



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MINUTES**

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

The Commission on Seniors convened a regular meeting at the Senior Activity Center – Lamar, 2874 Shoal Crest Avenue, Austin, Texas 78705

Chair, Janee Briesemeister, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:11 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>Natalie Cagle</i>	<i>Martin Kareithi</i>	<i>Fred Lugo</i>	<i>Sally Van Sickle</i>

Board Members not in Attendance:

Thomas McDowell
Elaine Cohen

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Williamson, COA HHSD

The board introduced themselves.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- i. Teresa Ferguson – General Communication
 - a. Promoting community awareness of 55+ Job Fair organized by AustinUP as well as discussing the need for additional paid and volunteer positions that would be open to seniors

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

- Commissioner Fred Lugo made a motion to accept the minutes.
- Commissioner Sally Van Sickle seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. City of Austin Health and Human Services Department Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (John Miller, COA HHSD Financial Manager)Background and progress
 - Funding sources and uses

- Funding sources for HHSD in FY 2016-2017 include the General Fund (66%), grants (32%), and expense refunds (2%)
- Investments in programs including Social Services Contracts, Disease Prevention & Health Promotion, Community Services, Support Services, Environmental Health Services, Transfers & Other Requirements, and Health Equity and Community Relations
- Overview of FY 2016-17 Proposed Budget
 - Total budget of \$99.2 million, including \$65.7 million from the General Fund
 - \$4.4 million General Fund increase from previous year
 - Notable changes include
 - \$1.9 million for personnel-related charges
 - \$2.8 for Women’s and Children’s Shelter renovation and expansion
 - \$600,000 expansion of Permanent Supportive Housing program for homeless
 - Two Environmental Health Officers to help with expedited review process
 - Conversion of Vital Records temporary position to full time
- Existing Performance Gaps
 - Only 24.4% of homeless in shelters are enrolled in case management services
 - Results in disproportionately ending up in emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities
 - Case management allows social workers to address underlying issues
 - Not enough providers on staff to meet the need
 - Social Service Contracts management tool
 - Upgrade to electronic contract management system needed to efficiently and effectively manage the City’s social services investment portfolio
- Horizon Issues
 - Health Equity lacks capability to adequately conduct public health education and promotion activities for Latino and Asian American populations consistent with the African American Quality of Life programs
 - Chronic Disease Epidemic – Chronic disease accounts for three out of four deaths in Austin
 - Effective strategies to combat this issue requires holistic approach to influence healthy behaviors across sectors where people work, play, learn, live, and access social services
 - Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capabilities
 - HHSD mobilizes disaster response teams to meet challenges

- a. Currently state and federal grant funded; HHSD lacks critical capacity to sustain health emergency response and planning capabilities locally
 - Professional Development
 - Accreditation process revealed need for staff development for internal capacity and research expertise, documentation of agreements and documentation in general
 - a. Maintaining accreditation requires demonstrated improvement in these areas
 - Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Initial Funding Requests
 - Fund existing \$500,000 need for existing social service contracts
 - Increase capacity at STD clinic by 2,000 visits annually
 - One new FTE to implement Observed Preventive Therapy at the TB Clinic
 - Converting 1 temporary position to permanent to maintain 6 days of service
 - Increase capacity of the Health Equity/Quality of Life program by adding 2nd outreach team of 4 staff
 - Add 3 positions to administer department purchasing functions to be transferred from Corporate Purchasing
 - Funding for lease space to house additional programs and FTEs
 - Add nurse to the Immunizations Program for Vaccine for Children monitoring
 - Add Accounting position to sustain compliance with state requirement for 30 day payment deadline
 - Presentation opened for questions
 - Discussion regarding whether the Health and Human Services Department will be renamed, which is a possibility being considered
 - If the name does change, it is not expected to impact the functions or services provided by the department
 - Discussion regarding reduction in grant funds available to the department
 - Federal grants have end dates and are often used to spur local and state governments to begin a new program, with the expectation that it will eventually be funded by the applicable governing body
- B. Recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 City of Austin budget
- Spreadsheet distributed to Commissioners with 21 items for funding consideration taken from the Age Friendly Action Plan
 - Commissioners discussed adding items from the Health and Human Services presentation given for item 3A
 - Focus on \$500,000 shortfall for social service contracts and additional equity outreach team
 - Both items will result in more services for seniors

- Vice Chair Varteressian motioned to recommend that Council fund projects including the addition of \$500,000 to address the shortfall for existing social services contracts and the Health Equity Outreach Team staff, as well as any necessary infrastructure and support necessary to ensure the success of the aforementioned items
 - Commissioner Van Sickle seconded the motion
 - Motion passed 9-0-1 with Commissioner Pruett abstaining
 - Discussion returns to initial distributed spreadsheet with recommendations originating from the Age Friendly Community Action Plan
 - Commissioner Van Sickle motions that all 21 items included in the spreadsheet from the Age Friendly Community Action Plan be recommended to Council for funding
 - Commissioner Gray seconds the motion
 - Item passes 8-0-2 with Commissioner Pruett and Commissioner Kareithi abstaining
- C. Update regarding interviews for the City of Austin’s Chief Equity Officer position
- An opportunity has been extended to have a representative from the Commission on Seniors participate in an all-day interview process for the Chief Equity Officer position
 - Chair Briesemeister thanked those interested in serving, and suggested Vice Chair Varteressian because of his professional background
 - Commissioner Lauck motions to nominate Vice Chair Varteressian to represent the Commission on Seniors on the interview panel for the Chief Equity Officer
 - Commissioner Pruett seconded the motion
 - Motion passes 10-0-0
- D. Discussion regarding Work Group assignments
- Chair Briesemeister recommends a motion to allow the Chair to name the members of working groups pursuant to the requests made by Commissioners, to name a Chair for each working group and to allow the Chairs of the working group to name additional working group members from the community
 - Discussion regarding whether Chairs should be appointed by Chair Briesemeister or by each working group as well as duties of working group Chairs
 - Van Sickle made the motion to allow the Chair to name the members of working groups pursuant to the requests made by Commissioners, to name a Chair for each working group and to allow the Chairs of the working group to name additional working group members from the community
 - Commissioner Gray seconded the motion

- Motion passes 10-0-0

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item

B. Updates from Working Groups

i. Transportation

a. No updates

ii. Age Friendly City

a. Commissioner Van Sickle discussed a meeting in July and the next steps including the Planning Commission

- Discussion regarding a gathering on September 13th with original members of the Mayors Task Force on Aging to provide them update about the Commission’s work including the Age Friendly Community Action Plan to get their feedback

b. Planning Commission considering the Age Friendly Community Action Plan as 1 of 5 amendments to Imagine Austin

- Decision postponed to August 23rd Planning Commission meeting to gather more information on the other proposed amendments

iii. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee (Janee Briesemeister)

a. Joint Inclusion Committee voted to support the Age Friendly Community Action Plan

- Recent outreach to all Quality of Life Commissions to get support from them as well

b. Chair Briesemeister suggests motion that for the purposes of seeking support and passage of the Age Friendly Action Plan and Age Friendly Amendments to Imagine Austin, the Commission agrees to allow the Chair and/or Vice Chair to respond to inquiries and to represent the Commission on Seniors before City boards or commissions and the Council, or to request another Commissioner to represent the Commission

- Commissioner Gray motioned that for the purposes of seeking support and passage of the Age Friendly Action Plan and Age Friendly Amendments to Imagine Austin, the Commission agrees to allow the Chair and/or Vice Chair to respond to inquiries and to represent the Commission on Seniors before City boards or commissions and the Council, or to request another Commissioner to represent the Commission
- Commissioner Cagle seconded the motion
- Motion passes 10-0-0

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors

- i. Discussion regarding location for September off-site meeting, Commissioners agree to Dottie Jordan Recreation Center which is a City facility with senior activities

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- i. Request City Clerk's office to have a training to refresh the Commissioners on ethics for the September meeting
- ii. Potentially schedule a housing briefing for September depending on the availability of speakers
- iii. Staff to include the listing of previous future agenda items on minutes to retain items discussed.
 1. Affordable Housing
 2. Texas Veterans Commission
 3. Hispanic Quality of Life
 4. Veteran's Affairs Office
 5. Google representative
 6. State Veterans Services
 7. Foundation Communities
 8. Austin Energy – Weatherization and home repair
 9. Home renovation for seniors
 10. Housing and resources for senior musicians and artists

ADJOURNMENT

- Vice Chair Varteressian motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Gray seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.