



Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

Department of Health and Human Services



SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

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

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Gayle Schuh, Chair Kevin Turkington Theresa Brisky (T) Dawnia Clements Hattie Gardner AnnaBell Stevens Jenna Bruner	Emily McMahan (E) Jim Bailey (E)	Paris Butler-AnchorRIDES Kurt Hermes-AnchorRIDES Nick Abbott-AnchorRIDES Staff: Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Gayle Schuh called the meeting to order with a quorum at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Schuh called for approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Turkington made a motion to accept the Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Stevens. Commissioner Clements ask that the topic of Municipal Funding be added to New Business; Commissioner Turkington asked that the report on the Chamber be dismissed as he was not attendance. **Hearing no objections, the Agenda as amended, was approved.**

Approval of Minutes

Chair Schuh called for approval of the minutes for the February 28, 2018 meeting. Motion to accept from Commissioner Clements, seconded by Commissioner Gardner. **Hearing no objections the minutes were approved.**

Introductions / Comments from the Chair

Presentations

AnchorRIDES Briefing by Paris Butler, Nick Abbott, MOA. AnchorRIDES is administered by the Municipal Public Transportation Department and is part of a coordinated paratransit system. The ADA Act requires public entities to provide paratransit services so paperwork is transferrable nationwide, enabling someone to go to a different city and use the services. For eligibility, complete the online application which is available in 90 languages; translators are available also. The application takes a week to approve and a letter is sent out. The service is used mainly for medical and pharmacy rides, senior center rides and shopping. AnchorRIDES

is not considered emergency transportation. The new phone number is 343-6543. Mr. Butler also provide pickup information along with fee information. Nick Abbott, with PeopleMover, went over some of the route changes that will be happening in the new few months and reviewed how to ride the PeopleMover, knowing the routes and what tools are available to assist people in getting to their destination.

Legislative Report - Ken Helander, AARP

Mr. Helander has returned from Juneau where he made 43 legislative visits lobbying for legislator support. There are three weeks left in the regular session with the House deadlocked on their own budget. The Senior Benefits Program is due to sunset in June. This program replaced the longevity bonus and is a needs based on income program. It is a priority to reauthorize this program. The benefits were cut two years ago, providing a financial issue for low income seniors; AARP wants the money restored to its full amount. SB63 – smoke free workplaces – is still stuck in house rules committee. This bill would ensure smoke free workplaces for the rest of the state. SB169 allows for more flexibility for provision of behavioral health services under Medicaid. The ability for psychiatrists or any physician to provide the services and can be held offsite. HB269 – Opioid prescriptions – a physician when writing a prescription is required to inform the patients of the risks of addiction. This will open up conversations between a physician and patient on what could be better for them. HB236 – supported decision making – an option to guardianship. This creates an agreement where an individual is able to stipulate which individuals help someone make decisions. The individual is at the center of his/her decision-making process then. Finally, Congress passed a massive spending bill, signed by the President. For seniors it was good news because it preserved important programs and augmented some.

Old Business

Older Americans Month Kick Off Event (Wed., May 2, 10:30-12:30pm) – Judy Atkins

- The keynote speaker has been confirmed, former State Senator Johnny Ellis
- National Anthem/Alaska Flag Song – Megan Killoran
- AnnaBell confirmed a Proclamation will be provided by the State
- Mayor will attend and read city proclamation
- Gayle and Kevin will co-emcee the event
- Door prize donations have been slow
- Judy will work on agenda and program

Ron Hammett Award

- Nomination deadline extended until April 6; nominations will be sent to Pete Weimer, Jenna Bruner and Emily McMahan for review. Final approval electronically.

New Business

Commissioner Clements reported on the upcoming funding cuts to the Alzheimer's organization. Grants appear to be focused on the Mayor's issues, mainly housing and homelessness. Is there any recourse on how to get the funding reinstated to those organizations whose funding was cut? It was decided to prepare a letter to the Mayor expressing our concern over the funding cut and that future cuts might be a more visible

process. It is important that they know that a very specific demographic, seniors who are vulnerable, are being affected. Motion to prepare a letter to be sent to the Mayor – Commissioner Clements; seconded by Commissioner Stevens. **Motion passed.** The letter will be drafted by Chair Schuh and sent to the commissioners for feedback prior to distribution. To be signed at the April meeting.

Announcements

Hattie Gardner announced the Women’s History Month Program at the Senior Center.

Kevin Turkington announced the 5th Annual Midnight Sun Charity Golf Classic benefitting Hospice of Anchorage on Saturday, June 23rd at Settler’s Bay. Shotgun start / contests / food / starts at 6:30 pm and golf until midnight. See you there.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.