



# Senior Affairs Commission Report

Monday, April 22, 2019

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CITY SECRETARY  
DALLAS, TEXAS

## Agenda

### 1. Call to Order – 12:02pm

- Chair Fein publicly shared her appreciation to all the commissioners and staff that attended the Council briefing on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- She extended a special thank you to Susan Williams, Associate State Director for AARP Texas, for her metrics and data that helped staff and herself to prepare the Age-Friendly Plan for presentation to the Mayor and City Council.
- The Age-Friendly Plan is a living plan that will grow as the population grows.
- Now the commissioners have a plan to follow that is in alignment with the subcommittees.

### 2. Roll Call (see attachment)

### 3. Approval of March 25, 2019 Minutes

- Commissioner Benenson made a motion to approve the March 25<sup>th</sup> minutes. Commissioner King seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Voting Item: SAC Goals

- The goals were incorrect according to Commissioner Wick.
- Commissioner Wick requested a copy of what the commissioners are voting on.
- Commissioner Cohen wanted a more formal format for the goals.
- The item was tabled and will be added to the May agenda.

### 5. Voting Item: Budget

- Commissioner Benenson reviewed the copy of the proposed budget worked on at the last budget meeting and a copy of the talking points.
- A recommended budget of \$1,900,000 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is an increase of \$520,000 from last year.
- The amount allocated for seniors is small even though adults 55+ represent approximately 18% of the Dallas population.
- The Department of Human Services receives only 1% of the total budget and seniors receive 20% of that.
- This year the commissioners are asking for all of the funds to come from the General Fund because the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund has been reduced by the federal government and there is no guarantee the Commission will receive the same amount in the next year.
- Senior Services Program is asking for the same amount as last year (\$430,000) which is the CDBG and General Funds combined.
- Senior Services Employment, provided by Senior Source, remains at a level funding of \$137,000.
- Dental Health services are requesting a \$30,000 reduction from last year.
- Senior Medical Transportation will be contracted out to Dallas Southern Link and Medixcar LLC. Senior Services got a grant through the North Central Texas Council Of Government (NCTCOG) for a little over \$400,000 over a 3-year period.
- The commissioners will ask for a match over that period.
- The Ombudsman Program which was funded through CDBG will remain at the same amount of \$116,000 but will be requested from the General Fund.
- Under the Minor Home Repair Program, the commissioners request \$500,000 to be earmarked specifically for seniors within the current program.
- Commissioner Benenson wanted the dental information passed out to libraries, recreation centers, and other senior services.
- Commissioner Benenson made a motion to move that the Commission recommends that the full City Council approves their recommended budget of \$1,899,280 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year for seniors. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### 6. MayFair Reimagined

- All commissioners have been invited to attend a committee meeting to revamp the MayFair event.
- MayFair will be reinvented and will not happen during Older Americans Month because of all other events in May.
- In the last meeting, it was discussed to make changes and move in a more fun, social and educational-type program so the staff can support.

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- The event will be planned in August and have staff support and commissioner advocacy support in coming up with something new that represents the Senior Affairs Commission.

## 7. Senior Services Update

### ● Outreach Activities

Senior Services Manager, Ana Camacho, reported on the following matters:

- Excited to partner with Parks & Rec on social services at the WellMed Center starting in June.
- Providing social services at least once a week. Still deciding on a calendar and will meet with Daryl Quarles soon.
- Creating programming with small programs to take out in the community starting in Parks & Rec, then moving elsewhere like libraries and the general community.
- Topics will include dementia, end of life issues, actual city services, transportation, senior legal issues, hoarding, bed bugs, grandparents, education, employment, etc.
- There will be a program created for winter safety and maybe summer safety.
- Each program a speaker or professional will be present to talk about the services available and what people can do.
- Currently, staff is working on the senior safety summit in partnership with the Dallas Police Department.
- It will be held at the end of June or beginning of July with vendors, DPD presentation, and possibly two more speakers and a panel. The theme is Safety & Hoarding.
- Once finalized, staff will let everyone know and will send out those flyers.
- The Office of Community Care staff is part of the planning committee for the big DART event on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am-1pm held at Centennial Hall at Fair Park.
- Volunteers are requested the day before for setup and the day of.
- Staff will also be vendors at the Seniors Mother's Day Luncheon on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am-1pm at the Sheridan.
- **Budget Timeline (schedule attached)**
  - Ana will send the timeline schedule for the budget meetings.
- **Listening Sessions (Future)**
  - Started the listening sessions in partnership with AARP at the beginning on their planning phase on the Age-Friendly Dallas Plan.
  - Second round format was revised on June 26, 2018 to provide the commissioners more leadership in all the event planning and the organization while staff would only be facilitators.
  - This empowered the commissioners to see what the needs of their district were in order to provide more educational services and fill in those gaps.
  - District 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and the chair's second round still need to be completed.
  - Last listening session held on February 19<sup>th</sup> in District 8 for Commissioner Austin incorporated a lot of vendors and speakers.
  - Senior feedback from the sessions included affordable housing, resources specifically for seniors like a 311 hotline, the need for non-medical senior transportation, more efficient sidewalks and trails for seniors, rooms specific for seniors at rec centers, pool privacy and extended hours, animal programs, food deserts and safety in the home.
  - Comments also included centered around easier navigation on city websites, yard service for seniors, educational programs, classes using apps and electronic devices.
  - Ms. Camacho will send the full list to all commissioners.
  - Chair Fein asked if Ana could provide the list at the next meeting so it will be apart of the record and it can be updated every couple of months.
  - The housing committee is working on the August program which is usually Housing 101, but format is being changed to aging in place.
  - Yard maintenance and bars on your home are topics that haven't been touched on in the past, so speakers will be brought in to talk about those.
  - Chair Fein suggested each commissioner come up with a list of topics and send them to Ana, so when making the listening sessions their voice is included.
  - She also reminded staff they 13 commissioners that can volunteer at the events they are doing during the summer and into 2020.
  - Commissioner Wick liked the fact that Ana is looking at different venues to have a bigger impact.

**8. Public Comment**

- Barbara Barbee, Parks and Rec Senior Liaison, suggested the commissioners speak to their councilmembers about the swimming pools and rec center services, for seniors and children, budget cuts.
- Elva Roy from Ambassadors for Aging Well gave an explanation on what is going on in Arlington
- It was founded 5 years ago based off committee assignments on the 8 domains of the World Health Organization.
- This is the closest thing that Arlington has to a Senior Affairs Commission.
- Everyone is a volunteer so there is no budget, and they don't sale or charge anything to attend the meetings.
- Helped pass a \$45,000,000 bond-issue.
- Arlington is getting a new world class senior activity center which will be 40% larger than The Summit in Grand Prairie due the population.
- Project underway to set up friendship circles to battle social determinants such as loneliness and isolation.
- Hopes to work with Dallas in some way to make friendship circles all over DFW.
- Arlington has set up a buddy pool for seniors that have an outpatient procedure and don't realize they need a friend or family member to take them home.
- Ms. Roy was interviewed and posted on AARP's FB page this month as the Inspiring Texan.
- There are 500 members apart of the Ambassadors for Aging Well; About 65 members come to the meetings each month.
- Commissioner Sparks invited everyone to the Social Needs Committee on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am.
- Farmer's Branch has an outreach Police Department that is very successful in maintaining contact with isolated seniors.
- Ms. Roy mentioned there is another idea to get gift cards from restaurants, tickets to the symphony or a playhouse and give them to primary care doctors or geriatricians who will then identify a patient that can benefit from more interaction socially.

**9. Adjournment**

- Next meeting will be on May 20<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

**APPROVED BY:**



Sharyn Fein, Chair

Senior Affairs Commission



**SENIOR AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION**



**SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
MINUTES ATTENDANCE SHEET  
DALLAS CITY HALL, L1FN AUDITORIUM  
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019  
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**Attendance Sheet**

**Committee Members Present**

- Sharyn Fein, Chair
- Myrtis Evans, District 4
- Carl Raines, District 5
- Jearldine McDaniel, District 6
- Deloris J. King, District 7
- Debbie Austin, District 8
- Mary Sparks, District 9
- Jeri Baker, District 10
- Bill Gart, District 11
- Marlene Cohen, District 12
- Syl Benenson, District 13
- Sarah Wick, District 14

**Guests Present**

**Committee Members Absent**

- Carmen Arana, District 1
- Vacant, District 2
- John Johnson, District 3

**Staff Present**

- Anna Camacho
- Myckycle Hart
- Jessica Galleshaw
- Lupe Rios
- Lynn Jenkinson
- Beverly Davis