



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2023 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jim Bailey, Chair Abi Haring-Brito , Vice Chair Dr. Emily McMahan AnnaBell Stevens Traci Willett Suzanne Hickel Dawnia Clements		Gordon Glaser Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Marge Stoneking, AARP Staff Liaison: Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Stevens; seconded by Commissioner Clements. Under New Business, add Discussion on closure of Alaska Regional Senior Health Clinic. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed with agenda addition.**

Approval of the November 16, 2022 Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Willett; seconded by Commissioner Haring-Brito. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Presentation – Commissioners are urged to identify presenters for this monthly feature

Legislative | AARP Report – Marge Stoneking

The 33rd Alaska State Legislature gavelled in with one third of the members new with the House having more new members than the Senate. Ms. Stoneking provided an overview of who will be in key positions. AARP continues to track bills such as licensing for nurses, the public pension bill and the Medicaid home-based services bill. Representatives from AARP will be meeting with legislators in February. One issue tracking is the closure of the Alaska Regional Senior Health Clinic and problems in health care and state government. Ms. Stoneking will provide updates at the next meeting.

Continuing Business

Focus Point Alzheimer’s. The commission would like to continue to have Alzheimer’s as a focus point. Pam Kelley is resigning from the Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska which will be a big loss for the community. Ideas for recognition: a letter of commendation, ask the Assembly for recognition. The idea of tying it into Older Americans Month was put forth.

Anchorage as an Age Friendly Designation. Chair Bailey is working hard on this project and looking for people who want to volunteer. Send your information to Jim and let him know how

much you want to be involved. Listening sessions are being set up and a survey will be sent out asking for age friendly ideas for Anchorage. One main concern is adequate health care – let's figure out how to advocate for seniors.

Commission Vacancy Update. The approval of Dr. Emily McMahan and Gordon Glaser's applications has been postponed by the Assembly until March 3. The Assembly has extended currently expiring terms for six months beyond the October 14, 2022 deadline so Commissioner McMahan can still vote at this time.

AMATS report – Commissioner Willett was unable to attend the scheduled meetings however she will try to get to the next meeting and report back as to whether our commission can assist in any way.

New Business

Election of Officers: Commissioner Bailey is willing to continue as Chair for another year and would like to personally speak with everyone before the election. Motion to postpone the election process to the March meeting by Commissioner McMahan; seconded by Commissioner Willett. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Older Americans Month Kick-off Event. May 3, 2023 was identified as a possible date; Chair Bailey will confirm with the senior center. Committee Chair will be Gordon Glaser; Ms. Atkins will provide a list of tasks for him. The Ron Hammett Award Committee will consist of Commissioners Bailey, Clements, Haring-Brito and a prior recipient, Gordon Glaser. A possible speaker has been identified who has personal experience with Alzheimer's-Chair Bailey will follow up. The theme this year is 'Aging Unbound' – positive aspects of growing older, engaged and independent. Chair Bailey will touch base with Teresa Holt at AARP to ask if they would consider sponsoring the event again.

Closure of Alaska Regional Senior Health Clinic – We should all be concerned about this because everyone will be impacted – across the state. It was proposed that senior health care be a commission focus point. We need to advocate - support appropriate health care for all – nobody can deny that everyone needs health care. Why is the clinic closing? Low provider reimbursement rates were discussed which results in the loss of staff. The federal government needs to re-evaluate, and the rates raised so that providers do not continue to lose money. 4,000 clients are losing health coverage – what can we as a commission do? Let's come up with some ideas to let seniors know we are concerned and exploring solutions. Encourage seniors to be proactive, contacting and hopefully identifying a provider sooner rather than later. Ms. Atkins will prepare a draft list of Medicare-enrolled providers in Anchorage as a start and will consult with the ADRC to add any additional information and supports.

Public Comment

Commissioner/Announcements

Adjournment

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Willett; seconded by Commissioner McMahan; **hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:25.**

Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 22, 2022