



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING
MINUTES**

REGULAR

(December 14, 2016)

The Commission on Seniors convened a regular meeting at City Hall in the Boards and Commissions Room – 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Chair, Janee Briesemeister, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:06p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

<i>Janee Briesemeister, Chair</i>	<i>Elaine Cohen</i>	<i>David Gray</i>	<i>Dan Pruett</i>
<i>Peter Varteressian, Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Emily De Maria Nicola</i>	<i>Joyce Lauck</i>	<i>Sally Van Sickle</i>
<i>Natalie Cagle</i>	<i>Erica Garcia-Pittman</i>	<i>Fred Lugo</i>	

Board Members not in Attendance:

*Patricia Bordie
Thomas
McDowell
Martin Kareithi*

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Williamson, COA HHSD

The board introduced themselves.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- i. No speakers

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 9, 2016 MEETING.

- Commissioner Pruett made a motion to accept the minutes.
- Vice Chair Varteressian seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0 with Commissioner Lugo off the dais.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Briefing and discussion regarding the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, Project Connect, and the Multimodal Community Advisory Committee (Liane Miller, Project Coordinator, Austin Transportation Department)

- New Strategic Mobility Plan necessary
 - Imagine Austin Transportation Vision Statement: Austin is Mobile and Interconnected
 - Austin should be accessible

- Austin should have options that are efficient, reliable, and cost effective that meet diverse needs and capabilities
- Public and private sectors should work together to improve air quality and reduce congestion
- Need to support public transit and a variety of transportation choices
- Integrated transportation system should be well-maintained and minimize negative impacts on the environment
- Promote safe bicycle and pedestrian access and connectivity throughout Austin
- Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) will update Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan (AMATP), which was adopted in 1995 and does not currently reflect the vision of Imagine Austin
 - ASMP:
 - Covers 10+ year timeframe
 - Updates and defines City’s transportation needs, and enables participation in funding opportunities
 - Will pull mobility programs and plans into an integrated approach to plan for all transportation modes
 - Will provide comprehensive vision and the strategies, programs, projects, and metrics needed to create a safe and efficient 21st century transportation network
 - Three overarching travel needs the ASMP will address:
 - Through and around
 - In and out of the core
 - Within activity centers and neighborhoods
 - Overlapping relationship with Code Next and Funding Strategies
 - Components of the Strategic Mobility Plan:
 - Austin’s mobility story
 - Transportation scenario modeling
 - Implementation strategy
 - Community priorities and vision
 - Street network table
 - Outcomes
 - Programs, projects, policies and metrics
 - Public engagement efforts include the project website, open houses & symposiums, mobile outreach, town hall meetings, quality of life initiatives, multimodal community advisory committee, community work sessions
 - Integrated planning approach with Connections 2025 and Project Connect
 - Project Connect is a Central Texas regionally adopted high capacity transit plan (2012), that will be refined and updated soon
 - Will select new transit solutions for access into, out of, and within central Austin
 - Close coordination between Project Connect (PC) and the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP) including:
 - Establishing Multimodal Community Advisory Committee
 - PC-ASMP Kick-off Workshop
 - PC=ASMP Preferred Scenario Workshop

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- Discussion regarding frequency of Multimodal Community Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly and includes 30-40 members
 - Questions regarding metrics and determinations of key activity centers
 - Concerns about equity and low-income access
 - Imagine Austin has a growth concept center with activity centers at different levels including existing and future locations all over the City of Austin
 - Questions regarding involvement of Equity Office regarding access points for people with limited income who may need to access state and federal social service and health resources through public transit
 - Speaker committed to relaying feedback
 - Citizen Communication: John Woodley asked if accessibility was a consideration during the process
 - The speaker confirmed that it was an integral part of the process
- B. Discussion regarding developing recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 City of Austin budget
- Chair suggested that it could be better to prioritize requests rather than have a long list of budget items recommended, and that work groups could be used to develop items for consideration
 - Tentative February joint meeting with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities could be an opportunity to coordinate
 - Ideal to try to have initial recommendations in April
 - Recent meeting with Chair, Vice Chair, and Commissioner Van Sickle with Assistant City Manager Bert Lumbreras and Department Directors from Austin Public Health, Austin Public Libraries, and Austin Parks and Recreation included some discussion regarding unmet needs
 - Could identify departments to present to Commission and conduct separate meetings
 - Departments could provide list of previous unmet needs from previous years
 - Chair and Vice Chair will work together to develop proposed timeline and process for Commissioners to discuss at January meeting
- C. Update regarding the City of Austin Equity Visioning Session (Chair Janee Briesemeister)
- Documents from meeting distributed to Commissioners
 - Chief Equity Officer outlined vision and goals for building framework for equity
 - Desire to train City staff regarding shared vision for equity and to operationalize equity
 - Expressed interest in Age Friendly Action Plan & interest in including age and socioeconomic status and disabilities in the equity vision
 - Equity tool could be avenue for implementing some recommendations from the plan
 - Overlapping goals, such as training staff
 - Equity Office staff looking through Imagine Austin and CodeNEXT to identify

equity issues

- Equity Action Team will help develop equity tool, and the Commission on Seniors is invited to select a member to participate
 - Discussion regarding appointing a member, Commissioner Emily De Maria Nicola volunteered and was selected to represent the Commission

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item.

B. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item

i. Transportation

a. No updates

ii. Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

a. First meeting was conducted and included staff lead from Wildflower Terrace, a local senior housing project

b. Conversation focused on RBJ building and recent efforts to add additional units

- Health facilities attached are in poor condition, would like to help figure out ways to improve conditions and services for seniors

iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion

a. Goal of strengthening activities and senior assistance

b. Identifying funding sources at state level that could impact local services, will be discussed further at future meeting

c. Looking into development of asset map

iv. Civic Participation and Employment; Communication and Information

a. Handout distributed

b. Participation from community members at recent meeting; discussion about issues facing the LGBTQ aging community

c. Working toward tightening goals

d. Setting up Chair meeting to prioritize how to implement plan and develop budget recommendations

v. Community Health Services

a. Scheduling meeting

vi. Age Friendly City

a. Imagine Austin Speaker Series – Commissioner Garcia-Pittman spoke on a panel along with Council Member Kitchen and Dr. Huang from Austin Public Health

b. Discussion regarding meeting with Assistant City Manager Lumbreras, Parks and Recreation, Austin Public Health, and Austin Public Libraries

- Very positive meeting, hoping for collaborative efforts

- May be opportunities to expand existing programs within departments or reinstate previous programs for seniors that were discontinued

C. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee (Janee Briesemeister)

i. Next meeting scheduled for January 24

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

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A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors

- Update regarding Austin Public Health name change for the department
- ii. Update regarding Resolution No. 20161103-049 regarding the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan
 - Distribution of Council resolution passed
 - Brief discussion regarding City Staff's availability as a resource as the Commission on Seniors continues to make budgetary and policy recommendations for implementing the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan

B. Point of personal privilege for Commissioner Cohen

- i. Cohen announced December would be her last meeting, and that she has had a focus on issues related to immigration justice
 - In wake of election results, immigrant community needs increased support and she will focus her efforts in this area with the Austin Sanctuary Network
- ii. Spoke of the honor of serving on the Commission on Seniors and thanked her colleagues

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- i. Regulations and policies regarding access to drive-through facilities
- ii. Discussion regarding process for developing budget recommendations as a standing item moving forward
- iii. Request presentations from Austin Public Health, Austin Public Libraries, and Austin Parks and Recreation regarding services for seniors and unmet needs for upcoming meetings
- iv. 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. Veterans 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
 - 11. Dell Medical School

ADJOURNMENT

- Vice Chair Varteressian motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner De Maria Nicola seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0 with Commissioner Pruett off the dais
- Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.