



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES  
March 22, 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 Gordon Glaser	Dawnia Clements (E)	Jeanne Larson, Medicare Information Ofc.       <b>Staff Liaison:</b> Judy Atkins

**Call to Order**

Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Introductions**

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Glaser; seconded by Commissioner Hickel. Added to New Business: Senior funding legislative letter.

**Hearing no objections, the motion passed with the agenda addition.**

**Approval of the February 22, 2023 Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Willett, seconded by Commissioner Hickel. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

**Presentation**

**Legislative | AARP Report**

**Continuing Business**

Focus Points - Alzheimer's. The commission would like to continue to have Alzheimer's as a focus point. Discussion about other focus points like isolation issues, senior regional clinic closure, other types of dementia. Perhaps change the focus from Alzheimer's to Dementia as a whole. Discussion about the intention of the focus point and advocating for other issues. The Senior Commission advocates for solutions to problems, not identifying them. What does it take for seniors to be OK in Anchorage?

Anchorage as an Age Friendly Designation. Chair Bailey continues to serve on this committee. A survey link was sent out to everyone, and he stressed the importance of participating in the AARP survey. The ongoing process is developing, and they are paused right now. More listening sessions will be forthcoming. There is a lot of community support, but it is a work in progress. The initial plan will be out this year.

AMATS report. Commissioner Willett attended a recent AMATS meeting. They unveiled the plan to the public for comment. Lots of exciting things re bus stop improvement, sidewalks

improvements, non-motorized roadway issues. Discussion on the winter's snow removal. More meetings upcoming, Commissioner Glaser also plans on attending some. The AMATS issues directly affect the age friendly issues.

Senior Health Care Clinic Closure. Commissioners Willett and Glaser attended the Access to care for Medicare insured Taskforce earlier this month, addressing the closure of the Senior Health Care Clinic. Several VIPs in the health care community attended, second meeting is March 23, 2023. Medicare rates of reimbursement are low and staff shortages are two factors. Ms. Larson with the Medicare Information Office reported that Alaska has some of the highest reimbursement rates in the nation. The Medicaid rate is higher in Alaska in most cases than the Medicare rate - in most other states that is the opposite.

Older Americans Month Kick-Off Event. Guest speaker has not been identified; the committee will come up with some other ideas. One nomination currently for the Ron Hammett Award. Social media posts have been made.

Election of Officers. Commissioner Glaser nominated Commissioner Bailey for Chair; seconded by Commissioner Hickel. He accepted the nomination, and a unanimous verbal vote confirmed his election to Chair. Commissioner Bailey nominated Commissioner Glaser for Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Hickel; he accepted the nomination, and a unanimous verbal vote confirmed his election as Vice Chair.

### **New Business**

Legislative Letter. Chair Bailey would like to see our commission prepare a letter of support to the state legislature for support for senior services and advocating for increases. He asked for assistance and submission of ideas for any issues we need to support for. He would like to get the draft out next week for everyone's review. Will send to all the legislators and the Governor; possibly the Assembly and Mayor as well.

### **Public Comment**

### **Commissioner/Announcements**

Jim Bailey thanked everyone for attending and giving their time for senior advocacy. Gordon appreciates finally being an active Commissioner, thanks us for his trust and will be actively involved. Traci Willett commented on her passion for seniors and their issues. She wishes many younger people were involved. Annabell Stevens commented that Spring is on its way! Suzanne Hickel commented on being a strong advocate for seniors and shared that the new owner of Preferred Care at Home is truly supportive.

### **Adjournment**

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Glaser; seconded by Commissioner Hickel; **hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:24.**

### **Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 26, 2023**