



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR
(May 9, 2018)**

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

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

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Board Members not in Attendance:

Adam Hauser

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Williamson, Austin Public Health
Edna Staniszewski, Austin Public Health

The Commission introduced themselves.

A. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- Mary Teeters – Senior caregiver and Meals on Wheels volunteer. Spoke on the topic of transportation for seniors to congregate meal sites.
- Teresa Ferguson – Feedback on Item C-A.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COMMISSION ON SENIORS
APRIL 11, 2018 MEETING**

- Commissioner VanSickle noted the meeting last month was held at City Hall and not at Meals on Wheels. Also, add Commission Sheth to item E-i.
- Vice Chair Varteressian motioned to accept amended minutes
- Commissioner Garcia-Pittman seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 11-0.

Commissioner Bordie and Commissioner Lugo joined the dais.

Item D was moved up.

D. NEW BUSINESS

B. Election of Commission Officers (Peter Varteressian)

- Commissioner Varteressian made a motion to re-elect Commissioner Briesemeister as Chair. Commissioner Grampp seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 13-0-0
- Chair Briesemeister made a motion to re-elect Peter Varteressian as Co-chair. Commissioner Garcia-Pittman seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 13-0-0

A. Recommendations to City Council and City Manager for Fiscal Year 2019 Budget (Janee Briesemeister)

- 4 recommendation were presented to the board
 1. The Commission on Seniors recommends the City provide adequate personnel resources for a Senior Program Coordinator coordinate implementation of the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan.
 - a. Several changes under the 1st recommendation were discussed.
 - b. Commissioner Nicola made a motion to accept the amended Recommendation #1. Commissioner Kareithi seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passed 13-0-0
 2. Develop an Asset Map of senior services and program provided by the City and Travis and Williamson counties; promoting of city senior services and programs.
 - a. Several changes under the 2nd recommendation were discussed.
 - b. Commissioner Lugo made a motion to accept the amended Recommendation #1. Commissioner Grampp seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passed 13-0-0

Commissioner VanSickle stepped out of the dais

3. Improve and expand access to physical, mental health and dental care for low-income seniors.
 - a. Several changes under the 3rd recommendation were discussed.
 - b. Commissioner Sheth made a motion to accept the amended Recommendation #1. Commissioner Nicola seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passed 12-0-0

Commissioner VanSickle joined the dais

4. Coordination of transportation for seniors and addition funding for drivers
 - a. Several changes under the 4th recommendation were discussed.
 - b. Vice-Chair Varteressian made a motion to accept the amended Recommendation #4. Commissioner Kareithi seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passed 13-0-0

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Housing Blueprint Meeting update (Peter Varteressian)
 - Information was handed out on Austin Blueprint
 - High demand but not enough resources
 - How to meet goals of blueprint
- B. Anti-Displacement Task Force Working Group Meetings (Janee Briesemeister and Erica Garcia-Pittman)
 - Topic – Senior taxes
 - Some residents don't know of the senior exemption
 - Possibly focus on this topic and make recommendations
 - Pass information to navigators
 - Website navigation is challenging and can be complicated
 - Possible recommendation of increase amount of exemption
- C. University of Texas Gentrification Study (Janee Briesemeister)
- D. AARP Presentation of WHO Certificate of Age Friendly Austin Designation to Mayor and City Council on May 10 at 9:50am at Council Chambers in City Hall (Janee Briesemeister)
 - Meet and greet with CEO of Capital Metro. Inviting CEO to the transportation working group meeting.
- E. Other Announcements
 - Vice-Chair Varteressian, Chair Briesemeister, and Commissioner Cagle attended the parliament training
 - Presentation to Council tomorrow on World Organization at beginning of meeting.
 - Vice-Chair Varteressian, Chair Briesemeister, and Commissioner VanSickle met with the City Manager on recommendations.
 -

E. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item
- B. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item
 - i. Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation Working Group
 - ii. Transportation, Housing and Outdoor Spaces Working Group
 - iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group
 - iv. Community Support and Health Services Working Group
- C. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)
 - Discussed sharing budget recommendation with others.
 - There may be other items she will vote on on behalf of the Commission on Seniors.
- D. Update on the Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily De Maria Nicola)
- E. Bond Election Advisory Task Force – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)

F. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A.

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Texas Veterans Commission / Veterans Affairs Office / State Veterans Services
- B. Tax Swap (AISD) (April)
- C. Anti-Displacement Taskforce
- D. Equity Action Tool Recommendation
- 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 VanSickle motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Cagle seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 13-0-0
- Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.