



**Municipality of Anchorage
SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2017 – 10:00am-12:00pm
Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 East 19th Avenue**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Gayle Schuh, Vice Chair Kevin Turkington AnnaBell Stevens Joan Fisher LeeAnn Horn <u>DHHS Staff</u> David Levy Judy Atkins	Theresa Brisky, Chair (E) Dawnia Clements (E) Ella Craig (E) Hattie Gardner (E)	Ken Helander, AARP Julie Schmidt, SAGE Jim McCall, AHFC Jim Bailey, OPAG Gordon Glaser

The meeting started with a quorum.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Schuh called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Schuh called for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Turkington. It was asked that the SAGE presentation, along with the AARP and AHFC presentations, be moved up to follow Comments from the Chair. **Hearing no objections, the Agenda was approved, with changes.**

III. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Schuh called for the approval of the minutes for the December 14, 2016 meeting as presented. Commissioner Horn moved to approve the minutes seconded by Commissioner Stevens. Theresa Brisky’s UAA education requirement was added to the 4th paragraph, page 4 to replace the question mark. **Hearing no objections, the Minutes were approved, with changes.**

IV. Introductions

Guests include: Julie Schmidt with SAGE, Ken Helander with AARP, Jim McCall representing AHFC, Jim Bailey with Older Person's Action Group (OPAG) and Gordon Glaser.

V. Comment from the Chair

VI. Presentations

SAGE presentation: Julie Schmidt provided a brief background on SAGE Alaska, Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders. SAGE promotes learning, social connection and advocacy in the LGBT community as they grow older. As the 30th affiliation in 20 states, it is a program of Identity, providing outreach, educational opportunities, social and cultural events. AARP is now partnered with SAGE at the national level. We will hear more about this program in the future. SAGE is on the agenda to present information to the Commission on Aging.

AARP presentation: Ken Helander. AARP is aligning their priorities with other organizations that represent Alaska Seniors. By coming together, we can all speak with a voice and deliver the same message to legislators to preserve programs that are a senior safety net, and support caregivers and people in their homes to stay independent. They are behind a bill that supports statewide smoke free rental units. Of equal concern is what is happening nationally; all AARPs feel that it will be very important to protect Medicare and ensure social security is there in its ability to give people the opportunity to live their older years out of poverty. Future is unknown. Must pay attention and be prepared to speak up. More to talk about in the near future as we see what develops on the national landscape. Additionally, there will be a conversation about what will happens with the ACA under the new administration.

AHFC presentation: Jim McCall provided a snapshot of the AHFC budget, passed by their Board in late October. The Capital budget request is \$59 million dollars. More housing for seniors is in the development stages with talks of prioritizing funds for senior housing projects. There are 873 on the senior/disabled wait list for public housing. The subsidized housing choice voucher program has 2,952 families on the wait list. Their renovation loan program is tied to the state plan which has provided 22 loans since 2014. Mr. McCall distributed senior demographics for Alaska, Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough and provided a review of the statistics. Commissioner Turkington commented that based on the numbers, a stronger focus is needed in the Valley.

VII. Liaison Report

David Levy reported the new Resource Specialist, Jasmine Bracey, is working primarily on the ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) Program, assisting with rental needs. There has been a significant increase in the need for utility assistance during the month of January.

VIII. Old Business

Election of Officers – Vice Chair Schuh relinquished the gavel to Commissioner Turkington for the election of officers. Nominated: Chair - Gayle Schuh; Vice Chair - Joan Fisher. Commissioner Turkington called for a verbal vote to elect Commissioner Schuh to the Chair position – **motion passed**; Commissioner Turkington called for a verbal vote to elect Commissioner Fisher to the Vice Chair position – **motion passed**. Commissioner Schuh retained the gavel as Chair Schuh.

Report-Federation of Community Councils – Commissioners Turkington and Schuh attended and were warmly received by a community council last week. They spoke about the Senior Commission and shared our purpose... who we are, what we do, our reason for being there. We could be a great resource to them, collaboratively working to reach the seniors in the community. There were great questions. A primary focus would be to identify the seniors living in their community, especially those not connected. It was a good outreach session.

Report-Transportation Department – Commissioner Schuh met with Abul Hassan, Director of the Municipality's Public Transportation Department. They discussed the 100% plan vs the 80% plan as it relates to seniors and indicated they have good support for the 100% plan. The Anchorage Senior Activity Center favors the 80% plan as the impact to the seniors they serve is less. Mr. Hassan was presented a letter from the SCAC, stating the Commission's preference for the 80% plan.

Senior Provider survey review – Commissioner Horn has sent out a new survey based on comments taken from the last one. Commissioner Fisher provided comments on changes needed to some of the questions. Distribution is the next issue: who it will be sent to and how long will the survey remain open. It is important also to release the results of this survey, perhaps doing a story in the Senior Voice.

Anchorage Senior survey review – Commissioner Turkington indicated he has not had a chance to get together with David Levy on this survey. More to come in February.

Older Americans Month Kick Off Event – A tentative date of May 3rd has been set; Commissioner Stevens is working on identifying a Guest Speaker. Commissioner Turkington moved that the Commission directed Ms. Atkins to see if the ballroom is open at the Senior Center and if so secure it for that day. Seconded by Commissioner Horn. **Motion passed.**

IX. New Business

X. Public Comment

Jim Bailey with OPAG commented that the Senior Voice is distributed in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley with a distribution of 7,500. He asked that we consider using them for our survey and for any story we would like published.

XI. Announcements

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.