



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR
(March 7, 2018)**

The Commission on Seniors convened a regular meeting at the Meals on Wheels of Central Texas, 3227 E 5th St, Austin, TX 78702

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

Board Members in Attendance:

<i>Janee Briesemeister, Chair</i>	<i>Natalie Cagle</i>	<i>Martin Kareithi</i>	<i>Erica Garcia-Pittman</i>
<i>Peter Varteressian, Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Karen Grampp</i>	<i>Fred Lugo</i>	<i>Sally Van Sickle</i>
<i>Jacqueline Angel</i>	<i>Adam Hauser</i>		
<i>Patricia Bordie</i>			

Board Members not in Attendance:

Billy Jackson, Jayant Sheth, Sally Van Sickle

Staff in Attendance:

Edna Staniszewski, Austin Public Health
Elena Smart, Austin Public Health

The Commission introduced themselves.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- A. Mary Teeters from Meals on Wheels of Central Texas: Provided input on the contract process and the city budget. *Old Business, Item E.*

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COMMISSION ON SENIORS FEBRUARY 14, 2018 MEETING

- Vice-Chair Varteressian motioned to pass the Minutes.
- Commissioner Angel seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 9-0, Commissioner Cagle and Commissioner Kareithi off the dais.

3. ANNOUCEMENTS

- A. There is a new Commissioner, Jayant Sheth (Jane Briesemeister)
- B. Community Impact News (Jane Briesemeister)
 - i. It is currently doing a story on seniors in Austin and has contacted some of the Commissioners who provided data.

C. Annual Community Survey

- i. It is a full report on aging in Austin, by area. It also measures popular opinion on whether or not Austin is a good place for families raising children and for retirees.
- ii. Chair Briesemeister requests that all Commissioners read the survey results to determine if there is any information that may be useful to the Commission.

D. Resolution on Austin Energy Waivers for Seniors and the Medically Indigent (Janee Briesemeister)

- i. The Utility Commission will vote on the resolution this month.
- ii. Council will consider the resolution in April
- iii. Austin Energy has expressed willingness to implement both waivers, but the Indigent Waiver may take up to a month longer to establish.
 - a. Austin Energy's version of this waiver does not fully align with the language recommended by the Commission. Austin Energy noted that the availability of specific waivers from the State has influenced the structuring of this waiver.

E. Commission on Seniors May Regular Meeting (Janee Briesemeister)

- i. The May meeting will be a working meeting without presentations.
- ii. The Commission will focus on the budget and formulating recommendations.
- iii. June 8th is the target deadline to submit the budget recommendations, including the addition of a Staff position.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation and discussion on CodeNEXT and the impact on senior residents, Greg Guernsey, Director, Planning and Zoning Department, City of Austin

- i. Rescheduled for the April 11, 2018 Regular meeting.

B. Equity Anti-displacement Task Force and Presentation and discussion on the impact of gentrification, Jake Wegmann, The University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture

- i. The 3 piece study was proposed by Council Member Pool, District 7, was finalized in October 2017 and has a deadline at the end of March 2018.
- ii. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman will contact Council Member Pool's office about the exclusion of seniors from the data groups and the general usage of the gathered data.
- iii. The Commission would like to create a statement about the study and present it to Council before August 2018.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item

- i. City Departments participation in Working Groups (Elena Smart)
 - a. City of Austin Department SPOCs have been requested to collaborate with the Commission on the four Working Groups.
 - b. Commissioners may now communicate directly with the SPOCs.

B. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item

- a. City of Austin Department SPOCs have been requested to collaborate with the Commission on the Age Friendly Action Plan. They have been given access to

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a data-sharing matrix which will be made available to the Commission after completion, with the approval of ACM Hensley.

- i. Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation Work Group (Commissioner Van Sickle)
 - a. The group will be meeting with ACM Hensley to discuss how best to request a budget, including a dedicated staff person and which department is best suited to provide the staffer.
 - a. The Image Austin unit, part of the Planning and Zoning Department, is the current preference.
 - b. The Equity Office is also being considered.
 - 1. Chair Briesemeister encourages the Commissioners to get input from their appointing Council Members.
 - ii. Transportation, Housing and Outdoor Spaces Working Group (Vice-Chair Varteressian)
 - a. No Discussion.
 - iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group (Commissioner Lugo)
 - a. No Discussion.
 - iv. Community Support and Health Services Working Group (Commissioner Garcia-Pittman)
 - a. The group will participate in a webinar and full-day planning summit on April 13, 2018 for the Austin/Travis County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and will brief the Commission on the outcomes.
 - a. Commissioner Kareithi has also been invited to participate.
- C. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)
- i. Discussion about the meeting with Brian Oaks the covered moving away from funding specific vendors for specific purposes and, instead, developing a mini-grant process involving the Quality of Life Commissions.
 - ii. Chair Briesemeister has volunteered to Vice-Chair the Committee.
 - a. Chair Briesemeister will reach out to Council Member Alters about the Commission on Seniors playing a bigger part in the budget collaborations, especially the award development process.
 - iii. A subsequent meeting will include a presentation about Portland, OR’s Social Service Contract policy.
 - a. The Commission on Seniors will request to be provided the same presentation at a future meeting.
- D. Update on the Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily DeMaria Nicola)
- i. Discussion about Council and the Equity Office’s plan to review how the City creates, awards, manages, and measures performance of Social Service contracts, including so-called “legacy contractors”.
 - a. With Portland, OR as a model, the metrics will also be reviewed.
- E. Update on city budget process and Strategic Direction plans (Janee Briesemeister)
- i. Council will vote to adopt the Strategic Direction Plan 2023 on 3/8/2018.
 - a. The idea of moving away from funding specific vendors for specific purposes and, instead, allot funding to the Quality of Life Commissions to grant

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directly to organizations that provide services in alignment with their missions will factor into the next budget cycle.

- b. The current version of the plan does not incorporate any of the recommendations made by the Commission on Seniors, but it might be amended before the vote.
 - Chair Briesemeister has received a request for more communications on the plan and will contact Council Member Kitchens about the previous recommendations made.
 - Chair Briesemeister encourages the Commissioners to communicate directly with their appointing Council Member about the exclusion of those recommendations.
- ii. Council Members Kitchens and Alters both expressed the desire to add the Commission on Seniors to the Quality of Life group, and would like it to work directly with the Quality of Life Commissions on all senior related issues.
 - a. Chair Briesemeister suggested to send a representative from the Commission on Seniors, the Chair or Vice-Chair, to work with the Quality of Life Commissions on senior issues.
 - Commissioner Hauser made the motion
 - Commissioner Grampp seconded the motion
 - Motion passed 11-0
- iii. The Budget presentation that was given to Council will also be given to the Commission during the April 13, 2018 joint meeting.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Overview Date, time and location of joint meeting with Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities (Elena Smart)
 - i. The Joint Meeting will take place on April 13, 2018, at City Hall, from 5-7pm.
 - ii. Ed Van Eeno will present.
 - The Commission will call a Special Meeting in order to take action on any topic covered in the joint meeting.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. CodeNEXT presentation (April)
- B. Budget presentation (April at Joint Meeting with MCPD)
- C. Tax Swap (AISD) (possibly April)
- D. Texas Veterans Commission / Veterans Affairs Office / State Veterans Services
- E. Affordable Housing and Home Renovation Coalition
- F. Austin Energy and Neighborhood Housing and Community Development – Weatherization and Home Repair
- G. Hispanic Quality of Life
- H. Google representative
- I. Housing and resources for senior musicians and artists.

**COMMISSION ON SENIORS MEETING MINUTES
ADJOURNMENT**

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- Vice-Chair Varteressian motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Cagle seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 11-0.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:02pm.