



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8<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, Jacqueline Angel, Martha Bauman, Martin Kareithi, and Sally Van Sickle.

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Patricia Bordie, Natalie Cagle, Luz Lopez-Guerrero, and Fred Lugo

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

**Presenters:** *Rose Lewis and Jessica Murray*, Design Institute for Health, Dell Medical School, The University of Texas at Austin

Chair, Janee Briesmeister called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05 pm. The Commission introduced themselves.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

A. No Citizen Communication

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

A. Minute approval will be reviewed at next meeting January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**2. ANNOUCEMENTS**

A. Joint Meeting with Mayors Committee on People with Disabilities has not been finalized for February 2022.

B. Martin Kareithi entered the dais at 12:07pm.

**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

- Domain 8 will not meet in December.

- v. Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group
  - No discussion currently.
- C. Discussion and possible action from Joint Inclusion Committee – Standing Item (Chair Briesmeister)
  - i. The meeting for budget review with the Equity Office and Budget Office was moved to late January 2022.
  - ii. Joint Inclusion will be holding a special called meeting during this time, so Joint Inclusion members can attend this meeting without quorum issues.
  - iii. If the special called meeting is not approved, the Joint Inclusion members who will attend have been identified in advance. This includes Commissioner De Maria Nicola who is the Commission on Seniors Joint Inclusion representation.
  - iv. At this time Joint Inclusion has not decided their focus for next budget cycle.
- D. Discussion and possible action of City of Austin Budget – Standing Item (Chair Briesmeister)
  - i. Meeting will be moved from December to January to prep for the January 2022 meeting with the Budget and Equity Office.

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

- A. Presentation: Long Term Care Project Update, Rose Lewis and Jessica Murray, Design Institute for Health, Dell Medical School, The University of Texas at Austin.
  - i. Presentation included discussion of a Long-Term Care Staff Wellbeing Study
  - ii. This included discussing conclusions from a pilot study completed and the recommendations being generated from the final report.
- B. Review and possible action on Commission on Seniors FY23 Budget Engagement Survey
  - i. Commissioners reviewed Budget Survey from last year and discussed potential changes and improvements. This included updates to the employment section, COVID-19 section, and future concerns.
  - ii. Recommended timeline for survey will be January 2022 to February 2022.
- C. Discussion and approval of Commission on Seniors Budget Working Group
  - i. Recommendation adopting Commission on Seniors Budget Working Group was approved on Vice-Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Van Sickle second on a 11-0 vote. Commissioners Bordie, Cagle, Lopez-Guerrero, and Lugo were absent.
  - ii. Martin left dais at 1:21pm.

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

- A. Age-Friendly Austin Update, Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Program Coordinator
  - i. AFA Intern from UT's Grace Program selected, start and end date will be mid-January to mid-July.
  - ii. Update given on Austin Public Library.
  - iii. Update given on Budget including the Senior Tax Exemption Outreach Award (\$20,000).
  - iv. Emergency Preparedness including COVID-19 Response was reviewed.

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

- A. Presentation from the City demographer.
- B. Final vote on the Budget Survey.
- C. Finalize the joint meeting.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Chair Briesmeister adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.