



**Commission on Aging  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Commission on Aging convened in a regular meeting at City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Austin, Texas, 78701 and remotely.

Chair Bondi called the Commission on Aging Meeting to order at 12:05pm.

**Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:** Chair Richard Bondi, Vice Chair Gretchen Flatau, Austin Adams, Suzanne Anderson, Jacqueline Angel, Teresa Ferguson, Martin Kareithi, Gloria Lugo, Tina Rodriguez, Preston Tyree (entered dais 12:28pm).

**Board Members/Commissioners not in Attendance:** Mariana Gonzalez, Jennifer Scott, and Henry Van de Putte.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Commission on Aging Meeting.
  - The minutes from the meeting of August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were approved by Commissioner Ferguson's motion, Commissioner Kareithi's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Gonzalez, Scott, Tyree, and Van de Putte were absent.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

2. Discussion and possible action on proceeding with only one Commission on Aging member on workgroup calls with the vendor for the Commission on Aging Quality of Life Study.
  - a. Discussed allowing the workgroup calls with the vendor for the Commission on Aging to proceed with one Commission on Aging member with the understanding that that commissioner will share with the rest of the commission.
  - b. Recommendation to proceed with one member of the Commission on Aging on the workgroup meetings with the vendor of the Commission on Aging Quality of Life Study was approved by Vice-Chair Flatau's motion, Commissioner Ferguson's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioners Gonzalez, Scott, and Van de Putte were absent.
3. Discussion and possible action on authorizing Commission on Aging members to represent and speak on behalf of the Commission on Aging at the Commission Budget Townhalls for FY25 City of Austin Budget.
  - Recommendation to authorize Commission on Aging members to represent the entire Commission on Aging at the Commission Budget Townhalls for FY25 City of Austin Budget was approved on Commissioner Ferguson's motion, Vice-Chair Flatau's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioners Gonzalez, Scott, and Van de Putte were absent.

4. Discussion and possible action on Ageism Awareness Day Activities being planned by the Commission on Aging.
  - a. Discussed the Aging is Living Conference on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - b. Ageism Awareness Day was also mentioned in the AFA Newsletter.
5. Discussion and possible action on submitting an Ageism Awareness Day Proclamation to Austin City Council.
  - a. Support Staff Halana Kaleel has been trying to schedule a proclamation.
  - b. Recommendation in future to address proclamations at least 3 months in advance.
6. Discussion and possible action on getting the City of Austin to identify an Implicit Bias Day and the necessary steps involved.
  - a. A working group was formed at the last meeting to address identifying an Implicit Bias Day and the necessary steps involved.
  - b. Workgroup includes Chair Bondi, and Commissioners Tyree and Scott.
7. Discussion and possible action on the annual Age Friendly Austin Community Feedback Survey including assigning Commission on Aging Members to review questions.
  - a. Commissioner Ferguson has agreed to lead these efforts and will be working with Community Engagement Specialist Halana Kaleel.
    - Recommendation to assign Commission on Aging Members Ferguson, Flatau, and Anderson to review questions was approved on Vice-Chair Flatau's motion, Commissioner Anderson's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioners Gonzalez, Scott, and Van de Putte were absent.
8. Discussion and possible action on authorizing Commission on Aging members to speak on behalf of the Commission on Aging at the Aging is Living Conference.
  - a. Ryan Sperling from the City Clerk's Office gave clarification based on his knowledge of City Code on speaking on behalf of the Commission at events such as the Aging is Living Conference.
  - b. Commissioner Ferguson asked for a meeting with City Clerk to get further information on this.
9. Discussion and possible action to recommend to the Austin City Council to adopt the Equity Based Preservation Plan.
  - Recommendation to recommend to the Austin City Council to adopt the Equity Based Preservation Plan was approved on Vice-Chair Flatau's motion, Commissioner Tyree's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioners Gonzalez, Scott, and Van de Putte were absent.
10. Discussion and possible action on participation and attendance of Commission on Aging Workgroups so that workgroups can be effective in proceeding and achieving their assigned tasks.
  - a. Reminder to participate in working groups when able.
11. Discussion and possible action on revising the Commission on Aging Bylaws Article 8. Committees/Workgroups to remove Section D, "Staff Support will not be provided for working groups."
  - a. Item was tabled.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

12. Discussion on the updates to the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan.
  - a. Laure LaFuente, Executive Support for the Commission on Aging discussed that before adopting an update Age Friendly Austin (AFA) Plan, that the roles of staff and commission related to the plan need to be better clarified. A meeting will be scheduled with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission on Aging.

- b. Discussed how a revised AFA Plan is not due to AARP until July 2026 and based on the recommendations from the City Audit for Senior Services, there are a few more elements needed that can be built on for the next revision.
  - c. The City of Austin is also currently revising Imagine Austin which is the City of Austin's Comprehensive Plan which the AFA Plan is a part of. So, there is a possibility this update will affect the AFA Plan.
  - d. Laura LaFuentes asked that the workgroups for the plan be paused while staff has meetings to clarify roles.
13. Presentation: St. David's Foundation Funding Plan, Andrew Levack.
- a. St. David's Foundation has a vision for a vibrant and inclusive community, focused on health equity, and being an advocate for the most marginalized.
  - b. Focus on community based programs that are action based.
  - c. The Community Health Needs Assessment plays a role in guiding the work of the foundation.
  - d. Focuses include affordable housing, behavioral health issues, need for coordinated care, finding providers for Medicare reimbursed services, cost of living which all have an affect on older adults.
  - e. St. David's Foundation hopes to increase access to quality care and remove barriers to improve health outcomes.
  - f. Priority to equip communities to set their own agendas for health priorities.

#### **STAFF BRIEFINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

14. Staff Briefing regarding Age-Friendly Austin including update on the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan Update, Nicole Howe, Age Friendly Program Coordinator, Austin Public Health.
- a. Nicole Howe gave an update on the plan and other activities of Age Friendly Austin.
15. Staff Briefing regarding the Equity-Based Preservation Plan, Cara Bertron, Program Manager, Planning Department.
- a. The vision of the plan is to protect and share places and stories of historic Austin, and to create shared ownership and visibility.
  - b. Archeological items, murals, cultural institutions, properties, stories are all part of preservation efforts. Including gathering stories to celebrate iconic longstanding institutions, places, and businesses of Austin.
16. Recognizing Commissioner Fred Lugo and Commissioner De Maria (Nicola) for service on the Commission on Aging.
- a. Commissioner De Maria (Nicola) has resigned from the Commission on Aging.
  - b. Commissioner Fred Lugo's term was ended.

#### **WORKGROUP UPDATES**

17. Discussion of the September 7<sup>th</sup> Budget Townhall and the commission recommendations that were approved from the Budget Working Group (Working Group Members: Chair Bondi, Vice-Chair Flatau, Commissioners Gonzalez and Ferguson).
- a. Chair Bondi and Vice-Chair Flatau will be sending out information to the whole commission.
18. Discussion on upcoming activities sponsored or promoted by the Domains 4-6 Workgroup (Working Group Members: Chair Bondi, Commissioners Ferguson, Gonzalez, and Fred Lugo).
- a. Item was tabled.
19. Discussion on Domain 3 Working Group goals and key areas of focus for 2024-2025 (Working Group Members: Vice-Chair Flatau, Commissioner Kareithi and Lugo).
- a. Item was tabled.

20. Discussion on the Workgroup for Collaboration with the Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities (Working Group Members: Vice-Chair Flatau, Commissioners Rodriquez and Anderson.
  - a. Chair Bondi is working on scheduling a meeting.
21. Update from the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Inclusion Committee (Chair Bondi).
  - a. Chair Bondi will send a notice out.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- b. Dr. Tran will be speaking about the Asian Community (Item was sponsored by Commissioner Anderson and Chair Bondi)
- c. Create Budget Working Group for FY25 City of Austin Budget Recommendations.
- d. Update on the Quality of Life Survey
- e. Debrief on the Aging is Living Conference
- f. Ageism Awareness Day Activities.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm without objection.

**The minutes were approved at the DATE meeting on BOARD MEMBER’s motion, BOARD MEMBER second on a (vote count) vote.**