



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING
MINUTES**

REGULAR

(November 9, 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 12:00

p.m. Board Members in Attendance:

<i>Janee Briesemeister, Chair</i>	<i>Emily De Maria Nicola</i>	<i>Fred Lugo</i>
<i>Peter Varteressian, Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Erica Garcia-Pittman</i>	<i>Sally Van Sickle</i>
<i>Patricia Bordie</i>	<i>David Gray</i>	
<i>Elaine Cohen</i>	<i>Martin Kareithi</i>	
<i>Natalie Cagle</i>		

Board Members not in Attendance:

*Joyce Lauck
Thomas McDowell
Dan Pruett*

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Williamson, COA HHSD

The board introduced themselves.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- i. John Woodley
 - a. Drive through facilities without walk-in service should provide services for pedestrians and cyclists
 - b. Would like for the Commission on Seniors to recommend ways to improve access for seniors to services any time, not just when walk-in services are open

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 10, 2016 MEETING.

- Vice Chair Varteressian made a motion to accept the minutes.
- Commissioner Gray seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 11-0

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Briefing and discussion regarding the draft Austin Housing Plan (Jonathan Tomko, Senior Planner, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development)
 - Plan is still in draft form, and some numbers may change from presentation based

on public input

- Plan explores funding mechanisms, potential regulations, and other creative approaches the City of Austin and the community should utilize to achieve housing goals
- Discussion of timeline beginning with introduction of plan in Fall 2015, multiple layers of community engagement and public presentations, and the potential adoption of the Housing Plan as an amendment to Imagine Austin in the Winter of 2016/17
- Initial outreach included over 11,000 website views, 1,572 survey responses, 314 meeting attendees, 22 community meetings, 8 board and commission presentations, 6 email blasts, 5 media stories, and 1 fourth-grade class presentation
 - Public input included concerns about affordability, property tax increases, and need for more affordable housing including near public transit
 - Input addressed need to alter zoning regulations to allow tiny houses, accessory dwelling units, and smaller housing units, as well as more emphasis needed on utilizing land trusts as an affordable housing tool
- Great need for deeply affordable rental units for renters earning less than \$25K per year
- Challenges with geographically limited housing opportunities
- Rising housing costs causing long-term residents to seek affordable housing elsewhere
- Need for affordable housing near transit and services to enable seniors to age in place, provide choices for persons with disabilities, and to mitigate the financial impact of rising transportation costs
- Wages have remained flat while home prices and rents are rising quickly
- Land Development Code impacts how much land is available for attached units
- Future housing demand will be impacted by 400,000 additional people expected in Austin by 2045
 - Need 200,000 additional units over next thirty years to meet demand
 - Increase in millennials, boomers, and single people
 - Increased demand for smaller housing options
- Cost of closing Austin's affordable housing gap today is about \$6.48 billion
- Cost of closing Austin's affordable housing gap expected by 2025 is \$11.18 billion
- Risks of losing Austin residents, becoming more economically segregated, increased traffic congestion as people are forced to move out of the city, and becoming a city that is only affordable to the rich
- Proposed 10 year housing goals
 - 75,000 units in 10 years
 - 35,000 affordable units (80% MFI and below) and 40,000 market rate units
- Housing Plan Key Policies and Programs
 - Prevent households from
- John Woodley signed up as a speaker
 - Spoke regarding comparing affordable and low-income housing
 - Housing options seemed to be geared toward families rather than individuals
- Discussion regarding whether home repair programs are included in the plan, and overall timeline for input

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- Motion by Vice Chair Varteressian to recommend that the Austin Housing Plan reference Domain 3 recommendations from the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan, and specifically highlight suggestion to increase outreach and resources for home repair, and have a percent of housing funds set aside for homes for seniors based on the number of seniors in the community
 - Motion seconded by Commissioner Gray
 - Motion passes 11-0
- B. Discussion regarding a recommendation from the Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion Working Group regarding identification of programs supporting recreation, leisure, and educational activities that serve older adults
- Discussion regarding draft recommendation letter; desire expressed to broaden approach
 - Debate regarding whether request should be directed to individual departments or City Manager's office, and whether it should be a letter of request or formal recommendation
 - Motion to draft letter that follows proposed resolution with language that requests a meeting and that information regarding programs and funding for seniors be gathered by Commissioner Lugo
 - Motion seconded by Commissioner De Maria Nicola
 - Motion passes 10-0-1 with Commissioner Gray off the dais
- C. Potential adoption of the 2017 calendar for standing Commission on Seniors meetings
- Discussion regarding the upcoming joint meeting with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
 - Dates still pending
 - Motion to pass proposed calendar by Commissioner Gray
 - Motion seconded by Commissioner Van Sickle
 - Motion passes 11-0

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item.

B. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item

i. Transportation

- a. Working group are working on scheduling a meeting
- b. Paratransit is a complementary ADA fixed rate service for people with disabilities that cannot utilize existing fixed-route services, and operates w/in $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of where fixed routes go

ii. Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

- a. Committee had outside participation and need to focus on getting educated regarding all issues related to housing and outdoor spaces

iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion

- a. Additional community members engaged
- b. Seeking clarification regarding neighborhood programs available
- c. Discussion regarding interagency committee including Parks and Recreation, Health and Human Services, Libraries, faith entities, and nonprofits
- d. Plan to have discussion at next meeting regarding what resource asset map should look like

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- iv. Civic Participation and Employment; Communication and Information
 - a. Meeting planned for November 18
 - v. Community Health Services
 - a. Handout from Dan Pruett distributed to Commissioners
 - b. Outside participation including St. David's Foundation regarding potential mobile dental services for seniors
 - c. Discussion regarding Domain 8, goals 3 & 4
 - Abuse/neglect/fraud protection
 - Potential partnerships w/ banks for educational efforts
 - Training City of Austin workers who interact with seniors to be more prepared regarding managing phone calls and questions from seniors, may reach out to the City's Human Resources Department for services
 - Council Member Kitchen assisting in getting information from 3-1-1
 - vi. Age Friendly City
 - a. Council approved Plan and incorporated into Imagine Austin
 - Council Member Kitchen sponsored, cosponsored by Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, and Council Members Casar and Pool
 - b. Would like to have joint meeting with chairs to look at potential opportunities
- C. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee (Janee Briesemeister)
- i. Met twice including one special-called meeting
 - ii. Presentation regarding approach to addressing health inequities
 - a. Speaker offered to come to Commission on Seniors to present
 - b. Second meeting included presentation from new Equity Officer, who is seeking input on the Equity Tool
 - c. Included Imagine Austin & CodeNEXT Discussion
 - Specifically want to hear from regular Austinites that will be impacted, not just land use experts

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors
 - i. No discussion items

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- i. Discussion item regarding the process for making recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 City of Austin budget
- ii. 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 Affair Office
 - 5. Google representative
 - 6. State Veterans Services
 - 7. Foundation Communities
 - 8. Austin Energy – Weatherization and home repair

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9. Home renovation for seniors
10. Housing and resources for senior musicians and artists
11. Dell Medical School

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm