



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

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 and remotely.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Chair, Janee Briesemeister, Vice Chair, Peter Varteressian, Amy Temperley, Erica Garcia-Pittman, Fred Lugo, Jacqueline Angel, Luz Lopez-Guerrero, Martha Bauman, Martin Kareithi, Natalie Cagle (entered dais at 12:29pm), Patricia Bordie, and Sally Van Sickle.

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Diana Spain and Emily De Maria Nicola.

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

**Presenters:** Anna Lan, Capital Metro, Laura Keating, City of Austin Housing and Planning Department, and Krystal Otworth, Age Friendly Intern, MSSW Candidate.

Chair, Janee Briesemeister called the Board Meeting to order at 12:08 pm. The Commission introduced themselves.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

A. No Citizen Communication

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS NOVEMBER 10TH, 2021 AND DECEMBER 8TH, 2021 MEETING**

A. The minutes from both meetings were approved on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Lopez-Guerrero second on a 11-0 vote. Commissioners Cagle, De Maria Nicola, and Spain were absent.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Commissioner Kareithi announced Orange Line Working Groups and Community Design Workshops. An email was sent to Commissioners by staff liaisons.

**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.
- v. Emergency Preparedness and Response 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.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD): Anna Lan from Capital Metro and Laura Keating from the City's Housing and Planning Department will present an overview and answer questions about the equitable transit-oriented development project to plan for equitable outcomes for area residents of all incomes and backgrounds along Project Connect corridors
  - i. Commissioners received a presentation on the Equitable Transit-Oriented Development.
  - ii. This included study area, Cap Metro's ETOD objectives, City of Austin ETOD objectives, and project development.
  - iii. Engagement touchpoints and marketing plan was discussed as well.
- B. Discussion and possible action on Commission on Seniors Joint Inclusion Committee Representative.
  - i. Commissioner De Maria Nicola can no longer serve on the Joint Inclusion Committee due to a work commitment.
  - ii. Commissioner Temperley has been recommended and shown interest to take on this role.
  - iii. Recommendation adopting Commissioner Temperley as the new Joint Inclusion Committee Representative for the Commission on Seniors was approved on Commissioner Van Sickle motion, Vice Chair Varteressian second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioners De Maria Nicola and Spain were absent.
- C. Discussion and possible action on a Resolution regarding cold weather shelters (Commissioner Temperley).
  - i. Commissioner Kareithi recommended an annual plan for evaluation be included, this can be tied to a timeframe, and adjusted as need be.
  - ii. Resolution format was revised and condensed to highlight the important asks and recommendations of the resolution.
  - iii. Commissioners recommended emphasizing outreach and community partnerships.
  - iv. Recommendation adopting a Resolution regarding cold weather shelters with edits discussed during meeting was approved on Commissioner Temperley motion, Commissioner Bordie second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioners De Maria Nicola and Spain were absent.
- D. Discussion and possible action on Budget Recommendations and Engagement.
  - i. Select Commissioners attended the budget meeting put on for Boards and Commissions members by Budget Office and Equity Office, this meeting clarified timelines for making recommendations as well as discussed recommendations made last year (including the traction of these recommendations).
  - ii. Recommendations will be finalized at the next Commission on Seniors meeting in March, in time for the recommendations to be sent to Joint Inclusion (March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022), with an overall deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

- iii. Three community engagement virtual meetings are being held by all Joint Inclusion Commissions. Commissioners were requested to attend these meetings to take notes.
- iv. Possible recommendations discussed: expanding community health workers, more full-time support for Age Friendly Austin, older adults and homelessness, Drive a Senior, storm recommendations, and senior tax exemption.
- v. Staff Liaison Kaleel encouraged continuing sharing of the Commission on Seniors Budget Survey, and Staff Liaison Taylor is available to talk at community meetings on behalf of the Commission on Seniors Budget work.

## **5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- A. Age-friendly Austin Update, Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Program Coordinator.
  - i. Staff Liaison Taylor gave an update on COVID-19 response, Austin Public Library, and Age Friendly Austin.
  - ii. Age Friendly Austin updates included: budget, Senior Homestead Tax Exemption Outreach, Adult Day Center Feasibility Study/Council, Community Engagement, Older Americans Month, and Service Awards.
- B. Introduction, Krystal Otworth, Age Friendly Intern, MSSW candidate.
  - i. Krystal Otworth the new intern for Age Friendly introduced herself to the Commission on Seniors and gave an update on her responsibilities as the intern.

## **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Presentation from the City Demographer (April 2022)
- B. Presentation from City of Austin Libraries.
- C. Presentation on Transit recommended by Commissioner Kareithi.
- D. Presentation from City of Austin Intergovernmental Relations Officer.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Chair Briesemeister adjourned the meeting at 1:43 pm.