



## SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2019 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Kevin Turkington, Chair Theresa Brisky, Vice Gayle Schuh Jim Bailey Dawnia Clements (T) AnnaBell Stevens Hattie Gardner	Emily McMahan (E) Jenna Bruner (E)	Becky Parker, ASAC Madeline Holdorf, SAGE Julie Schmidt, SAGE Denise Sudbeck, SAGE Gordon Glaser, ACoA <b><u>Staff:</u></b> Judy Atkins

### Call to Order

Chair Kevin Turkington called the meeting to order with a quorum at 10:02 a.m.

### Approval of the Agenda

Chair Turkington called for approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Bailey made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Schuh. **Hearing no objections, the Agenda was approved.**

### Approval of Minutes

Chair Turkington called for approval of the minutes for the February 27, 2019 meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as presented from Commissioner Schuh, seconded by Commissioner Bailey. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.**

### Introductions

### Presentations

Julie Schmidt, Director, SAGE Alaska. Also representing SAGE Alaska were Madeline Holdorf and Denise Sudbeck. The SAGE Alaska Our Voice project is in the process of evaluating Anchorage as an aging friendly LGBT community. They consider this a top public health priority as Anchorage's senior population is growing, increasing 117% in the last 10 years. As part of the project, volunteers went to different locations in the community where photos were taken to assess issues like safety, atmosphere, sidewalks, etc. Priorities were established as to which issues were important and what the commonalities were. LGBT seniors' issues are not that different than anyone else's but there are some. There are concerns on personal safety, transportation, walkability when it comes to pedestrians on the bike paths. Feedback on restaurants and the safety of mall bathrooms was discussed, Some

seniors have no children, are isolated, in a bad financial situation. When attending a senior center, LGBT elders can have minor issues from other people using the facilities, not the staff. At times there can be an unwelcoming air. SAGE will continue to present information to other groups and talk within SAGE groups to come up with ideas. Working in partnership with AARP, a survey will be sent to assisted living homes with questions about interaction with LGBT elders. The next step is to talk to folks in the community that can reach seniors and make Anchorage a welcoming city for ALL.

### **Legislative | AARP Report**

AARP: Mr. Helander reported that last week a film was shown to health care providers that addresses LGBT elders in different situations. The mission is to help and educate both providers and the public about some of the uniqueness of growing older as an LGBT elder. The film will be shown again on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Senior Center. This year AARP launched a multi-year campaign to combat high prescription drug costs. They are encouraging transparency, being about to import drugs from other countries (safely) and giving states the authority to crack down on outrageous price increases and capping out of pocket costs.

Alaska Legislature: Mr. Helander indicated that the budget is the main focus at this time for the legislators. Over 20 AARP representatives went to Juneau to discuss key issues with the legislators and the Governor. The Governor has zeroed out the Senior Benefits Program (for low income seniors) with no funding and would like it repealed altogether. This very vulnerable population depends on funds for a sense of security and to be able to remain in their own home. The recommendation is to continue funding. They are working with the Food Bank and the senior center to identify seniors who could help tell their stories. This was rejected in the house finance committee. There is a proposed rate increase for the Pioneer Home; discontinued funding for adult dental services; a 2 million dollar cut to the public health nursing program; HB1, the Home Care Licensing bill, says every agency must provide bill of rights to those being served and must be informed of their rights to remedy issues.

Federally, he noted that this is a renewal year for the Older Americans Act.

### **Old Business**

Older Americans Month Kick Off Event. Ms. Atkins has met with the Senior Center regarding the event set up, food items, and general flow of the event. Everything is going as planned. It was agreed that AARP will have a table in the lobby, providing literature and offering a door prize drawing. There will be an additional table for any other brochures that providers may bring for distribution. Gordon Glaser said there would not be able to identify centenarians this year due to a funding cut for their commission. There is only one submission for the Ron Hammett Award and it was agreed to extend the nomination deadline until April 5. Program and agenda will be designed and sent in to the printer, trophy will be ordered from Bovey. Volunteers are in place to assist with photography, seating, ticket distribution and cake cutting.

### **New Business**

**Commissioner comments/Announcements**

Ken Helander announced that Ken Osterkamp is no longer with AARP.

Gordon Glaser, ACoA related that the ACoA thinks of our Senior Commission as a local commission. The ACoA is tracking legislation and we should contact them at any time. He spoke about the Senior Benefits Program, the Pioneer Home, Public Health Nursing and other issues currently hot right now. He urged any comments be passed on to the Alaska Commission on Aging.

Hattie Gardner indicated she was having trouble with filing her FEMA requests for assistance and was urged to be persistent and supply all the documents requested, even if told she would not qualify.

Dawnia Clements expressed her appreciation that she could call in for this meeting. We hope to see her here soon!

The next meeting is March 27.

**Adjournment-** Motion by Commissioner Brisky; second by Commissioner Schuh to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.