



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR
(May 10, 2017)**

The Commission on Seniors convened a regular meeting at City Hall in Room 1029 – 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

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

Board Members in Attendance:

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| <i>Janee Briesemeister, Chair</i> | <i>Natalie Cagle</i> | <i>Patricia Bordie</i> | |
| <i>Karen Grampp</i> | <i>Erica Garcia-Pittman</i> | <i>Fred Lugo</i> | <i>Sally Van Sickle</i> |
| <i>Jacqueline Angel</i> | <i>Billy Jackson</i> | <i>Emily De Maria Nicola</i> | |

Board Members not in Attendance:

- Peter Varteressian, Vice-Chair*
- Martin Kareithi*

Staff in Attendance:

- Edna Staniszewski, Austin Public Health
- Michelle Friedman, Austin Public Health

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- i. Adam Hauser, recently appointed President and CEO, Meals on Wheels and More of Central Texas as of April 3, 2017. Mr. Hauser will be joining the Commission on Seniors at the June 2017 Regular Meeting as Mayor Adler’s appointee.
- ii. Ani Colt is writing report for CalAtlantic Homebuilder, fourth largest homebuilder in the United States regarding *Aging in Place*. The report will include perspectives from seniors who have lived and experienced Aging in Place. Chair Briesemeister invited Ms. Colt to attend the Housing and Outdoor Spaces working group.
- iii. Teresa Ferguson, representing AustinUP, discussed the first annual ATX Aging and Innovations Summit. The Summit took place at Dell Medical School, which was a co-sponsor. Approximately 130 individuals attended and survey results indicated that it was very successful. Next year’s summit will include working groups with local service providers as well as additional discussion of multi-generational efforts in the community.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COMMISSION ON SENIORS
APRIL 12, 2017 MEETING**

- Commissioner Grampp identified a correction in item 6D to change “Poster” to “Foster”

- Commissioner Garcia-Pittman motioned to pass meeting minutes for approval with the change proposed by Commissioner Grampp
- Commissioner Cagle seconded the motion
- Motion passed 10-0

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation and discussion on the New Strategic Plan of St. David’s Foundation (Andrew Levack, Senior Program Officer, St. David’s Foundation)

- a. St. David’s Foundation receives its funds through its equity share in HCA. In 2016, SDF distributed \$75 million to the 5 county area.
- b. Strategic plan has 6 focus areas in 3 buckets: Healthiest Care, Healthiest Places and Healthiest People.
 - i. Aging in Place strategy falls in the Healthiest People bucket.
 1. Populations: Low-income seniors; seniors just above the Medicaid threshold; seniors living in low-resource rural areas; family caregivers.
 2. Goal: Innovative approaches and services need to be scaled up to allow an aging person to live in one’s own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level (St. David’s presentation).
 3. Strategies to serve these populations:
 - a. Ensure provision of core services for highly-vulnerable, home-bound seniors including nutrition, transportation, home repair, in-home care services, fall prevention and case management/system navigation.
 - b. Improve provision of resources and education for caregivers of seniors. “Caregiver University” is online, provides single-issue focused opportunities and peer support.
 - c. Increase access to adult day health centers for vulnerable seniors. Currently there are 2 day centers in the Austin metropolitan area, in Central Austin and Williamson County. There remains a huge need for more.
 - d. Reduce social isolation of seniors through the establishment of intergenerational programming and promotion of volunteerism among seniors. Daycare for children and youth development co-located with senior centers, for example.
 - e. Increase access to palliative care for seniors and support families and communities in preparing for end of life issue.
- c. Grant Award Timing
 - i. Fall Grant Cycle for 2017 will occur as usual with current grantees submitting new applications in alignment with 1 or more of the 5 Aging in Place objectives.
 - ii. Stakeholder meetings and community-based events to discuss palliative care and end of life issues will begin in 2017 and continue in 2018.

- iii. Funding for new issues to the Foundation will be rolled out in 2018 and 2019.
- iv. St. David's Foundation may increase opportunities for innovation and ideas that are unique to Austin by opening up application process not to be by-invitation only.
- d. Questions and Discussion
 - i. Commissioner Lugo: The conversation needs to extend beyond healthy people. Hopefully within the framework of all its investments, St. David's Foundation will break silos, so that efforts will work in synchronicity with each other. Mr. Levack agreed, commenting that all issues are co-related. For example, the built environment and access to care, maximizing coverage is relevant for all seniors.
 - ii. Commissioner Van Sickle: How can we create a healthcare system that creates comprehensive coordinated care so that seniors of all income levels are not "churned" through healthcare system? Mr. Levack agreed this is a complex issue. One program called PACE achieves this, however Texas State Legislature is not supportive of funding this. There are models in existence that ensure seniors are served in coordinated nature. In the absence of this, use case management and system navigation, starting with the most vulnerable that can possibly be applied to the larger community.
 - iii. Commissioner Bordie: Reframing "aging" terminology is key to reduce ageism and remove barriers. Commissioner Bordie will share information on the Framework Institute's, Reframing Aging Project:
<http://frameworksinstitute.org/reframing-aging.html>
 - iv. Chair Briesemeister: The Commission is pleased to see funding for home repairs. An item that is not listed is transportation, which relates directly to Aging in Place. Mr. Levack commented that transportation is included in other strategic buckets. Currently, St. David's Foundation is funding Drive a Senior. Mr. Levack commented on the innovation surrounding transportation occurring in the community such as the pilot program with Ride Austin and the CCC, funded by the Transportation Empowerment Fund working with Dell Medical School.
 - v. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman: Is the Aging in Place strategy a new part of St. David's Foundation Strategy? Mr. Levack responded that it is not new, but pulled out to provide more detailed focus with some new areas identified. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman asked how the strategy was created and the process for approval. Mr. Levack stated that the development and approval of the strategy was a two-year process that began with a Community Needs Assessment process, consultations with key stakeholders, particularly grant partners, community leaders, working with consulting group, internal conversations with Foundation staff, then negotiation and approval with the Board of Directors.
 - vi. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman: Commended St. David's Foundation for their work on Aging in Place, but how can we ensure that organizations are working

together and not duplicating services and prevent silos? Mr. Levack responded that this is an important issue. Groups are addressing this such as the Aging Services Council, AustinUP, the Commission on Seniors, the City of Austin services, but there are more opportunities for collaboration.

- Teresa Ferguson suggested that a regular communication between AustinUP and St. David’s Foundation be established.
 - Commissioner Lugo suggested utilizing CAN.
- vii. Commissioner Grampp: Individuals age at different paces; in some instances, aging is sudden and it becomes a crisis. The disparity in availability of services is even more critical during a crisis. Mr. Levack agreed and stated this is one reason for their emphasis on support to caregivers.
- viii. Commissioner Cagle: There is a need for specialty care services for low-income seniors in Austin. What is St. David’s Foundation’s strategy surround this? Mr. Levack suggested reaching out to their Access to Care specialty staff.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget recommendations.

- The Chair presented the aggregate table of budget recommendations from Commission working groups for discussion.
- Discussion ensued regarding the development of a method of prioritization and classification of recommendations. Recommendations were classified as “ongoing” or “new”.
- The Chair committed to circulating the revised table of budget recommendations following suggestions made during the meeting to the Commission by May 17, 2017.
- The Commissioners agreed to incorporate suggestions and additional recommendations into working group recommendations prior to the June meeting.

C. Discussion regarding process and potential recommendations for CodeNEXT.

- Citizen Communication from John Woodley
 - i. Discussion of the proposal from Mr. Woodley regarding a requirement that commercial businesses serve multi-modal customers at all times when open.
- CodeNext will remain on the Agenda for June.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion regarding developing recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 City of Austin budget – Standing Item

- Citizen Communication from Shubhada Saxena
 - i. Asian American Resource Center (AARC) is now preparing food for Asian American adults for lunch. Ms. Saxena identified the need for expanded senior transportation services for Asian senior adults for lunch service. Ms. Saxena suggested that Meals on Wheels and More either pick up prepared lunch from AARC or prepare Asian meals for delivery to homebound clients.

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B. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item

- No Updates

C. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item

- No Updates

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- No Updates

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. June meeting will focus on budget recommendations.

B. Staff to include the listing of previous future agenda items on minutes to retain items discussed.

- Affordable Housing
- Texas Veterans Commission
- Hispanic Quality of Life
- Veterans Affairs Office
- Google representative
- State Veterans Services
- Foundation Communities
- Austin Energy – Weatherization and home repair
- Home renovation for seniors
- Housing and resources for senior musicians and artists
- Dell Medical School
- St. David’s Foundation Strategic Plan presentation, potentially in May
- Capital Area Foster Grandparent Program (June)
- Falls Prevention Course, possibly in June or after
- CodeNEXT (May or June)
- Diana McIver confirmed for June

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Angel motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Cagle seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0
- Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.