



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
(May 11, 2016)**

The Commission on Seniors convened in a regular meeting at South Austin Recreation Center, 1100 Cumberland Rd in Austin, Texas.

Chair, Janee Briesemeister, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

<i>Janee Briesemeister, Chair</i>	<i>Elaine Cohen</i>	<i>Martin Kareithi</i>	<i>Jennifer Scott</i>
<i>Peter Varteressian, Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Erica Garcia-Pittman</i>	<i>Joyce Lauck</i>	<i>Sally Van Sickle</i>
<i>Natalie Cagle</i>	<i>David Gray</i>	<i>Fred Lugo</i>	

Board Members not in Attendance:

Thomas McDowell *Dan Pruett*

Staff in Attendance:

Edna Staniszewski, COA HHSD Laura Williamson, COA HHSD

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- None at this time.

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

- Commissioner Joyce Lauck made a motion to accept the minutes with the revisions. Revision on page 5 to say World Health Organization instead of Health World Organization.
- Commissioner Sally VanSickle seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 11-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and make a recommendation to Council on the 2016 Sidewalk Master Plan /ADA Transition Plan Update (John Eastman, Project Manager).

- The Sidewalk Master Plan Draft is available on the website; <https://austintexas.gov/departments/pedestrian-program>
- Goals: encourage walking as a viable mode of transportation, improve pedestrian safety, and enable people to walk to and from transit stops.
- Transition Plan Requirements: Inventory of physical barriers and proposed methods to remove them; schedule for barrier removal; public official responsible for plan implementation; proposed funding source for improvements, and opportunity for disabled community input.

- Currently, the sidewalks are at a 20% functionally acceptable.
 - Existing sidewalks 10-year goal: 750+ miles of sidewalks improvements; stable and sufficient funding for sustainable repair and rehabilitation; \$15 million/year funding level consistent with ADA best practice; repair/rehab & pro-active vegetation obstruction removal/enforcement; and on-going sidewalk condition assessment program.
 - New sidewalks goal: address priority sidewalks within ¼ mile of schools, bus stops, and parks.
 - Chair Janee Briesemeister mentioned that the next item is to discuss the boards recommendations and the sidewalk plan is one of those items.
- B. Review and possible action on Transportation Working Group recommendations.
- 1. Sidewalk Infrastructure and Pedestrian Improvements**
 - Prioritize the removal of vegetation adjacent to sidewalk infrastructure to more rapidly improve sidewalk rating scores.
 - Prioritize places that older adults frequent, also referred to as pedestrian attractors, including health care facilities, clinics, nursing homes, senior living centers, congregate meal sites and other locations in the COA's Public Works Sidewalk Master Plan.
 - Support the proposed recommendations in the Sidewalk Master Plan for increased funding to the COA Public Works Department and other city departments to repair and maintain existing sidewalk infrastructure and to clarify the responsibilities of property owners.
 - Support the COA Public Works Department's recommendations in the Sidewalk Master Plan for building out the existing sidewalk network to meet growing demographic and population changes.
 - Public Works and other departments responsible for enforcement of property owner's rights and responsibilities should consider some method of appeasement for residents who do not have the physical or mental capabilities or whom are unable to afford maintaining vegetation around sidewalks at their residence.
 - 2. Street Signage, Signalization and Lighting**
 - Require that when replacing missing street sign/traffic signage, it is easily readable, well-lit at night, and addresses the access and functional needs of older adults.
 - Evaluate and install pedestrian-friendly crossing signals where it would be efficacious to do so.
 - Improve how crosswalks are indicated and clearly mark them for individuals who are aging whether walking or driving.
 - Improve street lighting in areas that are pedestrian attractors for older adults.
 - 3. Improved Traffic Conditions**
 - Promote Vision Zero initiatives and request ATD look at Improvements to traffic and road conditions that support older adults as drivers and pedestrians.
 - Continue to enforce driving conditions that contribute to poor traffic conditions including, "blocking the box."
 - 4. City Program Funding and Social Service Contracts**
 - Recommend additional funding to the COA PARD's Senior Transportation program to expand capacity with additional vehicles, drivers and the ability to operate across a larger and diverse service area.

- Remove barriers to social service contracts to permit agencies providing transportation services to older adults to better access social service city funded contracts.
 - Direct city departments (including PARD, Transportation and Social Services) to work together to Identify gaps in existing transportation services for Seniors and recommend solutions.
 - Consider innovative solutions for expanding transportation options for seniors, including public-private partnerships, support of volunteer services, and expansion of ride sharing services that are safe and appropriate for seniors.
 - Commissioner Sally Van Sickle made a motion to accept the recommendations with the revisions to the last 2 bullets on #4.
 - Commissioner Martin Kareithi seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed 11-0.
- C. Imagine Austin presentation (Matt Dugan, Planning and Zoning Department).
- Presentation moved to next month's meeting.
- D. Discussion and possible action on Austin's Age Friendly City (Commissioner Janee Briesemeister).
- Commissioner Janee Briesemeister has stepped out of the lead role since she is now Chair of the board. Commissioner Sally VanSickle is now the lead.
 - Board reviewed the 8 domain posters
 1. Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
 2. Transportation
 3. Housing
 4. Social Participation
 5. Respect & Social Inclusion
 6. Community Support & Health Services
 7. Civic Participation & Employment
 8. Communication & Information
 - Chair Janee Briesemeister suggested we take the information to the board; possible special called meeting. Staff Liaison Edna Staniszewski to send out a doodle poll and book a room for that.
 - Commissioner Erica Garcia-Pittman made a motioned for the special called meeting.
 - Commissioner Sally VanSickle seconded the motion
 - Motion passed 11-0.
- E. Action on Request from Asian American Quality of Life Commission for members of the Age Friendly City Working Group to brief their commission on May 17, 2016.
- Chair Janee Briesemeister made a motion to present to the Asian American Quality of Life Commission information about the Age Friendly City Plan.
 - Vice-Chair Peter Varteressian seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed 11-0.

- Commissioner Fred Lugo would like the board to consider presenting the information to Travis County as well.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item.

- Updated information is included in the packet. Internal review due by July 31, 2016.

B. Updates from Working Groups.

- i. Transportation (Commissioners: Kareithi, Lauck, Scott, Gray, Briesemeister; and Mary Teeters)
 - a. Items discussed in item #3B.
- 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. Item discussed in item #3D.
- iii. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee (Commissioner Janee Briesemeister)
 - a. The next meeting is scheduled for May 24th, 2016.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Annual Internal Review due by July 31, 2016.
- Presentation on the Equity Office for June's meeting.
- Capital Metro on Para-transit.
- 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 11-0.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.