may be brought in through a subgroup. Have a partnering subgroup with a non-profit agency. This will create a mixed-income property.

- The information has not been written yet if a person goes to a nursing home or passes away, but we envision that for those who pass that the co-op negotiates and possibly buys their share.
- Basically the value of the share would sell at market rate to whoever wants to buy it.
- If the person comes in qualifying for the affordable rate then it will stay that way.
- There are quite a few examples of this project in the Netherlands. She can forward the information to the staff liaison to send out to the board.

B. Discuss a resolution to incorporate Age Friendly criteria upon PARD parkland and facilities.

- A copy of what PARD has sent to the Council in terms of the Parkland Acquisition Fund is included in the board's packet. What it states is that the parks department receives funding and/or land from developers to help keep the parkland level up in the city as we grow in our population. Quite often, the needs of seniors in that effort do not get much attention. Commissioner Varteressian would like to propose that the Commission On Seniors requests that the Council would incorporate age friendly criteria into their decision-making when adding parkland or spending money on facilities. Additionally, the Council will obligate this Commission to serve as a resource for parks in the development of that criterion should it be requested.
- After some discussion, Commissioner Janee Briesemeister made a motion to accept the revised wording -- "In support of the Parkland Acquisition Program, the Commission on Seniors requests that the City Council call upon the City Parks Department (PARD) to incorporate Age Friendly criteria into their decision making when acquiring and/or developing parkland, or spending money on park facilities. Additionally, the City Council will obligate the Commission on Seniors to serve as a resource for PARD in the development of the criteria should it be requested."
- Commissioner David Gray seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0.

C. Update on the Joint Meeting with Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD).

- The Commission on Seniors will cancel the March 9th regular meeting and will join MCPD on March 14th meeting.
- A presenter, Eric Dusza, is scheduled to discuss the recent funding allocated by the City Council for sidewalk repair and/or maintenance and how those dollars will be used; a joint issue for both commissions.

D. Review the list of available alternate meeting locations.

- Listing not available due to City of Austin staff changes.
- Commissioner Jennifer Scott made a motion to give Edna Staniszewski, staff liaison, the authority to schedule our next Commission on Seniors meeting at a senior center within the City of Austin that meets all the requirements required.
- Commissioner Janee Briesemeister seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 9-1-0. Commissioner David Gray opposed the motion.

4. OLD BUSINESS**A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item.**

- A date change located on the front page of the work plan was revised.
- On page 5, an update on Transportation work group.
- On page 7, addition to the information on the Age Friendly work group.
- On page 11, information about holding community meetings was added.
- The work plan presented to Council will include information from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
- The Annual review will be presented to the board in April or May for approval before submitted to Council in June.

B. Updates from Working Groups.**i. Transportation (Commissioners: Kareithi, Lauck, Scott, Gray, Briesemeister; and Mary Teeters)**

- a. Met on January 20th.
- b. There were two presenters from Drive a Senior Program. Janet Allen represented the Southwest Austin area and Sarita Cost represented the Northeast/Pflugerville area.
 - They shared what they have been doing and what they are working on.
 - They provide trips for recreation and medical to folks.
 - They've been able to expand their coverage to shuttle-like services with vans they received through grants (grant program at Capital Metro).
 - Across all the groups they have upwards of 2,000 clients.
 - They do not charge for the service, based on volunteer drivers.
- c. We also had Tiffany Cabin who manages the senior programs and their senior transportation at the Parks and Recreations department.
 - They manage the senior centers.
 - They offer transportation services.
 - i. Their first priority is to make sure they can get people to their congregate meal type.
 - ii. Provide medical trips to individuals.
 - iii. Offer social trips, recreation trips, and opportunities to have them in a group fashion.
 - iv. Funding is low and they are short in drivers plus one or two vehicles at their disposal.

- d. The Asian American Resource center is experiencing transportation issue.
 - The center is offering culturally sensitive meals but they don't have the transportation resources to make sure they can get the folks there.
 - Recommendation or suggestion is that they get an additional driver and vehicle.
 - In March the Asian American Commission is voting on their recommendations for budget items to send to Council. Once they have voted, they will share the information and Martin will bring the information to a future meeting.
- e. Next meeting scheduled on the Tuesday the 16th at 3:00pm at Meals on Wheels conference room.
- f. A suggestion to meet with Amy Temperley, the chair of the Empowerment Fund, regarding Metro Access passes.
- ii. Age Friendly City (Commissioners Briesemeister, Van Sickle, Scott, Gray, Garcia-Pittman; Angela Attwood and Teresa Ferguson from AustinUp!; Jessica Lemann and Carla Penny from AARP; and Mary Teeters)
 - a. The working group has broken into subgroups. The group is very active and meets every week.
 - b. A report to present to the full commission is on schedule.
 - c. Board packet includes a set of talking points. A short summary of what the Age Friendly City group is about.
 - d. If anyone has any questions talk to Commissioner Briesemeister afterwards or send an email. The group is maxed out on commission members. Thank you.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors.
 - i. Texas Veterans Commission.
 - Was scheduled to present in March but due to the joint committee we will schedule them to a future meeting date.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Capital Metro on Para-transit.
- John Eastman, Sidewalk Master Plan.
- Staff to include the listing of previous future agenda items on minutes so we don't lose track of items discussed.
 - 1. Texas Veterans Commission
 - 2. Hispanic Quality of Life
 - 3. Veteran's Affair Office
 - 4. Google representative

5. State Veterans Services
6. Foundation Communities
7. Affordable Housing
8. Austin Energy – Weatherization and home repair
9. Home renovation for seniors
10. Imagine Austin
11. Vision Zero

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Martin Kareithi motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Jennifer Scott seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.