



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES  
March 27, 2024 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Debbie Bear Abi Haring-Brito Suzanne Hickel Dr. Emily McMahan Traci Willett Gordon Glaser		Jim Bailey Dr. Michael Savitt Alexis Johnson Darcie Montalvo  <b>Staff Liaison:</b> Valerie Madison

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Gordon Glaser called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. with a quorum.

**Introductions**

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Haring-Brito; seconded by Commissioner Bear. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

**Approval of the February 28, 2024 Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Bear; seconded by Commissioner Haring-Brito. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

**Presentation**

**Senior Homelessness** – Ms. Alexis Johnson, Housing and Homelessness Division Manager, provided a recap of the emergency shelter operations, noting three deciding factors for declaring emergency shelter proclamations 1) AHD decides 2) Mayor or Civil appointed represented designee, or temperatures falling below 45 degrees. Currently 574 beds available – contract ends May 31<sup>st</sup>. As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, there is expected to be 900+ persons currently sheltered that are going to need shelter. 4,000 persons have accessed services due to experiencing homelessness. 581 of those are over 65 years old. 581 have touched the system withing the last calendar year (as of today). Anchor Home 2.0 sole focus is on the aging population and the pilot program for Tiny Homes is prepared to house 10 persons at the First Lutheran Church on Cordova and 15<sup>th</sup> avenue. (5) units (2) persons per unit. MOA is seeking \$4 million in continued funding for low barrier shelter. Dr. Savitt suggested drafting a letter of support. Commissioner Bear made a motion to draft a letter of support and Haring-Brito seconded. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Dr. Savitt prompted Ms. Johnson to provide an update on the current situation with the 80 rooms/\$800 per month currently operating at the Golden Lion hotel. She indicated there have been zero issues with the housing of those individuals. Commissioner Bear asked about plans for any proposed locations specifically for the aging population and offered a couple of location suggestions. Those types of questions be posed to legal. Dr. Savitt suggested

members draft a letter in support of such proposals. Haring-Brito and Bear agreed to collaborate on drafting the letter. If there is one that has been previously drafted ensure it was routed accordingly. If it was not, update it and resend. Ms. Johnson will provide Ms. Atkins with a breakdown of the populations.

## **Legislative | AARP Report | No Report**

### **Commission Focus Points**

#### Dementia letter

Anchorage as an Age-Friendly Designation – Mr. Bailey stated he needs a letter of support written to AARP in support of the Anchorage as an aging friendly destination. So moved by Commissioner Haring-Brito; Commissioner Bear seconded. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.** A letter had been previously written, and the chair would try to locate that letter reaffirming support.

### **Continuing Business**

Commission Vacancies update. Ms. Atkins reported that Gordon Glaser was reappointed March 19; Jim Bailey's reappointment will go to the Assembly on April 9. Dawnia Clements was not reappointed by the mayor; AnnaBell Stevens has been released due to missing eight meetings.

Older Americans Month Kick-off Event. A brief written overview from Ms. Atkins was provided. She will continue to monitor all facets of the event to ensure all goes according to plan. Discussion regarding flyer distribution for upcoming event, acquired forum, cake, videos, proclamations, and door prizes. Commissioner Bear reported that one prize attained is a pair of round-trip train tickets to Talkeetna and expressed sharing ideas for other businesses they should try contacting. Discussion regarding the Ron Hammett Award and nominations. Nominations to be sent to committee members – nominations close 4/10. Organizing award from Bovey-Trophies.

### **New Business**

Election of officers. Commissioner Glaser suggested putting off elections until next meeting. Commissioner Haring-Brito noted that with the recent re-appointment and delay with both chair and co-chair, postponing nominations or elections may leave us vulnerable to having no chair. Volunteers for Acting Chair and Co-Chair were discussed. Nominations were opened during this meeting with further discussion to come at the upcoming meeting as there is hope for new members to be appointed and hopefully re-appointment of Jim Bailey.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Savitt mentioned the upcoming Health Fair scheduled for 4/23 – hemoglobin A1C's and test kits available. He suggested outreach to the senior population encouraging them to bring in their grandkids for vaccinations also, that AHD would help to coordinate scheduling that. Flyers have gone out. Dr. McMahan expressed frustration with the communication process surrounding the Health Fair clinic dates and activities. Discussion took place regarding ways to

improve upon that process and mechanisms to keep her office in the loop. Further discussion took place surrounding the identification of Costco as a provider vs. a vendor for audiology.

**Adjournment**

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Bear; seconded by Commissioner McMahan; **hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:30.**

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 24, 2024**