



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2021**

The Commission on Seniors convened a Regular Meeting via Videoconferencing.

Board Members in Attendance: Chair, *Jane Briesemeister*, Vice Chair, *Peter Varteressian*, *Adam Hauser*, *Amy Temperley*, *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*

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

Presenters: *Jackie Nirenberg*, *Serita Lacasse*, *Kami Griffiths*, *Suzanne Anderson*

Chair, *Jane Briesemeister* called the Board Meeting to order at 1:02pm. The Commission introduced themselves.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Jodi Allen from Drive-a-Senior introduced themselves to the Commission on Seniors. Drive-a-Senior is currently offering transportation to vaccination appointments.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS DECEMBER 9TH, 2020 MEETING

- A. The minutes for the January 13th, 2021 Meeting were approved on Vice-Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Van Sickle second on a 13-0 vote. Commissioners Cagle and Spain were absent.
- B. Commissioner Spain entered the dais.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Commissioner Grampp will be leaving the Commission on Seniors and not renewing her term.
 - i. Commissioners expressed gratitude for Commissioner Grampp's time on the Commission on Seniors.
- B. Commissioners Angel, Spain, and Garcia-Pittman's reappointments have been confirmed by City Council.
 - i. Commissioner Jackson is still reviewing applying for reappointment.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and possible action Commission Work Plan – Standing Item
 - i. No discussion currently.
- B. Discussion and possible action 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. Discussion and possible action from Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Janee Briesmeister)
 - i. No discussion currently.
- D. Discussion and possible action of City of Austin Budget – Standing Item (Janee Briesmeister)
 - i. No discussion currently.
- E. Discussion and possible action on the Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Emily De Maria Nicola)
 - i. No discussion currently.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Briefing: Project Connect and Austin Transit Partnership, Jackie Nirenberg, Capital Metro.
 - i. Jackie Nirenberg provided an update to the Commissioners on Project Connect and the Austin Transit Partnership.
 - ii. Recommended system plan was presented to City Council in 2020.
 - iii. Pandemic has shifted community engagement plan to virtual.
 - iv. What passed on the November 2020 ballot for transportation was reviewed.
- B. Review and possible action of Resolution in support of City of Austin State Legislative Agenda
 - i. The Resolution in support of City of Austin State Legislative Agenda was adopted on Commissioner Van Sickle motion, Commissioner Spain second on a 12-0-1 vote. Commissioner Bordie abstained. Commissioner Cagle was absent.
- C. Review and possible action of Aging Services Council’s Austin Inclusion Taskforce Letter of Support.
 - i. Serita Lacasse, Kami Griffiths, Suzanne Anderson reviewed the Letter of Support with the Commissioners.
 - ii. Commissioners inquired about training, resources, preparation, and administrative cost.
 - iii. Concerns were expressed by Commissioners over the long training booklet and process.
 - iv. Recommendation to use volunteers to check on participants.
 - v. Inquires over recruitment area to program were asked.
- D. Planning and Discussion of 2021 Commission on Senior Budget Recommendations and Community Engagement.
 - i. Commissioners were provided an update on the townhalls.
 - ii. Concerns coming up from the community involved property taxes, education, and homelessness.
 - During townhalls, many questions concerned public safety, internet access, sidewalks, and affordable housing.
 - iii. So far, the survey has received 180 responses.

V. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Age-friendly Austin Update, Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Program Coordinator

- i. Support Staff Tabitha Taylor updated the Commissioners on the COVID-19 Vaccine Coalition.
- B. Introduction: Stepha Dragoon, Age Friendly Austin Intern
 - i. New intern Stepha Dragoon introduced themselves to the Commission.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Possible amendments or additions to the Age Friendly Plan
- B. Budget Recommendations.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chair Briesemeister adjourned the meeting at 3:03pm.