



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR
(February 14, 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 12:09p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Board Members not in Attendance:

Josue Guillen, Emily DeMaria Nicola

Staff in Attendance:

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

The Commission introduced themselves.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

A. Presented during New Business- Item Ci.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COMMISSION ON SENIORS
JANUARY 10, 2018 MEETING**

- Commissioner Hauser motioned to pass the Minutes.
- Commissioner Van Sickle seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 11-0, Commissioner Kareithi off the dais.

3. ANNOUCEMENTS

A. Upcoming Events

i. February 24, 2018

- a. Cap Metro will host the next “Traffic Jam!” at the Central Library, 710 W. Cesar Chavez Street. Time is TBD, likely mid-morning. The meeting will cover the proposal for high-capacity transit changes. Detailed maps and charts

will be available to the public. Details can be found at:

<https://capmetro.org/participate/>

- b. Community Displacement Taskforce will hold a Community Forum from 1-4pm at the Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center.
- ii. April 10, 2018
 - a. Aging and Disability Symposium at the LBJ School of Public Affairs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - 1. The Commission will post a Community Interest Announcement.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commission Working Groups titles and members for 2018 (Janee Briesemeister)
 - i. The Commission discussed the composition and goals of the four proposed working groups.
 - ii. Vice-Chair Varteressian made a motion to include the 2018 Working Group Titles and Members as Backup to the Approved Minutes. Commissioner Grampp seconded the motion. Motion passed 12-0.
- B. Equity Action Tool for Equity Office (Emily DeMaria Nicola)
 - i. No discussion.
- C. Utility Bills for Seniors
 - i. Austin Energy Security Deposits for Residents over 65 (Janee Briesemeister)
 - a. Chair Briesemeister briefly discussed the deposit requirements for opening Austin Energy utility accounts.
 - b. Carol Biedrzycki, ED of Texas Repairs Organization to Save Energy: Spoke about the fees and deposits required to open Austin Energy accounts and how they negatively affect seniors. She has communicated with Austin Energy over security fee waivers for the elderly and the medically indigent. She encourages the Commission to adopt the resolution requesting that Austin Energy add Security Deposit and Fee Waivers for Residents over 65 to their Customer Protection Rules.
 - c. Commissioner Hauser made a motion to pass Recommendation 20180214-4Ci Austin Energy Security Deposit Waivers. Commissioner Grampp seconded the motion. Motion passed 12-0. Commissioner Briesemeister will share the Recommendation with the Electric Utilities Commission.
 - ii. Fees Included on Utility Bills or Residents over 65 (Natalie Cagle)
 - a. Commissioner Cagle discussed the non-electric fees charged on the Austin Energy bills.
 - b. Chair Briesemeister requested that the Commission get more information on, and a break-down of, these fees from Austin Energy, so as to provide more detailed recommendations on how they should be handled in regards to seniors.
 - c. Chair Briesemeister reminded the Commission that they are not required to speak with the media and, if they chose to, they may not speak on behalf of the Commission or about anything that has not yet been voted on. They may also direct the inquiries to Chair Briesemeister or staff liaisons.

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D. Bond Advisory Task Force Recommendations (Janee Briesemeister)

- i. The Commission has already made a recommendation to the Task Force, but will wait to make a recommendation directly to Council until after the Taskforce presents to Council.

E. City Strategic Direction 2023 Plan and Metrics (Janee Briesemeister)

- i. Chair Briesemeister is communicating with City staff from Office of Performance Management (OPM) regarding the Commission’s input into the Strategic Direction 2023 and how the current metrics align with the Age Friendly Action Plan, and how to better include seniors in data collection.
- ii. Commissioner Grampp moved to pass a motion that enabled the Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation Working Group to meet with City Staff from OPM on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Van Sickle seconded the motion. Motion passed 12-0.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission Work Plan – Standing Item

- i. No discussion.

B. Updates from Working Groups – Standing Item

- i. Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation Work Group (Commissioner Van Sickle)
 - a. Meetings are scheduled for the last Tuesday of every other month, 8:30 am at City Hall with ACM Hensley in attendance. The next meeting will be on March 27, 2018.
 - b. The Quality of Life Commission has been invited to send a member.
 - c. The Group intends to provide an annual report to Council and a bi-annual report to AARP. The Group is currently waiting on metric reports from the City.
 - d. The Group would like to hold a formal event to present the AARP Age Friendly City Certificate to the mayor, possibly at the April conference.
 - e. Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation – City Data Collection Process (Michelle Friedman)
 - 1. Brief discussion included the new SharePoint site for City departmental data sharing and collaboration.
 - 2. Wednesday, February 28, 2018 - deadline to provide data.
 - 3. Thursday, March 29, 2018 - meeting with to edit the plan. ACM Hensley, all Department Specific Points of Contact to be in attendance.
- ii. Transportation, Housing and Outdoor Spaces Working Group (Vice-Chair Varteressian)
 - a. Most recent meeting held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018.
 - b. Commission related topics discussed included Strategic Direction 2023 and CodeNEXT, scheduling a presentation and finding a space, budget priorities, and proposals that the Commission might work on.
 - c. Budget recommendation topics included better lighting for street corridors, funding for the Home Repair program, adding pedestrian beacons for crossing streets, and the potential cost for researching these projects.

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- d. Topics that required more research before addressing included determining whether the City has Senior Priority for Section 8 vouchers, and whether a Senior Reduced Fare bus card is a viable option for distribution.
- e. The Senior Reduced Fare bus card idea will be raised at the next Cap Metro meeting, on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, from 11am – 12:30 pm.
- iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group (Commissioner Lugo)
 - a. Discussions included what resources were needed to execute Commission priorities, collecting data for the asset map and enlisting City Departments to assist.
 - b. A representative from PARD attended the meeting and agreed that PARD will assist with the asset map by providing data.
 - c. Commissioner Lugo is working to get data and assistance from Travis County.
- iv. Community Support and Health Services Working Group (Commissioner Garcia-Pittman)
 - a. The meeting was rescheduled, no updates.
- C. Update on CodeNEXT – Standing Item
 - i. CodeNEXT has committed to presenting to the Commission on March 7, location TBD.
 - b. Commissioners are requested to provide any comments/questions to staff liaisons by Thursday, March 1, 2018.
- D. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesemeister)
 - i. No discussion
- E. Update on the Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily DeMaria Nicola)
 - i. No discussion

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Overview of City of Austin Commission on Seniors (Michelle Friedman)
 - i. Process for requesting speakers from City Departments
 - Staff informed the Commission that if speakers from the City are requested, they can first communicate with staff liaisons. If staff liaisons are not aware of City staff that can present, they should communicate with the Executive liaison, copying staff liaisons.
 - ii. Process for including City of Austin Department representatives in Working Groups
 - The Commission shared feedback with staff on the City Departments identified by staff to participate in Working Groups.
 - iii. Location for March 7, 2018 Regular Meeting
 - Meals on Wheels has offered to host the meeting. Staff will communicate with the Commission once finalized.
 - iv. Joint Meeting Date, Time and Location with Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities
 - The Commission requested staff to invite the Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities to the regular meeting on April 11.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. CodeNEXT presentation (March)
- B. Budget presentation (April)
- C. Tax Swap (AISD) (April)
- D. Anti-Displacement Taskforce
- E. Equity Action Tool Recommendation
- F. Texas Veterans Commission / Veterans Affairs Office / State Veterans Services
- G. Affordable Housing and Home Renovation Coalition
- H. Austin Energy and Neighborhood Housing and Community Development –
Weatherization and Home Repair
- I. Hispanic Quality of Life
- J. Google representative
- K. Housing and resources for senior musicians and artists.

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Kareithi motioned to adjourn meeting.
- Commissioner Cagle seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 12-0.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:54pm.