

**REGULAR MEETING of the  
LGBTQ QUALITY OF LIFE  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
Monday, December 4, 2023, at  
7:00 P.M.  
City of Austin Permitting and  
Development Center, Room 1401  
6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr.,  
Austin, Texas 78752  
MEETING MINUTES**

Some members of the Commission may be participating by videoconference.

Public comment will be allowed in-person or remotely via telephone. Speakers may only register to speak on an item once, either in-person or remotely, and will be allowed up to three minutes to provide their comments. Registration no later than noon the day before the meeting is required for remote participation by telephone. To register to speak remotely, contact Alyssa Parra, the Commission’s staff liaison, at 512-974-2934 or [Alyssa.Parra@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Parra@AustinTexas.gov).

**CURRENT COMMISSIONERS:**

<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Appointment</i>
Dereca Sims	District 1	VACANT	District 8
Christian Aguirre	District 2	Mariana Krueger	District 9
Yuri G Barragán	District 3	Brandon Wollerson	District 10
Darcy Rendon	District 4	Marti Bier	Mayor
Emily Bush	District 5	Charles Curry	Stakeholder
David Garza	District 6	Dr. Melissa Taylor	Stakeholder
J. Scott Neal, Chair	District 7	Morgan Davis	Stakeholder
		VACANT	Stakeholder

**Minutes**

**CALL TO**

**ORDER**

Chair Scott Neal called to order at 7:05 PM

**ROLL**

**CALL:**

***Absent:***

- Darcy Rendon
- Emily Bush
- Melissa Taylor

***Present:***

- Christian Aguirre
- Marti Bier
- Yuri G Barragán
- Charles Curry
- Mariana Krueger
- Morgan Davis
- Brandon Wollerson
- David Garza
- Dereca Sims
- John Scott Neal

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The first ten speakers signed up before the meeting is called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

**MOTION TO SUSPEND ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER**

Motioned by Curry and seconded by Davis, passed unanimously by roll call vote with Commissioner Garza abstaining.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Motion by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve the minutes of the Commission’s Regular Meeting on November 13, 2023. Passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. Presentation by Austin Public Health on the Breathe With Pride program, presented by Shimarah Mehrotra.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

3. Discussion regarding an LGBTQ Cultural Center.
  - Out of the top twenty cities with the largest LGBTQ community, Austin is the third, and the only without an LGBTQ cultural center.
  - Qwell and Penrose, a national affordable housing builder, have partnered to build a center in Austin that works for our community here. Hoping to break ground in 2025.
  - Financing options include tax credits or a PSE structure.
  - 150 units, \$40-50 million, ideally majority, if not all units will be affordable. Will go as deeply affordable as possible within
  - General affordable housing and plan for at least one project to be queer friendly affordable housing.
  - Fair housing does not allow them to limit who they rent to, but they can design, build, and market to the community that they want to attract.
  - Ground floor retail will support the whole community.
4. Discussion of possible action on new stakeholder positions.

Motion made by Commissioner Aguirre to instate Alexander D. Andersen in the vacant stakeholder position of the LGBTQ commission, seconded by Commissioner Wollerson. Passed unanimously by roll call vote, with Chair Neal abstaining.

5. Brief discussion on recommendations regarding direction and strategic priorities for the next year. Longer discussion and action were tabled until the next meeting.
6. Discussion and possible action on the New Vice Chair Election.

Motion by Chair Neal, Seconded by Garza to appoint Commissioner Aguirre as vice Chair. Unanimous approval by roll call vote.

**WORKING GROUPS**

7. Discussion and possible action on the creation of a budget working group, including a round table discussion of ideas from commissioners on what they are considering for budget recommendations this year.

We must submit recommendations to the council by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

We would need to talk to the department in January to see what they would support if we recommended it. In February we would pass our recommendations, and in March they would go to the JIC.

The equity office prepared a summary of the Town Hall meetings.

Wollerson would like to see a mental health resolution & and meet with APH in January to discuss.

Chair Neal would like to focus on trans health, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Curry would like to focus on housing. See the COA's Housing Blueprint, we are missing the 30% MFI housing. Would like to meet with HPD. Commissioner Krueger would like to see gender-affirming care, mental health, housing, and funding for mass transit.

Equity action connections or when their priority list might be released.

Motion by Garza, Seconded by Neal, to form a budget working group to include Commissioners Curry, Davis, Wollerson, until October 31st, tasked with creating budget recommendations, meeting with departments, and bringing final recommendation drafts to the February meeting for a vote, and preparing the end of year report. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion of recommendations from the New Commissioner & Increasing Community Input Working Group.

*Members: Neal, Garza, Aguirre, Sims, and Bier*

Using the list of commissioner applicants for working groups.

9. Discussion and possible action on recommendations from the Housing Working Group, including the appointment of Jason Hawkins and Riley Church to the working group and acknowledgment of Commissioner Kruger's recruitment efforts.

*Members: Curry, Davis, Aguirre, Griffin*

Motion by Commissioner Curry, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to add Jason Hawkins, Riley Church, Caleb Newton, Annie Fierroo, and Amber Newman to the housing working group. Passed unanimously.

10. Discussion on recommendations from the Cultural Center Working Group.

*Members: Wollerson, Davis, Barragán*

No recommendations currently.

- 11. Discussion and possible action on recommendations from the Demographic Data Working Group.

*Members: Curry, Aguirre*

Combined with item 12.

- 12. Discussion and possible action on recommendations for demographic data collection by COA departments

*Sponsor: Charles Curry*

The draft recommendation will be shared with the JIC, and the commission vote on the recommendation will be tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Krueger would like to see immigration status, body size, and income included in the recommendation as long as the information is kept confidential.

- 13. Discussion and possible action creating new working groups.

*Sponsor: Scott Neal*

No additional ones currently.

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9:14

PM.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least two days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please get in touch with Alyssa Parra, the Commission's staff liaison, at 512-974-2934 or [Alyssa.Parra@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Parra@AustinTexas.gov) for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission, please get in touch with Alyssa Parra, the Commission's staff liaison, at 512-974-2934 or [Alyssa.Parra@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Parra@AustinTexas.gov).

**The minutes were approved at the 1/8/24 meeting on Commissioner Garza's motion, Commissioner Davis's second on a 9-0 vote.**



**LGBTQ**  
**Quality of Life**  
**Advisory Commission**  
*[austintexas.gov/lgbtq](http://austintexas.gov/lgbtq)*