



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

The Commission on Seniors convened a Regular Meeting at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas, 78702.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Chair, Janee Briesmeister, Vice Chair, Peter Varteressian, Adam Hauser, Amy Temperley, Diana Spain, Emily De Maria Nicola, Erica Garcia-Pittman, Fred Lugo, Jacqueline Angel, Luz Lopez-Guerrero, Martha Bauman, and Patricia Bordie.

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Martin Kareithi, Natalie Cagle, and Sally Van Sickle.

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

**Presenters:** Kelly Maltsberger, Program Manager, PARD, City of Austin

Chair, Janee Briesmeister called the Board Meeting to order at 12:02 pm. The Commission introduced themselves.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

- A. Cyndi Cummings from AustinUp introduced herself to the Commission and discussed property tax.
- B. Charles Curry discussed the Joint Inclusion Committee and some efforts occurring around budget.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS JULY 14TH, 2021 MEETNG, 2021 MEETNG**

- A. The minutes for the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting were approved on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Hauser second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioners Kareithi, Cagle, and Van Sickle were absent.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. A comprehensive report on Winter Storm Uri has been completed including a component on vulnerable populations, and that includes older adults, Chair Briesmeister will share with the commission.
- B. Staff working on rebranding the city, no longer wants to present at the meeting, however, will be sharing opportunities for feedback. This includes a survey and virtual meetings for public comment.
- C. Homeless Strategy Officer is not able to present at this meeting, but staff liaison Tabitha Taylor has an update from a meeting with them to share with the Commission.
- D. Hybrid Meeting option coming Spring of 2022.
- E. Tentatively scheduled a joint meeting with the Mayors Committee on Disabilities for February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**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
  - Discussions about expanding digital access.
- iv. Community Support and Health Services Working Group
  - The communication plan has been reviewed but this working group recognizes this communication plan is hard to complete with only the Age Friendly Program Coordinator and Interns.
  - Discussion around better alignment with CHA/CHIP
- v. Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group
  - No discussion currently.
- C. Discussion and possible action from Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Chair Briesmeister)
  - i. A lot of discussions occurring around budget and how to better the process for Boards and Commissions.
- D. Discussion and possible action of City of Austin Budget – Standing Item (Chair Briesmeister)
  - i. Difficult to get response on budget items from FY22.
  - ii. Joint Inclusion has had difficulty meeting with the Equity Office and Budget Office, there should be a meeting upcoming in the next couple of months to discuss Commission’s budget recommendations.

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

- A. Update: Parks and Recreation Department (PARC): Adult 50+ Programs, Kelly Maltzberger, Program Manager, PARC, City of Austin.
  - i. Kelly Maltzberger introduce herself to the Commission on Seniors.
  - ii. Kelly Maltzberger provided an update and presentation to the Commission on Seniors.
- B. Update: Aging Affinity Group, Commissioner Amy Temperley.
  - i. Commissioner Temperley provided an update on a group gathering to address concerns with homelessness and aging.
  - ii. Affinity groups make recommendations up to ECHO and receive feedback from ECHO.
  - iii. Identifying the scope of the problem is challenging.
  - iv. More funding is being received that is related to COVID-19, but this funding will be gone by September 2022.
  - v. More grants have been applied for to work on addressing the scope of homelessness and aging issues.

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

- A. Age- Age-friendly Austin Update, Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Program Coordinator
  - i. Support staff Tabitha Taylor provided an update on Age Friendly Austin, Austin Public Library, Budget, and additional Financial Awareness.
  - ii. Waiting on a response on the feasibility study, it has been routed through APH’s chain of command to the ACM.

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

- A. Commission on Seniors Budget Engagement Discussion.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

A. Chair Briesmeister adjourned the meeting at 1:29 pm.