



**COMMISSION ON SENIOR
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH, 2020**

The Commission on Seniors convened a Regular Meeting via Videoconferencing.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair, *Janee Briesemeister*, Vice Chair, *Peter Varteressian*, *Adam Hauser*, *Billy Jackson*, *Diana Spain*, *Emily De Maria Nicola*, *Erica Garcia-Pittman*, *Fred Lugo*, *Jacqueline Angel*, *Karen Grampp*, *Martin Kareithi*, *Patricia Bordie*, and *Sally Van Sickle*.

Board Members not in Attendance: *Natalie Cagle*, *Amy Temperley*

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

Presenters:

Chair, *Janee Briesemeister* called the Board Meeting to order at 1:01pm. The Commission introduced themselves.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- A. Teresa Ferguson, AustinUP, Older job seekers now face more barriers with COVID-19. AustinUP has been hosting virtual job fairs and presentations. As well as providing tech assistance. Many individuals have been laid off or furloughed. AustinUP has created advocacy campaigns targeted towards employers showing the value of intergenerational workplaces.
- B. Valerie Deyo speaking on behalf of herself and Mary Clark, Systems in place are not friendly to Seniors. Mary Clark's home at 1906 E. 21st street has been put into Historical Status. It was approved as such without valid criteria being met, as well as without Mary Clark present. There is a lack of education provided to Seniors regarding property with Historical Status.
- C. Linda Thomas, spoke about their property being put into Historical Status without valid criteria being met.
- D. Donna Clark, spoke about their property being put into Historical Status without valid criteria being met.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS JUNE 10TH, 2020 MEETING.

- A. The minutes for the June 10th, 2020 Meeting were approved on Commissioner Hauser motion, Vice Chair Varteressian second on a 11-0-2 vote. Commissioners Cagle and Temperley were absent. Commissioners Van Sickle and Spain abstained from the vote.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Chair Briesmeister read statement from Jessica Lemann, Associate State Director, AARP Texas.
 - i. In this statement she discussed COVID 19 in nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- B. City Manager will make Proposed Budget Announcement for next fiscal year on June 13th.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review and approval of the 2019-2020 Annual Internal Review Report.
 - i. Commissioners reviewed and approved the Annual Internal Review with pending revisions from Workgroup Chairs.
 - ii. The 2019-2020 Annual Internal Review Report was adopted on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Grampp second on a 13-0 vote.
- B. Presentation: City of Austin COVID-19 Response, Long-Term Care Taskforce, Stephanie Helfman, Austin Public Health
 - i. Presentation was given by Stephanie Helfman on the Long-Term Care Taskforce.
 - ii. Any Questions can be directed to the Austin Public Health, Long Term Care Taskforce Incident Management Team, at Nursinghomeinfo@austintexas.gov.
- C. Presentation: Building an Intergenerational Metropolis: An Assessment of an Intergenerational Day Center, LBJ School of Public Affairs
 - i. Presentation gave the background on Resolution #41, objectives, approach, and findings.
 - ii. Next steps would be feasibility study, discussions in Domain 8 workgroup, discussions in Community Advisory Group, and creating a policy and evaluation agenda.
- D. COVID-19 Engagement Work with Equity Office, Jane Briesemeister
 - i. Brion Oaks, Equity Office, City of Austin, discussed at the last Joint Inclusion Meeting the importance reaching communities represented by Joint Inclusion Members.
 - ii. Chair Briesemeister discussed working with the Equity Office to reach out to the Older Adults Community.
 - iii. Working Group creation was suggested or using an existing work group to complete this.
 - iv. Commissioners discussed adding this work to Domain 8 Working Group.
 - v. Chair Briesmeister encouraged working groups to begin meeting virtual if they haven't already.

IV. 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
 - No discussion currently.
 - iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group
 - No discussion currently.
 - iv. Community Support and Health Services Working Group
 - No discussion currently.
- C. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesmeister)
 - i. Chair Briesmeister is no longer the Chair of Joint Inclusion Committee.
- D. City of Austin Budget – Standing Item (Janee Briesmeister)
 - i. No discussion currently
- E. Update on the Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily De Maria Nicola)
 - i. No discussion currently.

V. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Tabitha Taylor discussed how the EOC is still working on Older Adults needs during COVID 19 Response. Commissioner Lugo is part of these efforts. PPE requests are frequent.
- B. Support was asked of Tabitha Taylor with regards to Limited Mobility Survey being done in partnership with Dell Medical School. Commissioners would like to see the results of this survey.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chair, Janee Briesmeister adjourned the meeting at 2:32p.m. without objection.