



**Municipality of Anchorage
SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2007**

Members present:	Members Absent	Guests
AnnaBell Stevens, Chair Stuart Rader Carolyn Gardner Kathie Neu Hal Wolverton Joan Notti Dawnia Clements Ella Craig Eva Kopacz Amanda Lofgren Theresa Panchot Kenneth Takakuwa, DHHS Staff Donald Jones, DHHS Staff	Margaret Lowe, E Charlene McBratney, E E = Excused U = Unexcused	Pamela Phillimore, Assist Program Mgr, W.I.C.

A quorum was in attendance.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair AnnaBell Stevens, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. at the Anchorage Senior Center.

II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

- Each new commissioner introduced themselves. The new Commissioners that introduced themselves were Amanda Lofgren, Theresa Panchot, and Eva Kopacz.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Stuart Rader to approve the agenda. Hal Woverton seconded the motion.	The motion was carried and the agenda was approved unanimously.
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IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Annabelle Stevens shared with the Commission that Elizabeth Blooming from the Anchorage Daily News will be doing an article on “Barriers for Seniors on Medicare. The story is around the theme of what constitutes reasonable accommodations.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 12/13/06

A motion was made by Dawnia Clements moved to approve the minutes of December, 13, 2006 as corrected. Stuart Rader seconded the motion.	The motion was carried unanimously.
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VI. LIAISON REPORT

- Mr. Takakuwa encouraged Commissioners to keep making recommendations for commissioner candidates throughout the year. The purpose of this is to build up a “queue” that will allow seats to be filled more quickly once they become vacant. He also reminded the Commission that the first opportunity to address the Senior Services Coordinator position again before the Assembly is at First Quarter Budget Revision in late March, early April.
- The comment was made that we keep balance of ages and cultural diversity.

VII. Committee Reports

- **Housing Committee**
 - Mr. Rader reported that the Housing Committee did not get a chance to meet this month. The committee has attempted to schedule a meeting with Aaron Scott, representative of he Forrest Heights, LLC’s development at Goldenview and 172nd. Mr. Rader also has withdrawn himself, from the decision-making on the issues of the Forrest Heights development because of his firm’s representation of an investor in the project which could create a possible conflict of interest. Mr. Rader also encouraged new Commissioners to become a part of the Housing Committee.
- **AAA Committee**
 - Mr. Takakuwa shared some of the background information of the Area Agency on Aging Committee for new commissioners. The Department Health of Human Services added the creation of the “Senior Services Coordinator” position into its strategic plan so that the Municipality would be able to enhance services to the senior population.

- Kathie Neu shared that the AAA committee did not meet this month. However she did do a draft of “Talking Points” (attached) for the Senior Services Coordinator position. She asked that the commission make comments on the talking points. One suggestion that was made was to change the position title from “Senior Service Coordinator” to Senior Services Program Manager”.

Carolyn Gardner moved to change the title of the Senior Services Coordinator to Senior Service Program Manager. Eva Kopacz seconded.	The motion was carried unanimously.
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- Transportation Committee
 - Dawnia Clements encouraged new commissioners who were interested to join the Transportation Committee. Ms Clements also stated that she is still waiting on the report from the Transportation Summit she attended in December.
- ***No other committee reports.***

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- ***Action Plan Assignments for New Commissioners***
 - Tabled until February meeting.

X. COMMENTS

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XI. ADJOURNMENT

- **With no other Business, Ms. Stevens adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.**

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE ON
Wednesday, February 28, 2007, Anchorage Senior Center

SCAC Talking Points

The Municipality of Anchorage

Senior Services Program Manager Position

Demographics

- Alaska ranks among the highest in the nation for growth rate of senior population.
- The “over 65” age group is the fastest growing segment of Alaska’s population.
- The oldest seniors are more like to stay in Alaska.
- Anchorage’s senior population is growing at 5 times the national average.
- Anchorage’s senior population is growing more diverse.
- By 2020, projections are that there will be as many 20,000 additional seniors in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Implications of an Aging Population

- Poses new challenges for the planning and delivery of local services
 - health care; housing; transportation
 - public safety; employment; education; recreation

Anchorage’s Realities

- Anchorage’s senior population is growing at 5 times the national average
- 20,000 additional seniors expected Anchorage by 2020
- Big change and increase in our minority population
- Young people today now have grandparents and even great grandparents in Anchorage.
- High-cost users of health care include baby boomers; about 40% are over age 65
- Gaps in services continue to rise
- Anchorage is faced with some hard choices about how to control costs but still have a health-care system that provides good care and is accessible to everyone.

SCAC’s Posture

The SCAC believes that:

- policies, programs or service needs of older adults are often interrelated
- interdependent needs of older adults often require a comprehensive, holistic approach to service delivery organization and management so that they may remain independent and contribute to their communities for as long as possible
- choice and availability of services have a major impact on the quality of life of older adults
- the Municipality of Anchorage needs to take a fresh look at their existing policies, programs and services for its aging population

SCAC Talking Points

The Municipality of Anchorage

Senior Services Program Manager Position

- the Municipality of Anchorage needs to actively engage its older adults in discussions about what changes to local government services are needed so as to enhance their quality of life and ensure that they can grow old successfully in our community
- the Municipality of Anchorage needs to have a very strong and active role in leading collaboration of senior service providers to meet the needs of our elders and their caregivers
- the Municipality of Anchorage needs to provide the long-term continuity to develop, implement, and maintain a plan of services

SCAC's Recommendations:

To help better meet the growing and diverse needs of our aging population, the SCAC recommends the addition of an administrative officer's position to focus on senior issues in the Municipality. The anticipated cost of this Program Manager's position (including \$ for some supplies and administration) would be between \$80,000 and \$100,000. The responsibilities of this position would be to provide:

- Uniform local plan of services to meet the needs of the MOA's elder population.
- Identification of current and future MOA elder needs and gaps in service.
- Identification and pursuit of funding opportunities to meet local elder needs.
- Leverage with funding organizations that require demonstrated commitment by applicants.
- Active liaison and partnership with organizations that serve seniors.
- Enhanced participation in overall policy-making related to senior issues.
- Greater internal coordination between MOA Departments dealing with aging issues (Transportation, DHHS, APD/AFD, etc.).
- Enhanced ability to offer information and referral to seniors and adult children and to troubleshoot difficult cases.

Responding to the maturing of Anchorage offers the opportunity to make our community livable for all ages. Although a Program Manager's position may seem a significant investment, many service gaps and potential quality-of-life improvements can be accomplished with little cost through effective leadership.

In an effort to ensure that Anchorage is a good place to grow up and to grow old in, the SCAC recommends revising the budget to include a Senior Services Program Manager's position. Thank you very much for your consideration.