



**JOINT MEETING: COMMISSION ON SENIORS AND MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
MEETING MINUTES** **FRIDAY, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

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

**Commission on Senior Commissioners in Attendance:** Vice-Chair Temperley, Patricia Bordie, Jacqueline Angel, Emily De Maria Nicola, Erica Garcia-Pittman, Martin Kareithi, Luz Lopez-Guerrero, Diana Spain, Sally Van Sickle, and Peter Varteressian.

**Commission on Senior Commissioners not in Attendance:** Janee Briesemeister, Chair, Martha Bauman, Natalie Cagle, Fred Lugo, and Henry Van de Putte.

**Mayors Committee for People with Disabilities Commissioners in Attendance:** Jonathan Franks, Chair, Vice-Chair, Kathryn Broadwater, Robin Orlowski, Emily Shryock, , Diane Kearns-Osterweil, Deborah Trejo

**Mayors Committee for People with Disabilities Commissioners Absent:** Diana Anzaldua, Joey Gidseg, Taurean Burt, Jennifer S. Powell

**Staff in Attendance:** Tabitha Taylor and Halana Kaleel, Austin Public Health and Eduardo Pantoja, Management Services.

Chair, Jonathan Franks called the Board Meeting to order at 5:35 pm. The commissioners introduced themselves.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

- A. Norman Kieke spoke on the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities providing GovDelivery updates for informational purposes on a variety of disability related issues for a diverse audience.
- B. Barbara Epstein spoke on Capital City Village. Capital City Village is an Austin-based nonprofit dedicated to helping seniors stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible, a concept called aging in place and community. They achieve this mission through volunteers, providers, and programs.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Vice Chair Shryock made a motion to approve the minutes from the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities of April 8, 2022. Commissioner Trejo seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Anzaldua, Gidseg, Burt, and Powell absent.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Presentation by Public Consulting Group regarding the Disability Quality of Life Study.
  - a. Carol Johnson, Director of The Civil Rights Office reflected on the Disability Quality of Life Study.
  - b. The presentation covered the results of the study that was started over a year ago and was presented by the Public Consulting Group.
  - c. Some recommendations from the study include focus on strengthening relationships in the disability community, receive feedback from the disability community on an ongoing

reoccurring basis, provide education and training for city employees, promote ADA awareness in the Business Community, and address transportation issues.

- d. There were limitations to the study such as the COVID-19 Pandemic and minimal participation.
- B. Presentation by Project Connect and CapMetro regarding service updates.
  - a. Presentation was prepared by Cheyenne Krause, Edna Parra, Sam Sargent, and Yannis Banks.
  - b. The presentation covered: Geometry of transit, Project Connect overview, MetroRapid, SoCo Station, Blue Line Bridge, Crestview Station, East Riverside at Pleasant Valley, The Drag, and Next Steps.
  - c. Commissioners were given options to stay engaged.
- C. Discussion on the Commission on Seniors Name Change. (Commissioner Temperly)
  - a. Commissioner Temperley discussed the Commission on Seniors intention to change the name of the Commission on Seniors to the Commission on Aging. There will be ongoing discussions on this change.
- D. Discussion on the Downtown Commission's position on the use of scooters in the downtown areas and its impact on people with disabilities. (Commissioners Broadwater and Orlowski).
  - a. Commissioner Orlowski discussed how scooter misuse is damaging to those with disabilities and the city is not efficiently enforcing laws regarding scooters.
  - b. Commissioner Broadwater voiced support on concerns about scooters and the need for the city to better enforce rules regarding scooters to benefit people living with disabilities.
- E. Discussion regarding a recommendation to require certified ASL interpreters to be dispatched to a site with deaf survivors.
  - a. Tabled for July 2022 Meeting.
- F. Discussion regarding a recommendation to require the City of Austin MBWE Program be amended and expanded to include disability.
  - a. Tabled for July 2022 Meeting.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. None.

### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Commissioner Orlowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm; Commissioner Shryock, Vice Chair seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 6-0 with Commissioners Anzaldua, Gidseg, Burt, and Powell absent.

**The minutes were approved at the August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting on Commissioner Varteressian's motion, Commissioner Bordie's second on 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.**