



SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2019 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center, 1300 E. 19th Ave.

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Theresa Brisky, Chair Gayle Schuh Pam Kelley Dawnia Clements (T) Jim Bailey AnnaBell Stevens	Hattie Gardner (E) Emily McMahan (E)	Dr. Ursula McVeigh Sharon Bergstedt Providence Palliative Care & Hospice Staff: none

Call to Order

Chair Theresa Brisky called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. with a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Brisky called for approval of the minutes for the October 23, 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

Dr. Ursula McVeigh & Sharon Bergstedt, Providence Palliative Care and Hospice. Hospice and palliative care have a combined goal for patients and families to have the fullest possible lives in their final weeks, months or years. Hospice focuses on the quality of life for individuals and their family caregivers, providing support and care with a range of services. Additional services are offered, to include palliative care. Hospice can be provided in the patient's home, nursing facility, assisted living and more. Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses and is focuses on providing relief regardless of the diagnosis. Serious illnesses include but are not limited to cancer, cardiac disease, Alzheimer's, AIDS, ALS and MS. It can be provided by the patient's PCP, specialist. Care plans may include managing complex symptoms, emotional or spiritual support, coordinating with a medical team, guidance in making difficult choices. Questions were fielded. To receive hospice, contact 212-4400; for palliative care contact 212-7997.

Comments from the Chair

Legislative | AARP Report | Ken Helander – not present

Old Business

Senior Friendly Project. Chair Brisky reported that several attempts were made to schedule a committee meeting. Commissioner Bailey reported that he was familiar with what Mabel T Caverly was trying to do with the program; they had received seed money. Fomer MTC employee, David Washburn, said the program was a little intensive for Anchorage. He felt that for employers with high employee turnover it would be difficult; also the pricing was expensive for what they received. He suggested that if the program had an educational component, it might be more effective. An educational component that perhaps included You Tube videos that people could play might be effective. Commissioner Bailey will make copies of his comments and send the commission members. This is not a money-making program – we would have to obtain money to make it work as it requires staff. It cannot be done with just volunteers. Where would money come from? Muni? No. State? No. Non-Profits – is money out there to support senior friendly? Probably not. Commissioner Bailey recommended the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce be involved. Is the program sustainable financially? Not anymore. Chair Brisky agreed – we should do some advertising – get an educational component to the businesses. Find a champion, find some money. DT Partnership should be approached. Ray Clements: consider that this is not a unique thing for Anchorage in so fact that it has been successful in lower 48 communities-reach out to others and see how they have funded their ongoing programs. Provide a timeline to get into a businesses' funding stream for the project. He also suggested UAA Human Services Department is a source of manpower. Chair Brisky – who has the time to do all this work to ensure this is successful? We are all interested in seeing this progress, but manpower is needed. Ray suggested we do a survey of the non-profits to see if there is interest. It was suggested that a position paper be created, describing the project and distribute it. The committee could do it. Ideas – get on Chamber's agenda. **Motion:** Chair Brisky moved that the committee continue to meet and come up with a position paper with an educational component for the senior friendly project to be presented to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Partnership no later than a year out. Seconded by Commissioner Bailey. **Motion approved.**

New Business

Commissioner comments/Announcements

Gayle Schuh reported that Identity has moved from 5th Avenue – moved to corner of Arctic and Fireweed, suite 103. Community open house Friday from 5:30-7:30.

Pam Kelley reported that tickets were available for the Concert of Voices of the last Frontier, Friday at 1:30 at the Marston Theater, ask her. Thank you to those who participated in the Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska birthday celebration.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting is December 18, 2019.