



# Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

## Department of Health and Human Services



### SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2018 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Gayle Schuh, Chair Kevin Turkington, Vice (T) Theresa Brisky Dawnia Clements (T) Hattie Gardner (T) AnnaBell Stevens Emily McMahan (T) Jenna Bruner	Jim Bailey (E)	Salvation Army: Maddie Kettner JoAnn Pawluk Sherri Walker Joseph Mongold  <b>Staff:</b> 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 Brisky made a motion to accept the Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Bruner. Chair Schuh added the topic "SAGE Citizens Science Project Assistance" to New Business. **Hearing no objections, the Agenda as amended, was approved.**

#### Approval of Minutes

Chair Schuh called for approval of the minutes for the April 25, 2018 meeting. Motion to accept from Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Brisky. **Hearing no objections the minutes were approved.**

#### Introductions

#### Comments from the Chair

Chair Schuh commented that the Older Americans Month Kick Off Event was so much fun and well attended. She enjoyed participating in the process this year and co-emceeding with Jenna.

#### Presentations

Safe Seniors Disaster Preparedness Program, Maddie Kettner, The Salvation Army. This program was initially started with a planning grant through AmeriCorps. The grant was for research to see if disaster preparedness was a need for the senior population. Alaska has the fastest growing senior population in the country. 56% of older Americans expect assistance from emergency personnel within 72 hours in a disaster. 63% of seniors feel that they are

unable to respond during a disaster. The “Partners with AmeriCorps” program started in November 2017, working with many different senior organizations, cultures, and churches in the Anchorage area. To qualify, seniors must be 60 plus years old and have one other barrier, either disability or economic. During the process a staff member goes into the seniors’ home, spending 90 minutes assisting them become informed, make a plan and a kit utilizing the “Get Ready” book. Information on additional resources through 2-1-1, 750 AM Radio, 3-1-1 and the disaster registry are provided. Information is also distributed on how to take care of their pets during emergencies. Information was provided on the planning portion and they went over what was in the kit each senior is given. To date they have met with over 180 seniors and hope to double that number, spreading to the Mat-Su area next program year. Helping seniors identify their limitations so that they will have everything covered encourages independent action so seniors can assist themselves. Commissioner Clements noted that Ella Craig was the first disaster preparedness person in Alaska through the Red Cross. Commissioners discussed the consolidations of resources and seniors not wanting to use technology. Agenet tries to reduce duplication of issues.

### **Old Business**

The Older Americans Month Kick Off Event held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center was a huge success, with over 150 in attendance including Mayor Berkowitz, U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan and Senator Johnny Ellis, the guest speaker. Centenarians were recognized by the Commission and the Alaska Commission on Aging; 100 year old Alice Green was in attendance. The Bottom Box Gang provided entertainment, followed by light refreshments. Following an inspirational speech by Senator Ellis, Ray Tinjim was presented with the Ron Hammett Award for Outstanding Service to Seniors. Monetary donations were received along with door prize donations.

### **New Business**

Chair Schuh introduced the SAGE Citizens Science Project, an endeavor partnered with UAA, led by Stanford University. The project was to turn seniors LGBT seniors loose in the city with cameras asking they take photos of people and places that were welcoming and felt safe to them. Additionally take photos that were scary and non-welcoming. Some results were elder specific. The group would like to hold an August presentation at the Senior Center, inviting the Mayor and Assembly to present the results, sponsored by the Senior Commission which was agreed upon.

There was a short discussion on holding additional presentations, targeting specific demographics and sponsored by the commission every three to four months. There will have to be more discussion on this issue.

### **Announcements**

Remember the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Midnight Sun Charity Golf Classic benefitting Hospice of Anchorage on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Settler’s Bay.

**Adjournment-** Motion by Commissioner Bruner; second by Commissioner Brisky to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am