



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR  
(April 11, 2018)**

**The Commission on Seniors convened a regular meeting at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78701**

**Chair, Janee Briesemeister, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

<i>Janee Briesemeister, Chair</i>	<i>Erica Garcia-Pittman</i>	<i>Martin Kareithi</i>	<i>Sally Van Sickle</i>
<i>Peter Varteressian, Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Karen Grampp</i>	<i>Fred Lugo</i>	
<i>Jacqueline Angel</i>	<i>Adam Hauser</i>	<i>Emily De Maria Nicola</i>	
<i>Patricia Bordie</i>	<i>Billy Jackson</i>	<i>Jayant Sheth</i>	

**Board Members not in Attendance:**

*Natalie Cagle*

**Staff in Attendance:**

Michelle Friedman, Austin Public Health  
Elena Smart, Austin Public Health

The Commission introduced themselves.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

- A. Cristina Coupal – Senior caregiver and Meals on Wheels volunteer. Spoke on the topic of transportation for seniors to congregate meal sites.
- B. Teresa Ferguson – Austin Up. Spoke on the topic of Livability for Longevity Symposium.
- C. Chioma Okon - Spoke on the topic of the cognitive senior homeless and her efforts to secure housing and activity space for them at a City of Austin library.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COMMISSION ON SENIORS MARCH 07, 2018 MEETING**

- Vice-Chair Varteressian motioned to pass the Minutes as amended.
- Commissioner Grampp seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 13-0.

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Presentation by AARP to Mayor Adler of Age Friendly Certificate on May 10, 2018 at City Council meeting (Michelle Friedman)
  - i. The meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. and the Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
- B. Capital City Village's Celeb Salons - Sarah Hickman's interview of Austin Symphony Director Peter Bay (Sally Van Sickle)
  - i. Sunday, April 29, 2018, 4:00 p.m. at Mort Subite Belgian Pub, 308 Congress Ave. Tickets are \$30-60.

**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. Questions and brief discussion followed.
  - ii. The public can view and provide feedback on CodeNEXT online at: <https://www.austintexas.gov/codenext>
  - iii. Copies of CodeNEXT are also available at Austin Public Libraries.
- B. Anti-Displacement Taskforce, volunteers for Working Groups (Janee Briesemeister)
  - i. The Taskforce voted to pass a recommendation titled, "The People's Plan," which Chair Briesemeister will forward to the Commission.
  - ii. The Taskforce is planning to complete a report in August.
  - iii. Chair Briesemeister requests that COS Commissioners join the Anti-Displacement Taskforce Working Groups, if able.
    - a. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman is considering joining the Finance & Strategy working group.
    - b. Chair Briesemeister, Vice-Chair Varteressian, and Commissioner Hauser are also considering joining one of the working groups.
  - iv. Gentrification Study (Erica Garcia-Pittman)
    - a. Brief discussion of feedback provided on the study.
    - b. Recommendation 20180411-004Bi proposed by Chair Briesemeister.
      - Commissioner Van Sickle motioned to adopt the recommendation
      - Commissioner Grampp seconded the motion
      - Motion passed 12-0, Commissioner Kareithi off the dais.
- C. Bond Package Recommendations (Janee Briesemeister)
  - i. Brief discussion.
  - ii. More research needed before making a recommendation.
- D. SALT Request for Collaboration (Michelle Friedman)
  - i. APD's Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) has requested an event speaker on the topic, "Health and Wellbeing of Seniors."
    - a. Teresa Ferguson from Austin Up will speak at the September 2018 event, date and time TBD.
    - b. A Community Interest Announcement will be made for the COS.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item
  - i. City Departments participation in Working Groups (Michelle Friedman)
    - a. Update and discussion.
- B. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item
  - i. Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation Work Group
    - a. Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation – City Data Collection Update (Michelle Friedman)
      - a. Update and discussion.
  - ii. Transportation, Housing and Outdoor Spaces Working Group (Peter Varteressian)
    - a. No Discussion.
  - iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group (Fred Lugo)
    - a. No Discussion.
  - iv. Community Support and Health Services Working Group (Erica Garcia-Pittman)
    - a. No Discussion.
- C. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)
  - i. Joint Inclusion Committee did not meet due to lack of quorum.
- D. Update on the Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily De Maria Nicola)
  - i. There is a two month window for input on the pilot tool.
  - ii. Commissioner’s Lugo Working Group may be requested to attend the Equity Action Team’s meetings.
- E. Recommendations to Council for Fiscal Year 2019 Budget – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)
  - i. Chair Briesemeister and Commissioners Van Sickle and Sheth are meeting with the new City Manager to discuss converting an already open job posting to a Coordinator for Senior Programs position.
  - ii. Budget requests must be submitted by May 21, 2018.
    - a. Chair Briesemeister requests that the COS Working Group Chairs meet on Monday, May 16, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. discuss further.
- F. City of Austin Strategic Direction measures (Erica Garcia-Pittman)
  - i. No discussion.

**6. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- A. Date, time and location of joint meeting with Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities (Michelle Friedman)
  - i. The meeting will take place on Friday, April 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Tax Swap (AISD) (April)
- B. Anti-Displacement Taskforce
- C. Equity Action Tool Recommendation
- D. Texas Veterans Commission / Veterans Affairs Office / State Veterans Services

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- 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.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Commissioner De Maria Nicola motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Grampp seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 12-0, Commissioner Kareithi off the dais.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:12pm.