



***Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11th, 2023***

The Commission on Aging convened in a regular meeting at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas, 78701 and remotely.

Chair Temperley called the Commission on Aging Meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Amy Temperley, Vice-Chair Richard Bondi, Austin Adams, Jacqueline Angel, Patricia Bordie, Emily De Maria Nicola, Gretchen Flatau, Teresa Sansone Ferguson, Fred Lugo, Gloria Lugo, Walter Preston Tyree, and Henry Van de Putte.

Board Members/Commissioners not in Attendance: Martin Kareithi

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the September 13th, 2023 Regular Commission on Aging Meeting.
 - The minutes from the meeting of September 13th, 2023 were approved by Vice Chair Bondi 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.

STAFF BRIEFINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.
3. Announcements
 - An announcement was made by Chair Temperley that Commissioner Bondi had received the Agism Awareness Proclamation on October 5th, 2023 at City Hall.
 - November is National Caregivers Month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Presentation: Aging and Unhoused in Travis County: A Snapshot and Strategic Next Steps, Danica Fraher, LMSW, MPH, Healthcare Systems Manager and Kate Moore, VP of Strategy at the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO).
 - Presentation included an introduction to ECHO and the Homelessness Response System
 - Topics included data on aging and the unhoused population and strategic next steps.
 - Other discussion included: categories of homelessness, potential contributing factors that lead to homelessness.
 - Reported were 1,620 individuals are experiencing homelessness in Travis County at 50+ years old.
 - Information was shared about housing solutions in the works such as adding 1000 new units of permanent supportive housing, and also about enhancing communication between the homeless response team and the healthcare system.
 - The hope is to facilitate safe discharge from medical facilities and provide support for those with chronic medical conditions, mental health issues, and physical disabilities.
5. Presentation: A Better Death: Views and Experiences with End-Of-Life Issues, Andrew Levack, and Ellie Haggerty Coplin, St. Davids Foundation.
 - The presentation covered the results of a statewide survey.
 - Key takeaways included:
 - i. A majority of Texans are on the same page when it comes to their end-of-life preferences.
 - ii. Despite shared preferences, just a third say their loved one's end of life went the way they wanted.
 - iii. Most Texans lack preparation for end of life care and decisions.
 - St. David's Foundation is committed to using this research and strategic conversations to educate individuals and help alleviate negative feels around planning for EOL.
 - They continue to support systemic change to reduce barriers with communication and language, insurance issues, and hospice care.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

6. Discussion and possible action on Commission on Aging attendance and promotion of the Investing in Community Joint Inclusion Budget Townhalls.
 - Jeremy Garza from the City of Austin, Equity Office introduced the new staff liaison for the JIC Alejandra Mireles.
 - Alejandra Mireles, City of Austin, Equity Office introduced herself and discussed JIC and budget townhalls.
 - Commissioners discussed who would attend the remaining budget townhalls.
7. Discussion and possible action on the Commission on Aging 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule.
 - Commissioners discussed the current meeting schedule and decided to make no changes to the current schedule.
 - Will continue to meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month beginning at noon.

- The Commission on Aging approved their 2024 meeting schedule on Vice-Chair Bondi's motion, Commissioner Flatau second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioner Kareithi was absent.
8. Discussion and possible action to designate a budget workgroup to investigate community challenges that need to be included in the upcoming FY24-25 budget.
 - The Budget Workgroup established of Age Friendly Austin Working Group Chairs was approved on Vice-Chair Bondi's motion, Commissioner Austin second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioner Kareithi was absent.
 9. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation that the City of Austin create and distribute a report that identifies the commission recommendations that are approved and included in the City's budget, to include which of the commission recommendations are approved, the amount of funds allocated and the department within the City tasked with implementing the recommendation(s).
 - Recommendation that the City of Austin create and distribute a report that identifies the commission recommendations that are approved and included in the City's budget, to include which of the commission recommendations are approved, the amount of funds allocated and the department within the City tasked with implementing the recommendation(s) was approved on Commissioner Van De Putte's motion, Commissioner Angel second on a 12-0 vote. Commissioner Kareithi was absent.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

10. Discussion and update from the Domain 4-6 Working Group on updated metrics for the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan.
 - Vice Chair Bondi reported that the metrics for Domian 4-6 were almost completed.
11. Discussion and update from the Domain 8 Working Group on updated metrics for the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan.
 - Commissioner Bordie reported that metrics for Domain 8 are still in progress and will be looking more at social isolation and emergency preparedness.
12. Discussion and update from Vice-Chair Bondi on the work of the Joint Inclusion Committee.
 - All recommendations at the last Joint Inclusion Committee meeting were passed.
13. Update from the Community Needs Assessment Survey Workgroup and progress of updating the Community Needs Assessment Survey and timeline of survey distribution (Commissioner Ferguson).
 - Commissioner Ferguson has reported that they are currently looking at other cities for best practices and hope to have a new survey completed by mid-November.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

14. Discussion and possible action to reform Domain 1-3 Working Group into two separate working groups.
 - Recommendation to split Domain 1-3 Working Group into two separate working groups.

- Motioned to split this working group into two working groups, AFA Domain 1-2 Working Group and AFA Domain 3 Working Group was motioned by Commissioner Flatau, seconded by Vice-Chair Bondi, and approved on a 12-0 vote. Commissioner Kareithi was absent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Update on the QoL Study
- Presentation on caregiver shortages and wages.
- Cold Weather Shelters Presentation

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Amy Temperley adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the November 8th, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Van de Putte's motion, Commissioner Flatau second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Adams, De Maria Nicola, Lugo, Angel, and Gonzalez were absent.