



**Municipality of Anchorage
SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**SUMMARY MEETING NOTES
October 25, 2017
Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19th Ave.**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Kevin Turkington, Vice Chair Dawnia Clements Hattie Gardner AnnaBell Stevens	Theresa Brisky (U) Gayle Schuh (E)	Ken Helander, AARP Melinda Gant, Easy Park <u>DHHS Staff</u> Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Vice Chair Kevin Turkington called the meeting to order **without a quorum** at 10:08 a.m.

Commission approval of Agenda and Minutes were deferred until a quorum was reached.

Approval of the Agenda – no action

Approval of Minutes – no action

Introductions

Commissioner introductions and introduction of guests, Ken Helander with AARP and Melinda Gant with EasyPark.

Comments from the Chair - none

Legislative Report – Ken Helander

Mr. Helander reported that currently AARP is involved with various versions of health care legislation federally. Major cuts in the Medicaid/Medicare program are expected with the current budget legislation. It is aggressively opposed by AARP. The Alaska state legislature is in their 4th session and primarily focused on revisions to SB91, the criminal justice bill. The alternative SB54 is being used as a vehicle to modify some of the issues in SB91. This is a controversial and complicated subject which has caused consternation, fear and concern in communities statewide. It is hoped that legislators will be thoughtful on this issue and additionally Mr. Helander stressed that it is time to let them know what you think. When the regular session starts in two months, the budget will be the primary issue which is important for this commission and seniors statewide. The Senior Benefits Program is scheduled to sunset

in June 2018, unless reauthorized. This is a needs based cash assistance program for low income seniors over 65 and depends on annual appropriation by the legislature. It serves over 11,000 low income seniors. It may not seem like a lot, however to some it is the difference for them to remain in their homes or move into more expensive care. It makes a difference in food purchases, housing, etc.

Mr. Helander told the commission that AARP is offering a new program – AARP Alaska Conversations with Family Caregivers. Caregivers are invited to join informative “Tele-Town Halls” via their phone. Just register and receive a call on the appropriate date/time. The first will be presented on November 2 – topic Difficult Conversations. The second will be presented on December 7 – topic Coping with Grief.

Presentation

Melinda Gant provided information about EasyPark. This group handles the parking garages and lots in the downtown area. One service provided is called Safety First which is concerned with safety issues and areas that need to be cleaned. Just call or text 297-4471, report your concern and help is on the way through the Anchorage Downtown Partnership Ltd. Security or a Maintenance Ambassador. Also available through EasyPark Amenities, the following services are available to customers in their garages or lots: security escorts, tire inflation and jump starts. Call the dispatch center at 297-4471.

Judy Atkins, DHHS representative, reported on some of the great things happening. DHHS participated in Operation Stand Down with HIV & Hep C testing and ADRC provided benefit information; Animal Care and Control won \$10,000 through the Hill’s Shelter Tales Contest; the municipal flu campaign continues; outreach continues for mumps vaccines; the Plug @ 20 air quality campaign distributed 700 engine block heater times.

Old Business

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

Ron Hammett Award-Letter to past winners – Vice Chair Turkington is working on a draft. He spoke with Pete Weimer briefly. This will be completed by the November meeting.

Commission member recruitment – Ms. Atkins reported that there have been three applicants for appointment to the Commission however does not know the status of Assembly approval at this time.

New Business - none

Announcements

AnnBell Stevens reported that United Way’s Thanksgiving Blessing will be November 20th if you know of someone who needs assistance this Thanksgiving. There are five locations a family can go to and is based on zip codes. Call 2-1-1 for further information.

Hattie Gardner offered an invitation to Shiloh Baptist Church’s Bible Study.

Announcements

The meeting adjourned at 11:44am.