



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR
(July 12, 2017)**

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 12:05p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

<i>Janee Briesemeister, Chair</i>	<i>Erica Garcia-Pittman</i>	<i>Billy Jackson</i>	<i>Sandra Serna</i>
<i>Peter Varteressian, Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Karen Grampp</i>	<i>Martin Kareithi</i>	<i>Sally Van Sickle</i>
<i>Natalie Cagle</i>	<i>Josue Guillen</i>	<i>Fred Lugo</i>	

Board Members not in Attendance:

Jacqueline Angel, Patricia Bordie, Adam Hauser, Emily De Maria Nicola

Staff in Attendance:

Michelle Friedman, Austin Public Health
Laura Williamson, Austin Public Health

The board introduced themselves.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- i. No speakers present

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COMMISSION ON SENIORS
JUNE 14, 2017 MEETING**

- Commissioner Lugo motioned to pass the minutes with minor corrections
- Commissioner Van Sickle seconded the motion
- Motion passed 8-0-2 with Vice Chair Varteressian and Commissioner Kareithi abstaining and Commissioner Cagle off the dais

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation and discussion regarding the City of Austin Lobbyist Ordinance (Myrna Rios, Assistant City Clerk in the Office of the City Clerk, and Lynn Carter, Senior Attorney in the Law Department)

- The Lobbyist ordinance was passed in September 2016 and became effective as of June 1, 2017.
- The ordinance affects Boards and Commissions.
- The definition of a City Official is substantially broader than under the previous ordinance, including elected officials who have not yet taken office, any City employee who does not solely have clerical duties and members of City Boards and

Commissions or any entity that is created by Council.

- Scheduled Meeting Disclosure: when registered lobbyists appear at meetings, it is required to verbally advise Commission of the following information: their name, their employer's name and the client they represent.
- Registered and non-registered lobbyist can provide written disclosure prior to the meeting via completion of a Survey Monkey link, which can be included in the email signature.
- This requirement applies to registered lobbyist and anyone who being compensated. It is not the responsibility of the Commission to determine what is considered compensation.
- The City is looking for "reasonable compliance" under the ordinance.
- The Survey information will be compiled and maintained by the City Clerk's Office.
- Question and discussion:
 - i. Commissioner Lugo asked for clarifications under which conditions of "lobbying" the City applies this criteria.
 1. Lynn Carter responded that the sign-in sheet will be the exception to registering as a lobbyist. The role of the Commission on Seniors is to provide the individual being compensated with information, not to interpret the information or provide additional guidance.
 - ii. Commissioner Serna inquired if Commissioners needed to follow up with individual to ensure they have completed the survey. Ms. Carter responded that this was not necessary.
 - iii. Chair Briesemeister asked what the definition of a lobbyist is according to the City of Austin. Ms. Carter responded that it is a person who is paid for by a client to conduct business on a municipal question. A municipal question is anything on a City agenda, grants or vendors receiving more than \$50,000.
 - iv. Meetings amongst City staff do not need to be recorded in the same manner.
 - v. Chair Briesemeister clarified that all discussions pertaining to the Commission on Seniors are related to municipal questions. All external individuals who participate on Commission on Seniors workgroups need to complete the lobbyist survey. Ms. Carter stated that pure volunteers who receive zero compensation in any form do not need to sign in or complete a survey, depending on the purpose of their attendance. Participants from non-profit organizations that receive salaries need to sign in and complete survey.
 - vi. Commissioner Lugo requested additional clarification on pure volunteers. Ms. Carter stated that the individual or lobbyist will need to determine if they classify as a lobbyist and receive compensation.
 - vii. Commissioner Van Sickle asked if individuals need to complete the survey each month. Ms. Carter stated that yes, each meeting needs to be recorded.
 - viii. Commissioner Kareithi asked how additional information can be obtained. Ms. Rios informed the Commission to email the Lobbyist Ordinance inbox which is managed by the Clerk's Office.
 - ix. Vice Chair Varteressian commented that much of the meetings hosted by the Commission on Seniors are to obtain information, not to influence a decision-maker on a municipal question. Ms. Carter responded that because the Commissions cannot interpret the regulations, the Clerk's Office

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requests that all individuals provide the following four pieces of information: name, address, client, and if the individual is being compensated.

- x. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman asked if it is possible for Outlook to auto-populate with the survey. Ms. Rios informed the Commission that she will provide additional information on this point.
- B. Briefing and discussion regarding the Capital Area Foster Grandparent Program (Wendy Settles, Volunteer Coordinator with the Texas Health and Human Services Foster Grandparent Program)
- Program participants are volunteers from the community, 55 and older whose household income is equal to or less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Called “Foster Grandparents” participants mentor and tutor children ages 0-18 in whichever areas are identified by the school where the child is enrolled.
 - The program is a partnership between Austin Independent School District and other non-profits. It is funded through a Federal grant, matched partly by the State.
 - Participants mentor children for at least thirty minutes per day for a minimum of three times per week. Foster Grandparents receive a small stipend, all mileage and travel expenses such as bus passes are reimbursed, they receive meals as well as vacation and sick leave, and supplemental insurance.
 - The program matches children with Foster Grandparents. As part of the application, volunteers are asked to complete what areas of tutoring and mentoring they would like to focus on.
 - While the program does not provide transportation, they reimburse participants for all transportation costs, and try to match them with a child located in a site near their home.
 - The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (July 1 – June 30) impact in Austin: 65 participants volunteered 60,000 hours, mentoring 207 children.
 - The program can absorb an additional twenty volunteers next year, provided they are income-eligible.
 - Additional information can be obtained on the Texas Health and Human Services Commission website, which also hosts the volunteer application:
 - i. <https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/community-engagement/foster-grandparent-volunteer-program>
- C. Discussion and possible adoption of the annual Commission on Seniors report.
- Members expressed gratitude to Mary Teeters for putting together the initial draft of the report
 - Discussion regarding some minor changes needed
 - i. Age Friendly Action Plan should be expanded
 1. Commissioner Van Sickle will put together additional language to send to the Chair to incorporate
 - ii. Community and Health Services Working Group will have some edits for the Chair to incorporate as some priorities have changed and some items in Domain 8 fall outside the City
 1. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman will submit proposed changes to the Chair
 - iii. Minor edits needed in Transportation section
 1. Commissioner Kareithi will submit to the Chair
 - iv. Commissioner Lugo noted that two working groups have been combined, which should be noted in the report

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- Vice Chair Varteressian motioned to approve the report with the changes discussed incorporated into the final version
 - Commissioner Cagle seconded the motion
 - The motion passes 10-0 with Commissioner Serna off the dais
- D. Discussion and possible action regarding CodeNEXT recommendations.
- Chair Briesemeister will circulate the Commission’s definition of Senior Housing to the Housing and Open Spaces working group. Once this definition is agreed upon, the Commission can make recommendations on CodeNEXT.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COMMISSION ON SENIORS JUNE 14, 2017 MEETING

- Vice Chair Varteressian motioned to revisit Item 2 regarding approval of the minutes from the June 14, 2017 meeting
- Commissioner Van Sickle seconded the motion
- Vice Chair Varteressian requested that the record more clearly reflect that he supports the staffing requested on the top of page 4, but felt that more clear direction was needed prior to voting for the additional staff person
 - i. Vice Chair Varteressian will submit proposed language prior to the August meeting to be incorporated into the draft minutes
- Commissioner Kareithi requested additional time to review the minutes and submit proposed changes
- Discussion regarding the option to postpone this item until August to allow more time for review and proposed changes
- Commissioner Kareithi motioned to postpone this item until the regular August Commission on Seniors meeting
- Vice Chair Varteressian seconded the motion
- The motion passes 10-0-0 with Commissioner Serna off the dais

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion regarding developing recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 City of Austin budget – Standing Item
- i. Chair Briesemeister requested that Commissioners meet with their respective City Council Members and offered to attend the meetings.
- B. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item
- i. Chair Briesemeister informed the Commission that workgroups have term limits. She will review the City ordinance on workgroups to ensure current workgroups meet with City regulations.
- C. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item
- i. Transportation
 - a. Commissioner Kareithi: the transportation working group did not meet in July.
 - Chair Briesemeister: the Multi-Modal Community Advisory Committee may present information online regarding their current work.
 - Commissioner Kareithi: Project Connect will host “Project Connect a la Mode” this summer, which he will send to staff to circulate to Commissioners.
 - Capital Metro is conducting another round of the Vehicle Grant

program. Through a solicitation process, Capital Metro donates fully-accessible retired Capital Metro vans. Commissioner Kareithi requested that if Commissioners know of any non-profit interested in receiving a van to apply.

- ii. Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
 - a. Vice Chair Varteressian provided an overview of the workgroup’s review of the metrics for this Domain.
 - iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion
 - a. This workgroup is currently combined with the Civic Participation and Employment; Communication and Information Domain.
 - iv. Civic Participation and Employment; Communication and Information
 - a. Commissioner Lugo informed the Commission that the workgroup covering “Domain 7” is refining the data that has been collected to-date. Additional work on the Dashboard fits in line with other workgroups and with Imagine Austin. The Community Action Network (CAN) has offered to design the Dashboard, which will be shared with the Commission for other workgroups to use.
 - b. Commissioner Lugo requested that a representative from the workgroup speak at the August Regular Meeting to comment on an inclusion principal into the Commission on Seniors.
 - v. Community Health Services
 - a. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman stated that the working group reviewed the first two goals to finalize metrics. The working group is expecting to finalize metrics for the Domain and the methods for calculation at the next meeting.
 - vi. Age Friendly City
 - a. Commissioner Van Sickle commented that this working group did not meet in July. At the previous working group meeting, Age Friendly City Domain metrics were discussed. She thanked the heads of working groups for their efforts related to finalizing metrics and methods for measurement and looks forward to receiving the final versions. She will circulate a timeline so that the working groups can have all metrics finalized by Fall 2017, following her meeting with AARP.
- D. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)
- a. Chair Briesemeister will share the Commission on Seniors budget recommendations with the Joint Inclusion Committee. The budget recommendations have been shared with the Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities.
- E. Update on Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily De Maria Nicola)
- a. No discussion

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors
 - i. The August and September Regular Meetings will take place in locations outside of City Hall. Staff will send information on the location of the meetings to the Commission so that Commissioners may inform their Council Members. The City Clerk will update the locations online.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- i. Chair Briesemeister and Commissioner Grampp requested 211/United Way to present to the Commission.
- ii. Commissioner Cagle requested that Aunt Bertha be included in the presentation by 211.
- iii. Commissioner Angel’s students at the LBJ School will be presenting to the Commission in August.
- iv. Commissioner Kareithi requested the Aging Services Council present to the Commission.
- v. 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
 12. Falls Prevention Course, tentatively scheduled for September
 13. CodeNEXT

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Lugo motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Grampp seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0
- Meeting adjourned at 1:39pm.