



**Municipality of Anchorage
SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
September 27, 2017
Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19th Ave.**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Gayle Schuh, Chair Dawnia Clements Theresa Brisky Hattie Gardner Kevin Turkington	Joan Fisher (E) AnnaBell Stevens (U)	Jenna Brunner, Access Alaska <u>DHHS 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. Added to New Business was DHHS Staff Support; Senior Benefits Program; Senior Safety. Commissioner Turkington moved to approve the agenda with additions, seconded by Commissioner Gardner. **Hearing no objections, the Agenda was approved.**

Approval of Minutes

Chair Schuh called for approval of the minutes for the August 23, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Turkington moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Gardner. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.**

Introductions

Commissioner introductions and introduction of guest, Jenna Brunner with Access Alaska.

Comments from the Chair

Chair Schuh commented that she is attended the recent Transportation Meeting with AnchorRides. They are working hard to keep up with upcoming changes. What's new: the primary service area has shrunk a little bit; hours of service are expanding from

6am to midnight with airport drop until 2 am for general service. There was a short discussing about seniors using UBER and LYFT. Commissioner Clements indicated trust is a big issue and that drivers must be trained to assist handicapped/seniors.

Old Business

Commission member recruitment – At this time we are unsure of there are applicants for the Senior Commission. Dawnia Clements has decided to seek re-appointment so that will leave three (3) vacancies. Ms. Atkins will provide information as she receives it from Boards and Commissions.

Older Americans Month – Guest Speaker – This topic was tabled until the October meeting.

Ron Hammett Award-Letter to past winners – Commissioner Turkington volunteered to write letters to the last two winners of the Ron Hammett Award, Karen Hunt and Pete Weimer, to ask if they would participate in the selection process for the 2018 winner.

New Business

Election of Vice Chair – As Commissioner Fisher will not seek re-appointment, the position of Vice Chair is open. Commissioner Brisky nominated Commissioner Turkington for the position and following discussion he accepted. **Hearing no objections, Commissioner Turkington was unanimously elected to Vice Chair.**

Commissioner Clements suggested and agreed to draft a letter to Commissioners Fisher and Horn thanking them for their service on the Commission.

DHHS Staff Support – Ms. Atkins informed the group that she will be the main point of contact for the commission and will be assisting as she can with setting up the meeting, scheduling presentations and venues, and providing administrative support. Ms. Anderson will be available for consultation on any special topics and/or issues. After discussion, Commissioner Brisky will call Ms. Anderson.

Senior Benefits Program – Once again the State provided Senior Benefits Program is scheduled to sunset next year. This program pays cash benefits to Alaskan seniors who are 65 or older and have low to moderate income, based on the Alaska Federal Poverty Guidelines. AARP is taking the lead and Mr. Helander has been in touch with several groups asking for support.

Senior Safety – Commissioner Clements brought up the subject of personal senior safety as it relates to nursing homes and assisted livings. She provided an example of an incident in which a person panicked because she was not on the first floor, used a walker, was unable to use the elevator and traveling the stairs was almost impossible. Are there any regulations relating to placement of physically handicapped seniors on

the first floor only? Commissioner Brisky reported that there are no regulations to that effect however everyone must have emergency plans in place and perform evacuation drills. There must be a plan in place for those that need assistance. The suggestion was made to check with emergency preparedness for specific things seniors could do along with escape plans. Chair Schuh will check with Chugach Manor as to their plan. Commissioner Brisky will contact the Fire Department with questions.

Presentation

Access Alaska – Jenna Brunner provided information about this organization that provides independent living services to people who experience a disability. They offer a wide range of services designed to give Alaskans with disabilities the tools and resources they need to improve independence, self-confidence, knowledge, skills and access to community resources. Their Durable Medical Equipment (DME) program is an equipment loan program that takes donated equipment, sanitizes the equipment and then loans that equipment out to individuals who are in need of adaptive devices for mobility.

Announcements

Kevin Turkington reported that the 12th Annual Parcel Post Auction Party was a success with a full house. Dinner and dessert were provided at this silent and live auction. About 65-70 people attended and \$8,000 was raised for Mabel T Caverly.

Announcements

The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.