



***Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 13th, 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 12:02 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Amy Temperley, Vice-Chair Richard Bondi, Austin Adams, Martin Kareithi, Emily De Maria Nicola, Teresa Sansone-Ferguson, Fred Lugo, Gloria Lugo, Preston Tyree, Henry Van de Putte.

Board Members/Commissioners not in Attendance: Jacqueline Angel, Patricia Bordie, Gretchen Flatau.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Carlos Santos, Community Advancement Network discussed the power of collaboration, the opportunities to address community challenges, the opportunities to engage with the community, community resource guides, and mental health first aid.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Commissioner Kareithi and Sansone-Ferguson entered the dais at 12:06pm
2. Approve the minutes of the August 9th, 2023 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting. The minutes from the meeting of August 9th, 2023 were approved by Commissioner Adams motion, Vice Chair Bondi second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Angel, Bordie, and Flatau were absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. 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.

4. New Commissioner Gloria Lugo was introduced.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Presentation: Gustavo “Gus” Garcia Recreation Center Update on Older Adult Programming and Service Needs, Theresa Jones.
 - An update was provided by Theresa Jones from the Gus Garcia Recreation Center on the need for designated space for older adult activities.
 - Also discussed was how Gus Garcia is the only recreation center north of HWY 290 and there is a very large population of older adults in North Austin who are underserved.
 - Youth programming takes up a significant amount of space during summer months which does not allow room for the older adult programming.
 - The older adults of Gus Garcia have cited wanting their own space and the property has 47 acres which they feel allows opportunity for a new building dedicated to older adult programming.
6. Presentation: HIV and Aging, Barry Waller.
 - Barry Waller discussed September 18th which is National HIV and Aging Awareness Day.
 - Mr. Waller discussed the effective treatments being utilized that is leading to people with HIV to live long and healthy lives.
 - He did cite how LGBT older adults worry about neglect and abuse and report being socially isolated.
 - Commissioner Gloria Lugo asked about the possibility of having the presentation translated into Spanish.
7. Discussion on the 2023 Joint Inclusion Boards & Commissions Budget Workshop.
 - Jeremy Garza, Equity Office, City of Austin reported on the upcoming town halls in October and November of 2023 to support FY24 Budget Recommendations.
 - Commission members are encouraged to engage with the public and share the advertisements for the upcoming town halls.
 - Commissioners discussed making a recommendation to have more transparency on what happens to Boards and Commissions Budget Recommendations.
8. Discussion and update on the 2023 AARP Community Challenge Grant.
 - Age Friendly Program Coordinator Nicole Howe gave an update on the AARP Walk Audits that will be completed in October of 2023.
 - Commissioner Adams left dais at 12:50pm and returned at 12:59pm.
9. Discussion on Proclamation for Ageism Awareness Day, October 7th, 2023 (Chair Temperley).
 - Chair Temperley read the draft of the proclamation that will be read by the council in early October.
 - The tentative date for proclamation is October 5th.

- Commissioner Sansone-Ferguson left dais at 1:00pm.
- Commissioner Kareithi left dais at 1:05pm.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

10. Update from the Community Needs Assessment Survey Workgroup and progress of updating the Community Needs Assessment Survey and timeline of survey distribution (Commissioner Ferguson).

- Chair Temperley discussed the working group formed for the annual community engagement survey.
- Updates coming.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

11. Discussion and possible action on the Joint Inclusion Committee endorsed recommendations (Vice-Chair Bondi).

- Vice Chair Bondi discussed recommendations on medical respite including education of street medicine team to be more mindful/sensitive when arresting people experiencing homelessness.
- Other recommendations discussed were ones from the Human Rights Commission including funding for homeless population, the treatment of migrants at the Mexican/Texas border, and the treatment of incarcerated individuals in Texas (no AC in prisons/jails during high temperature months).

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Echo will present (October 2023)
- Concern about DNR's not being respected and presentation will be requested from EMS.
- Suggested presentation from Alan Graham to speak about issues concerning older adults.
- Suggested presentation on weather related emergency services
- PARD will be presenting (November 2023) to give updates on a facility audit they have been conducting.
- Commission on Aging Working Group will be reformed at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Amy Temperley adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the October 11th meeting on Vice Chair Bondi's motion, Commissioner De Maria Nicola second on a 11-0-1 vote. Commissioner Sansone Ferguson abstained due to absence at the September 13th meeting. Commissioner Kareithi was absent.