



**COMMISSION ON SENIOR  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

The Commission on Seniors convened a Regular Meeting via Videoconferencing.

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

**Board Members not in Attendance: *Billy Jackson***  
***Patricia Bordie* entered the dais at 8:09AM**  
***Natalie Cagle* entered the dais at 8:14 AM**  
***Emily De Maria Nicola* entered the dais at 8:14 AM**  
***Martin Kareithi* entered the dais at 8:30 AM**

**Staff in Attendance: *Tabitha Taylor*, Program Coordinator, Austin Public Health**

**Presenters: *Brion Oaks*, Chief Equity Officer, City of Austin's Equity Office, *Kellee Coleman*, City of Austin's Equity Office, and *Amanda Jasso*, City of Austin's Equity Office**

**Chair, *Janee Briesemeister* called the Board Meeting to order at 8:05 am. The Commission introduced themselves.**

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

**Richard Bondi, Austin LGBT Elder Task Force Co-Founder provided an update regarding Austin LBGT Elder Taskforce. Mr. Bondi shared the task force has been working diligently to bring SAGE to Austin. SAGE is a nationwide group that provides advocacy and services for LGBT elders, <https://www.sageusa.org/>. The 30 SAGE affiliates across the US provide 56,000 hours of programming annually, helping 1,000 people monthly. SAGE programs supports groups training, financial services cultural and social intergenerational programs, and many more. The LGBT Elder Taskforce is working to develop a memo to Family Elder Care in support of this effort; Family Elder Care will be the non-profit sponsor.**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 MEETING.**

- A. The minutes for the November 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 Meeting were approved on Commissioner Garcia- Pittman motion, Vice- Chair Varteressian second on a 11-0 vote .Commissioner Kareithi and Commissioner Jackson were absent.**

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Building Community Resilience Initiative, request for representatives from the Commissioner Seniors, Commissioner Nicola will represent, please email if interested
- B. Halana is out of the office, please share information with Tabitha
- C. City of Austin Clerk's Office has shared a new agenda template

### III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Quality of Life Budget Meeting Update and Discussion, Chair Briesemeister and Commissioner Van Sickle
  - i. Chair Briesemeister and Commissioner Van Sickle shared information from the December Quality of Life Budget Meeting. Information was shared regarding the areas of Office of Police Oversight, Economic Development, Public Health, Housing, Park and Recreation Department.
  - ii. Areas to review are food- SNAP benefits, mental health, internet access telecommunications office, and supporting long-term care facilities.
  - iii. Tabitha Taylor, shared that she should would follow-up with Stephanie Helfman, APH to support access to food initiatives. Commissioner Hauser shared that Meals of has worked with the COA for their Grocery to Go program
  - iv. Budget recommendations are due April 9<sup>th</sup>, additional details regarding the budget town hall are forthcoming
  - v. Multiple Commissioners shared concerns regarding using technology and internet platforms to engage older adults and survey will be the best way for feedback
  - vi. Commissioners offered strategies to engage older adults including re-launching survey, developing pre-recorded messaging, and sharing survey with aging partners for mass distribution.
  - vii. David Crabb offered strategies to share survey through PARD's 50 plus program
  - viii. Commissioners next steps are to allow further discussion regarding timeline at the AFA working group meeting and discussion past and future recommendation including the AFA intern, side-walk and lightening, Prop B and funding, access to food, UT's Long-term care Nursing Study
- B. Reimagining Public Safety, Brion Oaks, Chief Equity Office
  - i. There are not any changes to the SALT team as of now, the SALT team are in need of volunteers
  - ii. The Equity Office is tasked with engaging community members and stakeholder to support the reimagining public safety process.
  - iii. The Equity Office is in the process of establishing working group areas, Brion Oaks invited Commissioners to participate in the working groups. There will be a series of community engagement opportunities, including 200,000

via grants for community based organization to support reimaging public safety.

- iv. Upcoming opportunities: The Public Information Office has been conducting listening sessions per district, there is a survey online that allows for feedback, The Commission is invited to host a session, City-wide session January 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>
- v. Amanda Jasso and Kellee Coleman from the Equity Office assisted Brion Oaks with Q&A.

#### **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
    - Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 am to discuss FYI 2022 Budget Strategies
  - ii. Transportation, Housing and Outdoor Spaces Working Group
    - Recently had a presentation from PARD’s Parkland, there will be a Resolution to support benches emailed to Commissioners
  - iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group
    - This group has been meeting.
  - iv. Community Support and Health Services Working Group
    - Follow-up regarding UT’s Nursing Home Study
- C. Update on Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesmeister)
  - i. No discussion currently.
- D. City of Austin Budget – Standing Item (Janee Briesmeister)
  - i. Information shared in III A.
- E. Update on the Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily De Maria Nicola)
  - i. No discussion currently.

#### **V. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- A. Updates from Staff Liaison Tabitha Taylor, Age Friendly Austin Program Coordinator, Austin Public Health.
  - i. Staff liaison Tabitha Taylor provided updates on the COVID-19 Emergency Operation Center, Senior Taskforce and Age-Friendly Austin.

#### **VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Update Prop B and funding
- B. COVID-19 updates for older adults.
- C. Austin Inclusive Taskforce

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

A. Chair, Janee Briesemeister adjourned the meeting at 9:59 am. Without objection.