



Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

Department of Health and Human Services



SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

June 27, 2018 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19th Ave.

| Members Present | Members Absent | Guests |
|--|----------------|------------------------------|
| Gayle Schuh, Chair Kevin Turkington, Vice Theresa Brisky Dawnia Clements Hattie Gardner AnnaBell Stevens Emily McMahan Jenna Bruner Jim Bailey | | <u>Staff:</u> 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; added to old business are 1) elevator 2) planning session; 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 May 23, 2018 meeting. Motion to accept from Commissioner Brisky, seconded by Commissioner Stevens. **Hearing no objections the minutes were approved.**

Introductions

Comments from the Chair

Legislative Report

Mr. Helander is out of state but will attend the next meeting with an update.

Presentations

Hearing Presentation-Alaska Hearing & Tinnitus Center, Dr. Emily McMahan. Dr. McMahan has been in business 3 years, since purchasing an existing practice and has two locations now. She feels that working with the senior population is very important. She has identified elder abuse in clients and has seen elders being taken advantage of by others. Her mission is to be

on top of any issues that may crop and identify what are the best practices for them. She lets them know what choices and options are out there for an elder. She does lots of public speaking – senior facilities/hospitals, etc. and enjoys increasing communication with seniors. Hearing is ears but really hearing is our brain. She measures speech and language when a client starts seeing her. Average Americans wait 5-7 years to get a hearing aid from the first time they notice a loss. Earlier is better than later when it comes to hearing loss and it is a disadvantage to wait. Outreach with free screening is offered. Technology has offered many advances for her clients. Tele audiology (doctor talking through internet) is now offered. Most insurance coverage does not cover hearing loss, but her business offers multiple programs to assist with payment. Hearing aids can also be leased. A concern is that dispensers in this state have no boundaries and it only takes a \$1,000 to start one in Alaska.

Old Business

Discussion-Special Presentations to be held quarterly in conjunction with Commission Meetings. Each presentation will address one topic of interest to seniors and the scheduled monthly commission meeting. The presentation should be informative and by combining the two, more seniors will be aware of the commission and our mission. The Anchorage Fire Department has been identified and will be asked for support for the month of October, Fire Safety month. Additional ideas will come forth from the September planning session. October 24th is the tentative date, dependent upon availability of the senior center and a commitment by AFD.

Annual Letter to the Mayor. Commissioners provided feedback on the content of the annual letter to the Mayor written by Chair Schuh. The letter addresses the actions, events and concerns of the commission. Commissioner Bailey expressed his concern about multi-level assisted living facilities that are difficult to evacuate during emergencies and lack of onsite staff to assist which is addressed in the letter. We hope to move towards a solution to perpetuate change by educating citizens.

Emergency Elevator procedure. Commissioner Clements has brought up the topic of senior safety when an emergency situation arises and seniors need to evacuate a building. If the elevator is disabled during an incident how does someone with limited mobility evacuate? Many residents do need assistance during emergencies.

Planning Session. The BP Energy Center has been booked for Wednesday, September 26, 2018 from 10am-1:30pm for the annual SCAC Planning Session. We will speak more extensively at the August meeting regarding using a facilitator and the topics to be addressed.

New Business

Term Expirations: Gayle Schuh, Theresa Brisky and Hattie Gardner are coming to the end of their term of service on October 14, 2018. They have all said they would like to return for another term. Ms. Atkins will send them the information for being re-appointed.

Announcements

Melinda Freeman has resigned as Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. Blanche Moreman, Division Manager has stepped in to the Acting Director position for the time being. We look forward to working with the incoming Director.

The 5th Annual Midnight Sun Charity Golf Classic benefitting Hospice of Anchorage was very successful with 93 golfers. The sponsors went above and beyond to raise funds. The final fundraising amount will be in the \$15,000 range.

Adjournment- Motion by Commissioner Bruner; second by Commissioner Brisky to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 am