



***Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 9th, 2023***

The Commission on Aging convened in a regular meeting at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas, 78702 and remotely.

Chair Temperley, called the Commission on Aging Meeting to order at 12 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Amy Temperley, Vice-Chair Richard Bondi, Jacqueline Angel, Patricia Bordie, Emily De Maria Nicola, Gretchen Flatau, Martin Kareithi, Fred Lugo, Preston Tyree

Board Members/Commissioners not in Attendance: Austin Adams, Teresa Sansone Ferguson, Henry Van de Putte

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

No public communications at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging regular meeting on June 14th, 2023.
 - The minutes from the meeting of June 14th, 2023, were approved by Commissioner Lugo motion, Commissioner Flatau second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Adams, Sansone Ferguson, and Van de Putte were absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2. Staff briefing regarding Age-Friendly Austin Update, Kodjo Dodo, Manager and Nicole Howe, Age-Friendly Austin (AFA) Program Coordinator, Planning and Evaluation Unit, Austin Public Health.
 - A brief update was provided on Age-Friendly Austin planning and Age-Friendly Austin staffing.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Presentation on Advancing Economic Resilience Among Adults 50+ through Benefits and Refunds by Gabriela Mordi, MSSW, Senior Project Manager, Prosper Tax Help, Foundation Communities.
 - She reported that her program has been preparing taxes for free for over 19 years for low-income and older adults. Last year they prepared over 13,000 tax returns totaling \$21.6 million dollars back to taxpayers. Nearly 4 million dollars in tax returns were completed for individuals 50+ years old.
 - The presentation also included updates on the prosper centers, income eligibility, and how to access services.
4. Brief discussion of the FY23-24 Proposed Budget to City Council.
 - Halana Kaleel reported that there would be an upcoming meeting to hear about budget allocations.
 - Commissioner Bondi reported that \$3k was approved for the enhanced library card program.
 - Commissioners did a high level review of the 2023-2024 Boards and Commissions Recommendations and Feedback Report.
5. Nicole Howe, AFA Program Coordinator, gave an update on the upcoming AARP Community Challenge Walkability Audits as part of the 2023 AARP Community Challenge Grant.
 - There will be two Walkability Audits in early October that will take place in Austin areas identified as high traffic, low-income, and high density of individuals 65+. Volunteers are being sought and information widely distributed to recruit participants.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

6. Discussion and possible action on scheduling a Joint Meeting with the Commission on Aging and the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (October or December 2023)
 - The joint meeting is not a requirement but a recommendation in the City Ordinance for the Commission on Aging.
 - The commissioners recommend that Friday, October 13th, 5:30-7:00pm will be the best time for the joint meeting.
 - Staff liaisons will coordinate with the staff liaisons of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.
 - Staff liaisons will help identify presentations and topics that will be of interest to both boards.
7. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to support the posting and hiring of the Age Friendly Austin Public Health Engagement Position (Chair Temperley)
 - Commissioners are concerned that a position they recommended last year and was approved has still not been posted or hired.

- Kodjo Dodo stated the position is in the final stages of revision and will hopefully be posted by the end of August 2023.
 - Laura LaFuente, Assistant Director, Health Equity and Community Engagement Division, Austin Public Health stated they understand the need for and importance of the position and are working with HR to gain the approvals for the posting.
8. Discussion and possible action to support a recommendation on the proposed Community Investment Budget and Priorities (Chair Temperley)
- The Equity Office forwarded an email to the Boards and Commissions who comprise the Joint Inclusion Committee with information on the proposed Community Investment Budget and Priorities.
 - The motion to approve supporting funding for the Tenant Notification and Relocation Assistance Program and the establishment of Resilience Hubs and Emergency Preparedness highlighted in the proposed Community Investment Budget was approved on Vice-Chair Bondi's motion, Commissioner Flatau's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Adams, Sansone Ferguson, and Van de Putte were absent.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

9. Update from the Joint Inclusion Committee on JIC endorsed recommendations, public budget townhalls, presentations, and vacancies (Vice-Chair Bondi)
- Vice-Chair Bondi provided a brief update on the Joint Inclusion Committee.
 - Jeremy Garza, Equity Office, City of Austin discussed the upcoming budget workshop for the boards and commissions that comprise the Joint Inclusion Committee.
10. Update from the Age Friendly Austin Domain 1-3 Working Group on AFA Plan Strategies (Commissioner Flatau)
- Commissioner Flatau gave a brief update on the AFA Domain 1-3 Working Group including the work being done to update and revise metrics and goals related to these Domains of the AFA Plan.
 - Hoping to have most of this work finished by September 2023.
11. Update from the AFA Domains 4-6 Workgroup on updating AFA Plan goals and strategies (Vice-Chair Bondi)
- Vice-Chair Bondi gave a brief update on the work the workgroup has been doing to revise and update the metrics of their domains in the AFA Plan.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

12. Report and possible action on a letter of support from the Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center Exploration Working Group (Vice-Chair Bondi)

- Working Group Lead Vice-Chair Bondi reviewed the draft recommendation prepared by the working group.
- Currently this recommendation does not cite support for the IRAC at Nash Hernandez.
- Taking action on this recommendation has been tabled until Austin Public Health and Parks and Recreation has responded to council on their work being done regarding this topic.
- APH and PARD should be responding to the Council by early October 2023.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Amy Temperley adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the September 13th meeting on Commissioner Adam's motion, Vice Chair Bondi's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Angel, Bordie, and Flatau.