

**JOINT MEETING (COMMISSION ON SENIORS AND MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES)**

(February 10, 2017)



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS AND MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**JOINT MEETING MINUTES**

(February 10, 2017)

The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and the Commission on Seniors convened in a joint meeting at Boards and Commissions, First floor in room 1101, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair, Tanya Winters called the Board Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

**COMMISSION ON SENIORS**

*Jane Briesemeister, Chair*      *Natalie Cagle*      *Martin Kareithi*      *Dan Pruett*  
*Peter Varteressian, Vice-Chair*      *Erica Garcia-Pittman*      *Emily De Maria Nicola*      *Sally Van Sickle*

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

*Patricia Bordie*  
*David Gray*  
*Fred Lugo*  
*Thomas McDowell*

**MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

*Tanya Winters, Vice Chair*      *Diane Kearns-Osterweil*      *Robin Orłowski*  
*Chris Masey*      *Danny Saenz*  
*Marshall Mitchell*      *Deborah Trejo*

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

*Brian Owens, Chair*  
*Kevin Jackson*

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

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A. Approval of the MCPD November 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes and The Commission on Seniors February 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes.

- i. Commissioner Orłowski mentioned the policy report listed under minutes should be moved to announcements
- ii. Commissioner Kevin Jackson motioned to pass the minutes with the edit suggested by Commissioner Orłowski
- iii. Commissioner Trejo seconded the motion
- iv. Minutes were approved as amended on a 7-0 vote

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Cathy Cranston with ADAPT of Texas announced a rally and legislative briefing to be held at the Capitol on March 8th

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

A. No old business.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Briefing and discussion regarding the Connections 2025 Draft Transit Plan (Lawrence Deeter, Senior Planner, Capital Metro)

- Connections 2025 included a yearlong study that:
  - Engaged the public
  - Completed market analysis
  - Completed service evaluation
  - Developed plan framework and guiding principles
  - Presented draft plan
  - Revised the plan
- Feedback on plan:
  - Frequency has been the highest priority based on Connections 2025 outreach
  - Other key priorities include coverage, reliability, and speed
- Plan design principles:
  - Easy to understand network
  - Stronger frequent network
  - Match service to markets
  - Concentrate on key customer experience attributes
  - Complement emerging mobility initiatives
  - Grow ridership and productivity

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- Lay the groundwork for the future
  - Coordinate land use, housing, infrastructure
- Service options include a mobility toolbox:
  - Rapid transit
  - MetroRapid
  - Frequent Local
  - Local
  - Community
  - Express
- Current proposal:
  - Focuses on growing ridership and improving service performance
  - Expands frequent network
    - 4 MetroRapid Routes
    - 13 frequent local routes
    - Frequent service on core MetroRail route
  - Minimizes impact on existing riders
    - 98.7% of existing riders within ¼ mile of service
  - Responds to original plan concerns
- Frequent network
  - More frequent network corridors in the service area
  - Frequent corridors form key network spines
  - Less route duplication – savings reinvested into creating more frequent service
- Frequent network benefits
  - Proposed frequent network can be accessed by 4 out of 5 current riders
  - Over ½ of all service-area residents and employees
  - Investment in 17 routes will make a major impact on 82% of today's riders
- Draft plan summary
  - Creates more useful, convenient mobility options for community
  - An additional 200,000 people will have access to frequent transit
  - Applies a proven recipe for success
- ADA impacts
  - Capital Metro policy: Provide complimentary paratransit service with ¾ mile of fixed route
  - Restructuring of fixed routes will impact MetroAccess service area
  - Overall impacts will be determined after board work session on February 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Capital Metro policy: MetroAccess provides a 90-day transition period for clients losing access to service

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- Next Steps:
    - February 17<sup>th</sup> – Board of Directors Work Session
    - February 27<sup>th</sup> – Anticipated Board Approval
  - Information about plan available at [www.connections2025.org](http://www.connections2025.org)
  - Commissioner discussion on the presentation:
    - Comments regarding the difficulties with the process when using transfer options and discussion about how to have more direct routes
    - Comments regarding need to find savings where possible to help offset large financial need for additional infrastructure
    - Question regarding solutions for impact of change to route 19
      - Proposed routes that will generate ridership in associated areas including Far West, Balcones, and 38<sup>th</sup> Street
        - Could include increased frequency
    - Proposed mobility innovation zones part of the proposed plan
      - If passed, zones would be developed with community
    - Concerns about potential impact to MetroAccess, and question regarding anticipated scale of change
      - Approximately 66 trips a day would be impacted
  - Citizen Communication: John Woodley would like for Capital Metro and the City of Austin to pay for moving expenses for people with disabilities if the rules related to distance from routes change
- B. Discussion regarding developing recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 City of Austin budget
- No discussion
- C. Commission on Senior Working Group Reports and updates:
- i. Commission Work Plan
    - Chair provided context for approach to developing plan including discussion of the Age Friendly Plan being utilized as a basis for the working group structure
      - Looking for areas of opportunity for collaboration with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

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## ii. Transportation

- Discussion regarding March 4<sup>th</sup> transportation community meeting at the Bob Bullock Museum
- Commissioner Kareithi serves as Chair of the Transportation Working Group and will reach out to members of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities to gauge interest in participation
  - Looking to begin broader discussion and look at previous recommendations approved by Council

## iii. Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

- Vice Chair Varteressian discussed the focus on affordable housing in place and intergenerational living opportunities for folks as they age
- Information gathering mode currently
  - Talking with staff and developers of individual projects to learn and provide input
- Studying ADA audit and Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Planning process to identify opportunities for recommendations

## iv. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion

- Commissioner Garcia-Pittman distributed working document of the working group
  - Focus on Domain 4 in the Age Friendly Plan related to Social Participation
    - Looking to identify resources to build map for members of the community
  - Domain 5 relates to respect and social inclusion
    - Working group looking to engage and empower older adults
  - Group meets monthly and welcomes any members of the MCPD that would be interested in participating

## v. Civic Participation and Employment; Communication and Information

- Still in fact finding stage, and welcome participation from any members of the MCPD

## vi. Community Health Services

- Commissioner Pruett spoke about short and long term issues
- Gave example of looking at how customer service for seniors is handled by department, and potential opportunities to improve training for City employees
  - Looking for low-hanging fruit to make impact for seniors
- Long term efforts to look at working with St. David's Foundation to consider mobile dental clinic for seniors
- Working group is trying to meet on a monthly basis

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## vii. Age Friendly City

- Meeting approximately every two months
- Coordinating with working groups for things that need to be tracked to ensure success of the plan
- General comments regarding plan and working groups:
  - Interest from MCPD to have disability issues added into each working group even if members are not able to attend
    - Everyone has a busy schedule, and that level of coordination could help with efforts
    - Discussion regarding previous debate about combining both Commissions, and then keeping separate to ensure that seniors and the disabled community have dedicated advocates
  - Discussion regarding whether joint meetings between Committees is still beneficial to continue
    - Majority of members expressed interest in continuing joint meetings
    - Acknowledgement of ordinance requirement of joint meetings annually
      - Would require Council action to remove this requirement
  - Discussion of sharing minutes of meetings between each Committee as well as Working Group documents to help encourage collaboration between the Commission on Seniors and the MCPD

## D. Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities: Update on MCPD Committees' meeting schedule, committee appointments, and related committees' activities.

- Access and Public Policy
  - Commissioner Saenz spoke to previous presentation from ADAPT Texas regarding disability rights
    - Discussion regarding Medicaid and concerns about the Affordable Care Act
      - Community First Option relates to match which may discontinue if the Affordable Care Act is discontinued
- Awards and Outreach Committee
  - No new reports
- Education and Employment
  - No new reports

## 5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

### A. Mayors Committee for People with Disabilities: Lee H Nguyen or David Ondich ADA Office Report

- Budget \$6,105, expended later in the year through awards and outreach event
- ADA office working on implementation report regarding ADA issues across the City

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- Discussion regarding Commissioner Pruett's comments regarding wanting City employees to be trained to work with people with disabilities and seniors
  - Offer to collaborate as City has an office specific to delivering these trainings
- B. Commission on Seniors: Laura Williamson, Staff Report
  - No updates
- C. Calendar Items for Mayors Committee for People with Disabilities or Commission on Seniors

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Consider recommendation regarding the Capital Metro Connections 2025 that Capital Metro continue paratransit services for current riders and consider options for all ages and abilities
  - Both the Commission on Seniors and the MCPD expressed interest in including this on the agenda
  - Discussion regarding innovation zones as a way to use resources the community has in combination with other public or private entities
    - Partnerships driven from bottom up and top down

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Commissioner Varteressian motions to adjourn at 6:54pm
- Commissioner Garcia-Pittman seconds
- Motion to adjourn passes 8-0