



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
June 28, 2023 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jim Bailey, Chair Gordon Glaser, Vice Chair Abi Haring-Brito Dr. Emily McMahan Traci Willett AnnaBell Stevens Suzanne Hickel	Dawnia Clements (E)	Marge Stoneking, AARP Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Yasmin Radbod, Rural CAP Mattie Stokes, Rural CAP Dr. Michael Savitt, AHD Debbie Bear Staff Liaison: Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Vice Chair Glaser called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. with a quorum.

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Bailey; seconded by Commissioner McMahan. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Approval of the March 22, 2023 Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Bailey; seconded by Commissioner McMahan. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Presentation | RuralCAP | Elder Mentor Program | Yasmin Radbod, Mattie Stokes

Nationally known as the AmeriCorps Senior Foster Grandparent Program, it serves children in pre-K and school settings throughout the state of Alaska. Elder Mentors are individuals aged 55 and older with low income who support school readiness and improvement of academic engagement among children with special needs. Eligible Elders receive training, support, and a small stipend for their service. Volunteers connect with children living with disabilities and/or economic challenges at public schools, Head Starts, and early learning centers. Volunteers help children prepare for a successful school career. This program positively impacts children, Elders and teachers involved and they benefit from individualized tutoring. Elders stay active, spread cultural values and share knowledge with future generations.

Legislative | AARP Report

The legislative session ended on May 18, 2023. Both of the budget items AARP supported passed, paid family caregiving through participant-direction and the increase in community-based grants, serving Alaskans statewide, allowing seniors to live in the community of their choice. The freshman class of legislators was the largest in state history. AARP supported 14 bills and is supporting ten bills that will carry over to the 2024 legislative session. Over \$200 million was vetoed from the budget by the Governor.

Continuing Business

Older Americans Month Kick-Off Event. Another successful event: thank you to AARP for their continuing support and to everyone who participated and volunteered.

Focus Point - Dementia. Pamela Kelley is departing as Executive Director of Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska – Lisa Sauder is the incoming E.D.

Focus Point - Anchorage as an Age Friendly Designation. Chair Bailey will provide an in-depth report at the next commission meeting.

AMATS report. Commissioner Willett has been unable to attend a meeting and asked for support. Commissioner Glaser agreed to assist.

New Business

Anchorage Senior Activity Center 40th Anniversary (July) Resolution. Volunteers are needed to help with the celebration event on July 26, 2023. Motion by Commissioner Bailey to prepare a resolution of support for the center; seconded by Commissioner Hickel. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.** Commissioner Glaser agreed to assist.

Summer Hiatus. Motion by Commissioner Glaser to cancel the July meeting; seconded by Commissioner Willett. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Public Comment

Commissioner/Announcements

Ms. Atkins commented on the need for someone to identify organizations for the monthly presentations. Chair Bailey offered to assist however perhaps someone else can help with the project. She also noted that one vacancy remains on the commission; city hall is actively working on filling the vacancy.

Dr. Michael Savitt commented on the difficulties those with no health care have receiving basic services. Discussions have started on conducting a Health Fair at the Senior Center in September. It will take lots of coordination to engage with the clinics and set up the services needed. Dates TBD. The event must take place on municipal property.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Glaser; seconded by Commissioner Hickel; **hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:35.**

Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 23, 2023