



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES  
November 15, 2023 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Jim Bailey, Chair Gordon Glaser, Vice Chair Debbie Bear Abi Haring-Brito Traci Willett	Dawnia Clements (E) AnnaBell Stevens (E) Dr. Emily McMahan (E) Suzanne Hickel (E)	Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Dr. Michael Savitt, AHD Lisa Sauder, Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska <b>Staff Liaison:</b> Judy Atkins

**Call to Order**

Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum.

**Introductions**

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Glaser; seconded by Commissioner Bear. *Added Walkability study under Continuing Business; added Homeless Seniors under New Business for discussion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.*

**Approval of the June 28, 2023 Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Bear; seconded by Commissioner Glaser. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

**Presentation | Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska | Lisa Sauder, Executive Director**

Offering services statewide in Alaska, the home office is in Anchorage. They are the leading source of information, support and services for individuals with disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease, related dementias, and their families and caregivers. Ms. Sauder provided information on diverse programs offered; classes and support groups are offered for individuals and caregivers. Training is offered statewide. 99% of their services are offered at no charge to their clients. For the public, consultations and no cost memory screenings are offered. This is not a diagnosis, just a free service providing a window into where a person is ‘that day’ in their memory screening. They do not do direct caregiving, only care coordination in Anchorage and Mat-Su. 12,500 Alaskans over the age of 65 are affected by dementia/Alzheimer’s with that number expected to double by 2030 How can our Commission help? New ideas on fundraising; diversifying revenue. As always, the goal is to allow people to stay in their own home as long as possible with proper supports. Mini-grants are available through Alaska Mental Health Trust. Mention made of a pilot program in Mat-Su, Project COHO Choose your own home option.

**Legislative | AARP Report**

No report. Gordon mentioned the upcoming legislative session and that Agenet and AARP will be lobbying in Juneau in February.

**Continuing Business**

Focus Point - Dementia. Support letter in progress.

Focus Point - Anchorage as an Age Friendly Designation. Work in progress.

AMATS report. No report.

Walkability Study by Age Friendly. Accessed the area around the senior center; speed bumps cost approx. \$40k to install. Assessments of the speed were done. Bicycle safety and multi use trail usage were also discussed.

Health Fair – November 16. Many community partners coming together to assist vulnerable adults with health care needs. Held at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center. Offered hearing/vision testing, sti testing, tb testing and more.

### **New Business**

Annual Letter to the Mayor – draft. Motion by Commissioner Glaser to approve the letter as presented; seconded by Commissioner Bear. **Hearing no objections, motion approved.**

Attendance. We all know it is important to attend the meetings however in the last six months there has been no quorum for four of the meetings (one month in hiatus).

December 13 commission meeting. Motion by Commissioner Glaser that the commission does not meet in the month of December; seconded by Commissioner Bear. **Hearing no objections, motion approved.**

Homeless Seniors. Commissioner Bear expressed concern for the homeless senior population and what the municipality is doing to address homelessness for those and other vulnerable populations. Suggested that Alexis Johnson be invited to update on what is currently available and data on that specific population.

### **Public Comment**

### **Commissioner/Announcements**

Commissioner Haring-Brito provided a brief recap on the transit center stakeholder meeting attended also by Commissioners Bailey and Glaser. The transit center is asking for input from the community.

### **Adjournment**

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Willett; seconded by Commissioner Glaser; **hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:23.**

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 28, 2024**