



**Municipality of Anchorage
SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2017 – 10:00am-12:00pm
Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 East 19th Avenue**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
AnnaBell Stevens Joan Fisher, Vice Chair Theresa Brisky LeeAnn Horn (T) Dawnia Clements (T) Hattie Gardner <u>DHHS Staff</u> David Levy Judy Atkins	Ella Craig (E) Gayle Schuh, Chair (E) Kevin Turkington (E)	Ken Helander, AARP Rebecca Parker, ASAC Gordon Glaser

The meeting started with a quorum.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Fisher called for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Brisky. **Hearing no objections, the Agenda was approved.**

III. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Fisher called for the approval of the minutes for the January 25, 2017 meeting as presented. Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Brisky. **Hearing no objections, the Minutes were approved.**

IV. Introductions

Guests include: Ken Helander with AARP, Rebecca Parker with ASAC and Gordon Glaser.

V. Comment from the Chair

Vice Chair Fisher will be standing in for Chair Schuh at the February and March meetings.

VI. Liaison Report

David Levy hopes to have a speaker from Mat-Su Links at the March meeting to speak on the ADRC Prescreen process which identifies clients eligible for API & APDD Medicaid waivers. The ADRC has added Jasmine Bracey to the staff as a resource specialist specializing in emergency outreach. She will attend a future meeting and provide information on the ESG (HUD) assistance program and our partnership with the local utility companies. The annual joint meeting with the Commission and the Matsu Council on Aging will be scheduled for May 24 and held at the Chugach Senior Center. The Mayor continues to review the new transportation for city bus service and will make a decision soon.

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.

VII. Old Business

Anchorage senior survey review – Commissioner Horn reported receiving positive feedback on the drafted survey and believes it is ready for distribution. We will have hard copies available for reaching out to seniors in assisted livings and at the senior centers. Mr. Helander (AARP) indicated he would distribute to their members. Commissioner Stevens will send out the link to the members of the United Way mailing list. Cutoff deadline for the survey to end is April 21st at noon. Results of the survey will be released at the Older Americans Month Kick off Event. Thank you Commissioner Horn for all your hard work on this project.

Senior provider survey review – No update at this time.

Older Americans Month Kick Off Event – Commissioner Stevens reported that Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott has tentatively agreed to be the keynote speaker; this will be finalized as the event gets closer. It was agreed that we should have a backup plan for the keynote speaker. The time of the event is 10:30-12:30pm. Ms. Atkins will work on entertainment, publicity, photographer, food issues, etc. Commissioner Fisher agreed to gather donations for the drawings. It was also agreed that since Commissioner Schuh did such a great job last year, she should be the Emcee again this year. The commission will attempt to have Centenarians identified and invited to the event.

VIII. New Business

IX. Legislative Report – Ken Helander

Mr. Helander recently presented to the Alaska Commission on Aging regarding issues of LGBT elder adults. The commission was very receptive. Legislatively, this is the time when legislators are hearing lots of reports and starting to talk about ways to address the fiscal problems of the state. No bills have moved. Interesting bills include the civil legal services fund which takes a portion of court costs and applies to Alaska Legal Services to fund low income legal services. Another pertains to seniors and digital assets, a uniform bill that addresses the issue of what happens to online accounts when someone passes. There is

also a bill to address statewide smoke free workplaces providing a level playing field for all. AARP will be in Juneau next week to speak about senior safety net for the most vulnerable. Home and community based services save the state a significant amount of money and need to be funded; the average cost for a person to be in a nursing home is \$153,000 – being able to stay in the home is much more affordable. When asked about how the repeal of the ADA will affect Medicare, Mr. Helander commented that the prescription drug program could be significantly impacted. The repeal could result in other changes such as higher deductibles and copays. Commissioner Clements advocates for nursing homes and in-home services as all levels of care are needed.

X. Public Comment

Gordon Glaser commented on recently meeting with the Alaska Commission on Aging in Juneau. They remain optimistic although in recession. He commented on unemployment, low property values and is supportive of commissions, pioneer homes and no further cuts.

XI. Announcements

Rebecca Parker invited the commissioners to attend the Pioneer Dinner stories to be held during Fur Rondy at the Senior Center. \$30 per person includes a salmon or prime rib dinner with a silent auction.

Dawnia Clements gave a shout out to AnchorRides which she used extensively during her recent illness. It worked out beautifully. Theresa Brisky noted a significant improvement in their services.

AnnaBell Stevens urged viewing of Mayor Berkowitz' presentations on the Port of Anchorage. There will be no Elders In Training this year in Fairbanks. AnnaBell indicated she enjoyed visiting the Governor's Office when in Juneau recently.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 p.m.