



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, March 10<sup>TH</sup>, 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*, *Erica Garcia-Pittman*, *Fred Lugo*, *Martin Kareithi*, *Natalie Cagle*, *Patricia Bordie*, and *Sally Van Sickle*.

**Board Members not in Attendance:** *Jacqueline Angel* and *Emily De Maria Nicola*

**Staff in Attendance:** *Halana Kaleel*, Public Health Educator II, Austin Public Health

**Presenters:** None

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

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

None

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 MEETING**

- A. The minutes for the February 10th, 2021 meeting were approved with minor corrections on Commissioner Hauser's motion, Commissioner Kareithi second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioners Angel and Nicola were absent.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. There will be a special called meeting on March 26th to finalize budget discussion. Timeline has been pushed due to the winter storm.
- B. Commissioner Jackson was reappointed to his seat.
- C. Resolution on Parks and Public Spaces passed at a previous meeting has gained traction.
- D. Support Staff Tabitha Taylor is absent but an update on the Senior Tax Resolution will be circulated, questions can be asked upon her return.

**3. 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
    - Updates to Age Friendly Austin plan will be made in July 2021.
  - ii. Transportation, Housing and Outdoor Spaces Working Group
    - Workgroup reflecting on metrics and proposed changes to Age Friendly Plan.
  - iii. Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group
    - Workgroup reflecting on metrics and proposed changes to Age Friendly Plan.

- iv. Community Support and Health Services Working Group
  - Workgroup reflecting on metrics and proposed changes to Age Friendly Plan.
- C. Discussion and possible action from Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Chair Briesmeister)
  - i. Joint inclusion has not been meeting frequently but will have a March meeting.
- D. Discussion and possible action of City of Austin Budget – Standing Item (Chair Briesmeister)
  - i. No discussion currently.
- E. Discussion and possible action on the Equity Action Team – Standing Item (Commissioner De Maria Nicola)
  - i. No discussion currently.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion and possible action of Resolution requesting Austin Public Health prioritize COVID-19 Vaccine appointments for older adults (Commissioner Lugo).
  - i. Resolution was presented by Commissioner Lugo.
  - ii. Next vaccination phases are starting, however there is concern that many older adults have still not been vaccinated and our frustrated.
  - iii. Resolution was the result of a meeting with Family Eldercare.
  - iv. Additions to the resolution included updating language to reflect work is being done but there needs to be more progress, highlight homebound individuals, and people living with disabilities.
  - v. The Resolution requesting Austin Public Health prioritize COVID-19 Vaccine appointments for older adults was adopted on Commissioner Lugo motion, Commissioner Van Sickle second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioners Angel and Nicola were absent.
- B. Discussion and possible action of Resolution creating a working group on Emergency Response (Commissioner Van Sickle).
  - i. The Resolution creating a working group on Emergency Response was adopted on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Temperly second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioners Angel and Nicola were absent.
- C. Discussion and possible action of 2021 Commission on Senior Budget Recommendations and Community Engagement.
  - i. Commissioners reviewed community engagement efforts including online forums and survey results.
  - ii. Commissioners have been advised by Budget and Equity Office to make budget proposals focused on current funding.
  - iii. Areas that commissioners are focusing on this year are older adults and homelessness, digital access, and social isolation.

#### **5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- A. Age-friendly Austin Update, Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Program Coordinator
  - i. No staff briefing was presented by Tabitha Taylor.

#### **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Older Americans Month
- B. Demography presentation

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Chair Briesmeister adjourned the meeting at 2:41 pm.