



**COMMISSION ON SENIOR  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019**

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

**Board Members in Attendance:** Chair, *Janee Briesemeister*, Vice Chair, *Peter Varteressian*, *Adam Hauser*, *Billy Jackson*, *Emily De Maria Nicola*, *Erica Garcia-Pittman*, *Jacqueline Angel*, *Karen Grampp*, *Martin Kareithi*, *Natalie Cagle*.

**Board Members not in Attendance:** *Fred Lugo*, *Patricia Bordie*, *Ronald Sheaffer*, *Sally Van Sickle*.

**Staff in Attendance:** *Tabitha Taylor*, Age Friendly Action Plan Program Coordinator, Austin Public Health and *Halana Kaleel*, Public Health Educator II, Austin Public Health

**Presenters:** *Annette Juba* and *Suzanne Anderson*, Age of Central Texas

Chair, *Janee Briesemeister*, called the Board Meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.  
The Commission introduced themselves.

**I. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

- A. Veronica Saldate
  - i. SALT Fair
- B. Tracy Gartenmann, Keep Austin Fed, Agenda Item #4C
  - i. Commission Priorities and Working Group Assignments 2019-2020- Food Insecurity.
- C. Zenobia C Joseph, Agenda Item #4D
  - i. "Uprooted," Resolution, Northeast Austin, "Barriers for Seniors," mainly north of Highway 183 TXDOT.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS MAY 8, 2019 MEETING**

- A. The minutes for the regular meeting of May 8, 2019 were approved with amendments to Chair names under Updates form Working Groups on Commissioner Natalie Cagle motion, Commissioner Emily De Maria Nicola second on a 10-0 vote.  
Commissioners Fred Lugo, Patricia Bordie, Ronald Sheaffer, and Sally Van Sickle were absent.

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Commissioner Jacqueline (Jackie) Angel presented update on the response to Councils Resolution No. 20181018-041.

- B. Chair Janee Briesemeister announced Imagine Austin Speaker Series The 2020 U.S. Census being presented by City Demographer Ryan Robinson on June 14<sup>th</sup> at City Hall starting at 9:00am.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Presentation Age Essential Texas, Suzanne Anderson and Annette Juba, Age of Central Texas.
- i. Presentation given highlighted services Age of Central Texas a nonprofit that tackles the challenges of aging offers.
  - ii. AGE of Central Texas will be building a new Adult Day Health Center in South Austin.
  - iii. Other services offered by Age of Central Texas are caregiver education/resources, memory connections, CaregiverU, Health Equity Lending Program, and Age Computer Lab.
- B. Introduction Halana Kaleel, Public Health Educator II, Austin Public Health.
- i. Halana Kaleel introduced herself to the Commission on Seniors, she will be providing staff support with Tabitha Taylor for the commission.
- C. Commission Priorities and Working Group Assignments 2019-2020, Janee Briesemeister.
- i. Chair Janee Briesemeister discussed upcoming Annual Report which she will draft before the July 2019 Commission on Seniors Meeting.
  - ii. Request that speaking engagements that have occurred or goals and objectives be sent to Chair Janee Briesemeister for inclusion in the Annual Report.
- D. Discussion on Development of Resolution for Tax Exemption for Seniors
- i. Recommendation adopting resolution for ensuring that seniors are educated about and able to take advantage of existing tools to reduce their property tax burden with added language about the Williamson County Appraisal District was approved on Karen Grampp motion, Vice Chair, Peter Varteressian second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioners Fred Lugo, Patricia Bordie, Ronald Sheaffer, and Sally Van Sickle were absent.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item
- i. No discussion currently.
- B. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item
- i. Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation Working Group
    - No discussion currently
  - ii. Transportation, Housing and Outdoor Spaces Working Group
    - More traction has been occurring with Transportation and Housing topics.
- C. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group
- i. No discussion currently.

- D. Community Support and Health Services Working Group
  - i. Commissioner Erica Garcia-Pittman provided updates on identified goals for 2018-2019, and 2019-2020.
- E. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)
  - i. No discussion currently.
- F. City of Austin Budget – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)
  - i. No discussion currently.
- G. Update on the Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily De Maria Nicola)
  - i. No discussion currently.

**VI. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- A. No discussion currently.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Annual Report will be discussed and reviewed in July 2019.
- B. Commissioner Emily De Maria Nicola and Jacqueline Angel will be absent for July 2019 meeting.
- C. In August 2019 update and findings on Resolution 20181018-041 will be given.
- D. Chair Janee Briesemeister will be absent for August 2019 meeting.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Chair Janee Briesemeister adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m. without objection.