



Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

Department of Health and Human Services



SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2018 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19th Ave.

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Gayle Schuh, Chair Theresa Brisky Hattie Gardner AnnaBell Stevens Dawnia Clements Emily McMahan Jenna Bruner	Kevin Turkington, Vice (E) Jim Bailey (E)	Ken Helander – AARP Maureen Haggblom-ADRC Program Manager Karla Wright-ADRC Resource Specialist Staff: Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Gayle Schuh called the meeting to order with a quorum at 10:08 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Schuh called for approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Bruner made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner McMahan. **Hearing no objections, the Agenda as amended, was approved.**

Approval of Minutes

Chair Schuh called for approval of the minutes for the Sept. 26, 2018 meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as presented from Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Commissioner Bruner. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.**

Introductions

Comments from the Chair

Legislative Report – Ken Helander

With only two weeks until the election, AARP is concerned about getting people out to vote so Ken is encouraging everyone to vote. The State debate is tomorrow; media outlets will televise statewide the gubernatorial debate. AARP is a major sponsor of this event. Tomorrow is the Governor’s debate followed on Friday by the house candidate debate. Many state legislative seats are turning over and there is no idea who will prevail. At the recent Aging and disability Summit, HB336, supporting supportive decision making agreement was signed. On Nov. 15, there is a summit regarding supportive decision making to be held at the ARC of Anchorage (free) from 8-4, sponsored by Mental Health Trust. It is hoped that this will be used as a tool for advanced planning; who to consult about specific life decisions in later life.

This topic is very important when a person is in the early stages of a disease. Mr. Helander attended the village to village network which was very inspiring. The vast majority of seniors are not lower income but are active, organizers, vital, fully committed members of the community who are self-reliant, not depending on the government.

Presentations

Maureen Haggblom, Aging and Disability Resource Center Program Manager. Ms.

Haggblom introduced herself providing some background information and highlighted her enthusiasm for the position and the clientele she will be serving.

Karla Wright, Aging and Disability Resource Center Resource specialist. Ms. Wright has worked with the ADRC for several years and enjoys working with seniors. The office does not turn anyone away, working with a multitude of senior and disability issues who need to navigate all the programs offered in Anchorage. There are six ADRC in the state whose main goal is to help people do long term care planning. This is a free, unbiased service that lays out the choices and opportunities available. They handle questions about Medicare, Medicaid, Waivers, and volunteer opportunities just to mention a few. They know the community's needs and the staff are good listeners. The best part is helping people help themselves. Resource specialists are not case managers but will refer clients. They also handle pre-screening for Medicaid waivers, handle the paperwork to provide utility assistance to those in need; do lots of outreach and advocacy. A monthly Brown Bag Seminar held at the BP Energy Center touches on a myriad of subjects of interest to seniors.

Gordon Glazier, President of the Board of Directors, Anchorage Senior Activity Center and Chair of the Alaska Commission on Aging, encouraged our Commission to interact with the ACoA for advocacy, education and interagency cooperation. He would like to provide a presentation at the February meeting. Please contact him with any feedback on hot issues or areas of concern.

Old Business

Commission Public Presentations. We did our due diligence to set up the proposed AFD event in October however it was not meant to be. The need for an official request was met and passed on but with no response by AFD. We would still like to set this up in the future. Future ideas include American Red Cross presentation and Special Olympics presentation (featuring disabilities) – perhaps a duo presentation.

Resolution-Senior Fire Safety Issues. TABLED

Resolution-Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska. The Commissioners brain-stormed verbiage for a resolution to put before the Anchorage Assembly urging them to support Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska. Judy will prepare and work electronically to complete before next meeting.

Announcements

Commissioner McMahan attended a presentation on the AMD (advanced medical directive) card. There is an online database so that one does not have to have a paper copy of their directive. Check out the website Theamdcard.com – a nationally accredited program. AMD can also be added to your driver's license.

Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday, September 29, 2018

Older Americans Month – Ask Judy to reserve the Anchorage Senior Activity Center Ballroom for Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Commissioners should think about possible speakers, entertainment, etc.

Adjournment- Motion by Commissioner Gardner; second by Commissioner Brisky to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am