



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
WEDNESDAY, March 26TH, 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*, *Patricia Bordie*, and *Sally Van Sickle*.

Board Members not in Attendance: *Martin Kareithi* and *Natalie Cagle*.

Staff in Attendance: *Tabitha Taylor* and *Halana Kaleel*, Austin Public Health

Presenters: None

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

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

A. Barbara Epstein, Transportation and Safety concerns for Older Adults.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS MARCH 10TH, 2021 MEETING

A. The minutes for the March 10th, 2021 meeting were approved on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner De Maria Nicola second on a 10-0-1 vote. Commissioner Jackson was having phone difficulties and could not participate in the vote. Commissioners Kareithi and Cagle were absent.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. None

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

• 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 (Chair Briesemeister)

i. No discussion currently.

D. Discussion and possible action of City of Austin Budget – Standing Item (Chair Briesemeister)

- 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 on Commission on Seniors Budget Recommendations for City of Austin FY 2022 Budget.
 - i. FY 2022 Budget Recommendation for Planning and Increased Support to Serve the Needs of Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness
 - Amendments requested by Commissioner Hauser and Bordie to highlight older adults who might become homeless and additional funding to address chronic conditions such as mental health, reduce hospitalizations, evictions, etc.
 - Commissioners will speak to council representatives and city managers
 - Budget recommendation for Planning and Increase Support to Serve the Needs of Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness was adopted on Commissioner Van Sickle motion, Commissioner Temperley second on a 9-0-1 vote. Commissioner Jackson was having phone difficulties and could not participate in the vote. Commissioners Kareithi, Cagle, and Garcia-Pittman were absent.
 - ii. FY 2022 Budget Recommendation and Related Recommendations on Expanding Access to Online Connectivity for Older Adults
 - Budget Recommendation and related recommendations on Expanding Access to Online Connectivity for Older Adults was adopted on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Angel second on a 10-0-1 vote. Commissioner Jackson was having phone difficulties and could not participate in the vote. Commissioners Kareithi and Cagle were absent.
 - iii. FY 2022 Budget Recommendation Education and Outreach on Senior Homestead Tax Exemption
 - Budget Recommendation on Education and Outreach on Senior Homestead Tax Exemption was adopted on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner De Maria Nicola second on a 10-0-1 vote. Commissioner Jackson was having phone difficulties and could not participate in the vote. Commissioners Kareithi and Cagle were absent.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- A. Age-friendly Austin Update, Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Program Coordinator
 - i. Older Americans Month, May 2021
 - ii. Update on Vaccine Coalition
 - iii. PPE Distribution Calendar
 - iv. Update on Access to Technology
 - v. Age Friendly Austin Plan Update

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. None stated at this time

7. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chair Briesemeister adjourned the meeting at 2:07 pm.