



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**

November 28, 2018 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19th Ave.

| Members Present | Members Absent | Guests |
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| Gayle Schuh, Chair Kevin Turkington, Vice Theresa Brisky Hattie Gardner Jim Bailey AnnaBell Stevens Emily McMahan Jenna Bruner | Dawnia Clements (E) | Ken Helander – AARP Staff: Judy Atkins |

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Schuh called for approval of the minutes for the October 24, 2018 meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as presented from Commissioner Brisky, seconded by Commissioner Bruner. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.**

Introductions

Comments from the Chair

Legislative Report – Ken Helander

Nothing new in the legislature at this time; the governor will be inaugurated next Monday in Norvik. The outcome of Senate races is decided; the House will be decided with a coin toss on Friday. No one knows what the agenda is for the new administration, budget to be released on December 15. Mr. Helander suggested that we be vigilant and monitor senior programs that funded thru state dollars. No status on bills pending or those that will be introduced affecting our constituents.

AARP Report-National Caregiver Month. This month every member of AARP Alaska received a flyer that can serve as a resource guide. AARP has started developing partnerships around the country to help communities become age friendly; touching on issues that affect people as they grow older. In January, they sponsoring Gil Penalosa, a global expert on city planning. He is speaking about Alaska planning association issues in January and meeting with municipal leaders, challenging them to rethink open spaces and parks. He will be at williwaw for a public meeting. Ken urged the Commissioners to attend and hear what he has to say. January 16th from 6-7:30 pm; online registration is free. Anchorage needs to be an age friendly community. Open areas should be not only friendly for kids, but seniors also. Commissioner Bruner commented that our parks need to be usable for all ages. There are there ways to create other spaces, perhaps in malls, that could welcome seniors in other ways.

The OPAG and AARP meetings have had a good turnout. Forums about senior topics and concerns are presented at the Senior Center on a monthly basis. The first one was on politics, the second one was where you live why you don't move, retirement. AARP supplies refreshments, OPEG is handling publicity. On Dec. 11 the topic is about how hard the holidays can be for seniors. Target age group is 50-64. January's topic is Medicare. Commissioner Turkington commented he had the opportunity to speak with Governor Dunleavy about concerns about senior issues vs budget. He shared his love for helping people stay independent. Future lack of caregivers and family caregivers is going to become a huge issue. He is encouraged that the incoming administration is focused on issues rather than money. Check out No wrong door on internet and read about it. Commissioner Bruner commented on the big gap in assistance for family caregivers. How can we keep people independent and keep them in their homes? Family caregivers.

Presentations

Old Business

Resolution-Senior Fire Safety Issues. Information is still being gathered about ongoing issues. Commissioner Turkington indicated that at this time AFD is focusing on banning items with a certain chemical that causes cancer in firemen. Resolution tabled.

Commission Public Presentations. Commissioner Turkington will invite the new director of the Better Business Bureau. Commissioner Stevens suggested the Toastmasters and Alzheimer's. Commissioner McMahan suggested the Red Cross and Special Olympics. We will approach these groups and schedule for future meetings.

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. Finalize the document.

New Business

Older Americans Month-The Kick Off Event is Wednesday, May 1st. Ms. Atkins will schedule the Senior Center ballroom for the event. Chair Schuh will touch base with the

Button Box Gang. Commissioner McMahan will contact DeeDee Jonrowe to see if she would be available to speak. We would like to invite the Governor again along with the Congressional delegation. Volunteer opportunities will be discussed at the January meeting and we will discuss further speaker options at that time also.

December commission meeting - Commissioner Turkington moved that the December meeting be cancelled; seconded by Commissioner Bailey. The commission voted unanimously to reconvene in January. **MOTION PASSED**

Announcements

Commissioner Clements has been in St. Elias Hospital for the past month addressing health issues. A personal card was signed by the commission and will be delivered to her later today.

AnnaBell Stevens attended the National Alliance for Retired Americans conference in Las Vegas recently. She says that Alaska is getting their chapter up and running and we may want to ask them to present. They do state and national lobbying on medical and various senior retirement issues.

Adjournment- Motion by Commissioner Turkington; second by Commissioner Brisky to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am