



**COMMISSION ON SENIORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10TH, 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 Amy Temperley, Emily De Maria Nicola, Fred Lugo, Jacqueline Angel, Martha Bauman, Erica Garcia-Pittman, Patricia Bordie, Peter Varteressian, and Richard Bondi (unable to participate in voting due to technical difficulties).

Board Members not in Attendance: Henry Van De Putte, Luz Lopez-Guerrero, Martin Kareithi, Natalie Cagle, and Sally Van Sickle.

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

Presenters: Vice-Chair Amy Temperley

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: General

- A. No Public Communication

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the July 13th, 2022, Regular Commission on Seniors Meeting, and the minutes of the Joint Meeting with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities on June 10th, 2022.
 - a. The minutes from the July 13th, 2022, Regular Commission on Seniors Meeting and the June 10th, 2022, Joint Meeting with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities were approved on Commissioner Varteressian motion, Commissioner Bordie second on a 9-0-1 vote. Commissioners Van De Putte, Lopez-Guerrero, Kareithi, Cagle, and Van Sickle were absent. Commissioner Bondi was unable to vote due to technical difficulties with remote meeting.

STAFF BRIEFINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. Staff briefing regarding Age-Friendly Austin Update, Tabitha Taylor, Age-Friendly Program Coordinator.
 - a. Discussed Age-Friendly Updates including planning efforts for Senior Homestead tax Exemption Outreach, Older Adult Program and Services Audit, Proposed Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center, End of Life Advisory Committee (St David's Foundation), and recent public health concerns.
 - b. Support Staff Taylor discussed and informed commission on latest guidance for Monkeypox.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Presentation: Aging and Homelessness Community Needs Survey, Vice Chair Amy Temperley
 - a. Vice-Chair Temperley presented on aging and unhoused in Travis County.
 - b. Updates and survey findings were presented from the Aging and Homelessness Community Needs Survey.
 - c. Local data, key findings from interviews with older unhoused adults, service needs, system recommendations, and service recommendations were also discussed.
4. City of Austin FY22-23 Budget Discussion and Review
 - a. Commissioners reviewed the budget recommendations made by Boards and Commissions and their status in the approved budget for FY23.
 - b. Some responses received on Commission on Seniors budget recommendations were vague and will require follow-up to the appropriate departments for clarification.
 - c. Funds were granted for Commission on Seniors to complete a Quality-of-Life Study.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5. Discussion Strategic Discussion and Planning: Commission on Seniors Quality of Life Study
 - a. Funds have been granted and now begins the planning process. The overall process can be almost 2 years.
 - b. However, the commission is looking forward to and is excited for this work.
 - c. Workgroup for the Quality-of-Life Study will be approved at the September 2022 Commission on Seniors Meeting.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

6. Update from Commission Work Plan
 - a. In progress, strategy piece beginning soon.
7. Update from the Age Friendly Action Plan Implementation Working Group
 - a. No discussion currently.
8. Update from the Transportation, Housing, and Outdoor Spaces Working Group
 - a. Met August 8th and received update from the Parks and Recreation Department.
9. Update from the Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group.
 - a. Reviewed priority areas at last meeting.
 - b. Presentation received from Commissioner Bondi.
 - c. Upcoming fall career fair for older adults being hosted by the City of Austin, Human Resources Department.
10. Update from the Community Support and Health Services Working Group
 - a. Discussed how they can support Quality of Life Studies and older adults living alone and their needs.
 - b. Emergency Preparedness efforts and discussions in progress.
11. Update from the Joint Inclusion Committee
 - a. Discussions occurring around quality-of-life studies and budget process.
12. Update from the Ordinance and Bylaws Working Group
 - a. Council Member Kitchen is supportive of the recommended name change of Commission on Seniors to Commission on Aging and will be speaking in support once it is added to the City Council Agenda.
13. Update from the Budget Working Group

- a. No discussion currently.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14. Discussion and possible action to add Commissioner Bondi as co-chair of the Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group
 - a. Commissioner Bondi was approved to be added as co-chair of the Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment Working Group on Commissioner Varteressian motion, Commissioner Temperly second on a 9-0-1 vote. Commissioners Van De Putte, Lopez-Guerrero, Kareithi, Cagle, and Van Sickle were absent. Commissioner Bondi was unable to vote due to technical difficulties with remote meeting.
- 15. Discussion and possible action to add Commissioner Bondi to the Budget Working Group.
 - a. Commissioner Bondi was approved to be added to the Budget Working Group on Commissioner Garcia-Pittman motion, Commissioner Bordie second on a 9-0-1 vote. Commissioners Van De Putte, Lopez-Guerrero, Kareithi, Cagle, and Van Sickle were absent. Commissioner Bondi was unable to vote due to technical difficulties with remote meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 16. Call Presentation on Community Assistance Program from Ronnie Mendoza, Austin Energy (Pending Date)
 - a. October or November 2022 Meetings are the suggested times.
- 17. Presentation on ATX Walk Bike Roll Project from City of Austin Public Works (September 2022)
- 18. Commission on Seniors October Meeting will be for establishing the workplan.
- 19. Presentation on Homestead Tax Exemption will occur at the September 2022 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chair Briesemeister adjourned the meeting at 1:41 pm.

The minutes were approved at the September 14th, 2022 meeting on Commissioner Varteressian's motion, Commissioner Van Sickle's second on 8-0 vote. Chair Briesemeister and Commissioners Angel, Garcia-Pittman, Van De Putte, Lopez-Guerrero, Cagle, and Bordie were absent.