



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
(June 8, 2016)**

The Commission on Seniors convened in a regular meeting at Boards and Commissions, First Floor, Rm 1101, 301 W. Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair, Janee Briesemeister, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Edna Staniszewski, COA HHSD Laura Williamson, COA HHSD

The board introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 11 2016 MEETING.

- Commissioner Martin Kareithi made a motion to accept the minutes.
- Commissioner Peter Varteressian seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 13-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Hispanic Quality of Life (Commissioner Velasquez).

- i. Presenter not available. Item to be moved to another month.

B. Capital Metro Connections 2025 – A Transit Plan for the future (Sam Sargent)

- i. Sam Sargent unavailable his replacement is Lawrence Deeter, Project Manager at Capital Metro.
- ii. The service plan is updated every 5 years.
- iii. There are 5 categories
 - a. Data Collection & Review
 - b. Systems & Service Evaluation
 - c. Five Year Service Plan
 - d. Long Range Plan
 - e. Final Transit Plan
- iv. We are currently half way through; started in October of last year.

- v. What they have accomplished thus far:
 - a. Community Outreach in February and May
 - b. Market Analysis
 - c. Service Evaluation
- vi. Community Engagement
 - a. Have received approximately 5000 surveys
 - b. Thirteen (13) official public meetings
 - c. Community stakeholder committees that comprise of over 80 organizations
 - d. Thirty (30) Community meetings
- vii. What is the most needed per feedback?
 - a. More frequent services
 - b. Would ride more often if service was simpler and easier to understand
 - c. If MetroRapid had more stops, faster service and simpler fares
 - d. If there were more east/west service
- viii. For Seniors
 - a. The senior population shows a dramatic increase
 - b. The suburban senior populations is increasing faster than urban areas
- ix. There are three (3) Transit Market Targets:
 - a. Lifestyle
 - b. Commuter
 - c. Coverage
- x. There are six (6) Service Options:
 - a. Freeway/Exclusive Right of Way
 - b. Enhanced Arterial
 - c. Frequent Local
 - d. Supporting Local
 - e. Community Commuter Express

} Frequent Network
- xi. The “Take Transit Priority Survey” is still open. It is a simple four (4) questionnaire survey.
- xii. There are currently three (3) routes that are geared for Seniors 490, 491 and 492
 - a. Geared mostly for shopping, senior facilities, grocery stores, socializing
 - b. One route operates Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
 - c. Another route operates Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday
 - d. Between 9am-3pm
- xiii. Capital Metro expects more routes to open up due to extra funding received
- xiv. The study will tell us what are the challenges and drivers for seniors in utilizing metro
- xv. MetroAccess is not part of the network. Looking at buses and Metrorail at this time.

C. Imagine Austin presentation (Matt Dugan).

- i. Chapter One – The road map and the road ahead – shows the need for a comprehensive plan
- ii. Chapter Two – shows the demographic information
- iii. Chapter Three – a vision statement
- iv. Chapter Four – contains the policies in the plan
- v. Chapter Five - implementations and measuring success
- vi. Five (5) levels of implementations
 - a. Community Engagement
 - b. Regulatory Framework
 - c. Capital Investments
 - d. Organizational Alignment
 - e. Partnerships
- vii. Imagine Austin report to be presented to the Planning Commission in July then going to Council in September.
- viii. If the board would like to submit a recommendation to Imagine Austin before they submit to Council, if possible, by mid-July.

D. Annual Internal Review

- i. As per the City Clerk’s office, the date of the annual review has changed. The board was assigned to review the revised internal review and send feedback and revisions.
- ii. Final Annual internal review to be presented next month.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item

- i. Discussed in item 3D.

B. Updates from Working Groups

- i. Transportation
 - a. Commissioners Martin Kareithi presented the transportation recommendation to the Travis County Commissioners and in attendance was Commissioner Peter Varteressian and Commissioner Fred Lugo. Commissioner Fred Lugo was assigned to look into disaster relief and how to evacuate seniors during a situation like that.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- i. Item moved as per board’s approval
- ii. Glenn Scott – Discuss item 4Bii.
 - a. President for Austin Chapter of Texas Alliance for Retired Americans
 - b. The organization is interested in helping with the implementation process of the “Age Friendly City” plan.

- ii. Age Friendly City
 - a. In the packet that was passed out you'll find the following attachments:
 - The plan around 8 domains
 - The age-friendly Austin Action Plan: Executive Summary
 - The Age-Friendly Washington DC Executive Summary plan is included which we found helpful
 - b. AustinUp! wrote a great definition of what an age-friendly community is like:
 - Recognizing the wide range of capacities and resources among older people
 - Anticipate and respond flexibly to age-related needs and preferences
 - Respect older persons' decisions and lifestyle choices
 - Protect those who are most vulnerable; and
 - Promote older persons' inclusion in and contribution to all areas of community life
 - c. We had three (3) community engagement meetings to get feedback
 - d. Next steps is for the working group to gain approval from the Commission to move forward with this initial plan and take it to Council staff to get feedback and then present to Council members in the fall. Our goal is to get it to Council in September then final approval by November.
 - e. As per staff liaison, Laura Williamson, have the plan as a standing item and authorize the working group to revise and have it as an update to the commission.
 - Commissioner Peter Varteressian made a motion to move the plan forward with a recommendation to Council.
 - Commissioner Elaine Cohen second the motion
 - Motion passed 13-0.

 - Commissioner Martin Kareithi made a motion to recommend an amendment to Imagine Austin to include the policy goal that the City should consider Age Friendly policies and City planning and also create an Age Friendly action plan.
 - Commissioner Dan Pruett seconded the motion
 - Motion passed 13-0
 - f. Board would like a list of what other working groups are in place with other commissions to see if any of them working on similar projects so they can work together and plan ahead.
 - g. Chair Janee Briesemeister will update a work plan and list of goals and will have it sent out for everyone to review.

- iii. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee (Janee Briesemeister)
 - a. The committee did not meet due to a lack of quorum. There were some community events that took place. Commissioner Elaine Cohen attended the one at the Asian American Resource Center.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors
 - i. Due to time constraint; moved to next item.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- i. Finalize the Annual Internal Review in July’s meeting.
- ii. Ray Baray, Equity Office confirmed for July’s meeting.
- iii. Bonds package for discussion for July’s meeting. (inquire if we have a City staff member available)
- iv. Laura to distribute what was discussed in the meeting regarding bonds to the commission to review
- v. City of Austin Health and Human Services to present budget and what kind of services offered; staff to continue follow up
- vi. Request City Clerk’s office to have a training to refresh the Commissioners on ethics during elections for August’s meeting
- vii. Post community interest announcement for the San Antonio July 12-15 2016 Aging Conference.
- viii. Staff to include the listing of previous future agenda items on minutes so we don’t lose track of items discussed.
 - 1. Affordable Housing
 - 2. Texas Veterans Commission
 - 3. Hispanic Quality of Life
 - 4. Veteran’s Affair Office
 - 5. Google representative
 - 6. State Veterans Services
 - 7. Foundation Communities
 - 8. Austin Energy – Weatherization and home repair
 - 9. Home renovation for seniors

Commissioner Sally Van Sickle left the dais at 1:50pm.

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Martin Kareithi motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Jennifer Scott seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 12-0.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.