



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2022**

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

Board Members in Attendance: Chair, Janee Briesemeister, Vice Chair, Peter Varteressian, Amy Temperley, Diana Spain, Emily De Maria Nicola, Erica Garcia-Pittman, Fred Lugo, Jacqueline Angel, Luz Lopez-Guerrero, Martha Bauman, Martin Kareithi, Patricia Bordie, and Sally Van Sickle.

Commissioner Lugo left dais at 1:12pm and returned at 1:17pm.

Commissioner Van Sickle left dais at 1:11pm and returned at 1:13pm.

Board Members not in Attendance: Natalie Cagle

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

Presenters: None

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

A. No Public Communication

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COMMISSION ON SENIORS FEBRUARY 9TH, 2022 MEETING

A. The minutes from the February 9th, 2022, meeting was approved on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Lopez-Guerrero second on a 13-0 vote. Commissioner Cagle was absent.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Meeting has occurred with auditor's office about audit of older adults access to services. These are preliminary discussions; the office will reach back out to the commissioners around June 2022. Please send recommendations to Chair Briesemeister.

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

- This working group needs a new member, meets every 4th Tuesday of the month.

- 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. Working group will meet after the next Joint Inclusion meeting on March 29th.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and possible action on Commission on Seniors FY22 Community Service Award.
 - i. The Commission on Seniors FY22 Community Service Award survey and implementation was approved on Commissioner Van Sickle motion, Vice Chair Varteressian second on a 13-0 vote. Commissioner Cagle was absent.
 - ii. Survey will be open until before the April 2022 meeting.
 - iii. Commissioners will vote on and approve a nominee at the April 2022 meeting.
- B. Discussion and possible action on working group for drafting, submitting, and monitoring FY23 Budget Recommendations.
 - i. A working group for drafting, submitting, and monitoring FY23 Budget Recommendations was approved on Commissioner De Maria Nicola motion, Commissioner Angel second on a 13-0 vote. Commissioner Cagle was absent.
 - ii. Working groups duties and composition was discussed.
- C. Discussion and possible action on Commission on Seniors FY23 City of Austin Budget Recommendations.
 - i. Budget Recommendation for an Age Friendly Austin Community Engagement Specialist was approved on Commissioner Spain motion, Commissioner Emily Maria Nicola second on a 13-0 vote. Commissioner Cagle was absent.
 - Commissioners discussed how at the last chairs meeting there is a possibility to ask for a full-time position due to many city vacancies.
 - Commissioners discussed the importance of assistance with the communication plan that was developed for age friendly initiatives.
 - More focus on older adults who are part of marginalized communities.
 - ii. Budget Recommendation for Quality of Life Study of Older Adults in Austin was approved on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Temperley second on a 13-0 vote. Commissioner Cagle was absent.
 - iii. Budget Recommendation to maintain funding for education and outreach for Senior Homestead Tax Exemption was approved on Commissioner Van Sickle motion, Commissioner Spain second on a 13-0 vote. Commissioner Cagle was absent.
 - iv. Budget Recommendation for expanding Parks and Recreation Department Programs and Services to Older Adults was approved on Commissioner Kareithi motion, Commissioner Van Sickle motion on a 13-0 vote. Commissioner Cagle was absent.
 - v. Budget Recommendation for Community Health Workers for Older Adults was approved on Commissioner Bordie motion, Commissioner Angel second on a 13-0 vote. Commissioner Cagle was absent.

- Recommendation to add comments from Budget Townhalls to this recommendation.
 - Follow up on abbreviation meaning stated in recommendation: COA-SNR 55+.
- vi. Budget Recommendation for rental and utility assistance for older adults was approved on Commissioner Temperley motion, Commissioner Lopez-Guerrero second on a 13-0 vote. Commissioner Cagle was absent.
 - vii. Budget Recommendation for volunteer driver ride service for older adults was approved on Vice Chair Varteressian motion, Commissioner Kareithi second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioners Cagle and Lugo were absent.
 - Some language revisions recommended.
 - viii. Budget recommendation approving permanent community health workers for persons experiencing homelessness was approved on Commissioner Temperley motion, Commissioner Garcia-Pittman second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioners Cagle and Lugo were absent.

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: Senior Homestead Tax Exemption Outreach, Adult Day Center Feasibility Study Piolet/IDC Advisory Council, Community Engagement for Older Americans Month, and Commission on Seniors Community Service Award.
- B. Commission on Seniors FY 2022 Budget Survey, Halana Kaleel, Staff Liaison
 - i. Staff Liaison Kaleel gave overview of the after-action report completed on the results of the FY 2022 Budget Survey.
 - ii. Recommendation from commissioners to further analyze data on transportation and disabilities, zipcode level data, and looking back at past survey results.
 - iii. Recommendation to begin FY 23 survey as early as November 2022.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Presentation from City Demographer (April 2022)
- B. Community Service Award (April 2022)
- C. Update from Richard Bondi on LGBTQI+ Older Adults Community Center (Pending date)
- D. Presentation from Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator (May 2022)
- E. Presentation from Project Connect (June or July 2022)

7. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chair Briesemeister adjourned the meeting at 1:53 pm.