



## SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2019 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Kevin Turkington, Chair Gayle Schuh AnnaBell Stevens Jim Bailey Hattie Gardner Emily McMahan (T)	Jenna Bruner (E) Theresa Brisky (E) Dawnia Clements (E)	Ken Helander-AARP     <b>Staff:</b> Judy Atkins

### Call to Order

Chair Kevin Turkington called the meeting to order with a quorum at 10:08 a.m.

### Approval of the Agenda

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

### Approval of Minutes

Chair Turkington called for approval of the minutes for the April 24, 2019 meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as presented from Commissioner Schuh, seconded by Commissioner Bailey. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.**

### Introductions

### Comments from the Chair

Mabel T. Caverly Senior Services is closing. The documents for the Senior Friendly Project have been given to our commission. Since Commissioner Clements played a major part in the creation of this project, this topic on be added to the June Agenda to revisit.

### Legislative | AARP Report | Ken Helander

AARP. Mr. Helander spoke about Age Smart, a monthly presentation on subject of interest to seniors, held at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center. The next presentation is on Fraud and Scams in July. This topic is a main concern for seniors who are targeted. In September, Frank Abignale, a reformed fraudster who is now an ambassador for the AARP Fraud Watch, will be speaking. Additionally the movie, Catch Me If You Can (based on his life), will be shown free of charge in a couple of theaters. In August the speaker is Dr. Britteny Howell, a

professor at UAA, who works with focus groups on research about what seniors need. Two free document shredding events for seniors sponsored by AARP are planned this year.

Legislative report. The legislature has gone in to special session; House and Senate versions of the budget did not concur. The crime bill is completed with one concern that had to do with the marriage defense related to sexual assault, ie married partners have the right to assault. Concern was in relation to those with dementia where consent and understanding can be an issue. The Governor is threatening to veto all school funding to resolve the forward funding for schools issue, with the question being constitutionality. The senior benefits program was approved which included \$800,000 additional funding from the Senate. HB29 authorizing insurance payments for any covered service by tele-health is moving forward. Alaska Legal Services may receive some funding for service to low the income population. Without this opportunity there is no coverage for that demographic. The Long Term Care Ombudsman office has received a 50% cut in their travel budget which will hamper their ability to visit homes outside the Anchorage area, leaving people very vulnerable. The legislation regarding rate increases at the Pioneer Homes has passed the House but not the Senate. Eight individuals have chosen to leave the Pioneer home because of the increase.

## **Old Business**

Older Americans Month Kick Off Event Critique and Wrap Up. By all reports the event was a success! Our thanks go to the Rebecca Parker and her staff at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center for ensuring the room was beautiful and the food was superb. Volunteers included staff from the ADRC and Mountain-Pacific. Approximately 20 door prizes were distributed and the Button Box Gang provided entertainment. The Guest Speaker, Jon Van Zyle, was very personable and quite the hit. Karen Hunt, former Ron Hammett Award recipient, introduced and presented the award to Kris Warren.

## **New Business**

### **Commissioner comments/Announcements**

Commissioner Turkington announced the Midnight Sun Charity Golf Classic on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a benefit for Hospice of Anchorage. Last year's tourney raised \$15,000. Volunteers are always needed. Website to sign up is [www.swingintosolstice.org](http://www.swingintosolstice.org)

Commissioner Schuh announced that June 29<sup>th</sup> is the Kickoff for Pridefest, a two day event held on the Park Strip.

Commissioner Bruner has resigned from the Commission due to a move to the Fairbanks area. She has urged Pam Kelley with Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska to apply through the Mayor's office.

## **Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Gardner; second by Commissioner Bailey to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is June 26, 2019.