



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING/PLANNING SESSION MINUTES
April 28, 2021 ~ Microsoft Teams**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jim Bailey, Chair Gayle Schuh, Vice Chair Theresa Brisky Dawnia Clements AnnaBell Stevens Pam Kelley Hattie Gardner	Emily McMahan (E)	Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Gordon Glaser, ACoA Mary Shields Marge Stoneking, AARP <u>Staff:</u> Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Bailey started the meeting at 10:01 a.m. with a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Bailey called for approval of the minutes for the March 24, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Schuh moved to approve as presented; seconded by Commissioner Stevens. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

Introductions

Presentation – Marge Stoneking

AARP and Seniors – Ms. Stoneking reviewed the history of the AARP organization to include volunteers, advocacy team, community action team, local chapters and the executive council which addresses annual state planning, education and social events. 2021 focus areas to include:

Health security – education through tele-town halls and hub dialer program and access regarding information on Covid-19 and vaccine distribution, caregiving, healthcare

Financial resilience – Fraud prevention, securing the future, retirement savings, social security, Medicare

Social connection – Voter engagement, fun connections, technology support, addressing social isolation

Livable communities – Housing, transportation, civic participation, social inclusion, health services, social participation, communication and information and outdoors spaces and buildings – work for an Age Friendly designation – where all ages can live and thrive and remain for all of their years. Community challenge grants are offered to support livable

communities. Grantees in Alaska are chosen each year. Additional grants offered to four Alaska communities. There was a record number of applicants so the need and demand is great.

Legislative | AARP Report - Marge Stoneking

Legislative update – A brief overview of bills affecting the senior community was offered. HB103/SB89 affects assisted living homes and the rules on visitation; SB67 is the nursing licensure compact bill authorizing the joining of Alaska to 34 other states. Alaska nurses can apply for single state or multi state licenses that are members of the compact. SB78 allows for out of state Telehealth providers to provide services in state. The telehealth bill passed last session with payment flexibilities; SB90 is a bill addressing the witnessing and testament of wills by electronic means (through video); SB93 establishes an all-payer health claims database.

Alaska Commission on Aging Report - Gordon Glaser

ACoA is looking forward to partnering on Older Americans Month. He will provide the proclamation from the state. The ACoA state meeting is in Kenai next week, you can join and make commentary through Zoom. The Senior Center is moving towards being more open with safety measures in place.

Old Business

Letter to the Mayor – First draft completed – letter to be completed and presented to the incoming Mayor.

Older Americans Month – Commissioner Schuh provided updates on meeting at the Senior Center in person. Tables will be set up, socially distanced so people will be comfortable. So far some commissioners, the guest speaker, award winner and muni staff will attend. Everything is on track.

2020 Focal Point – Alzheimer's Awareness – A program has been initiated supported by mental health trust statewide, online based – Ken Helander is running it. It is the mind aerobics program, Mind Sharpener, for folks not experiencing cognitive impairment, but who are experiencing the kinds of natural changes in brain function as we age and want to build some of those skills across those cognitive domains. A brain exercise program is part of good preventative practices for seniors. There is testing pre and post participation. One can gain brain dexterity and participate in research as this is part of a project from University of Minnesota Mankato. This project will run for 2.5 years. Alzheimer's Resource wants to bring this program to the community as much as possible so folks can buy into physical and brain fitness.

New Business

Comments from the Chair

Chair Bailey commented that he and Commissioner Clements are reviewing the Ron Hammett Award nominees with a May 1st deadline in place.

Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Schuh, at 11:20 a.m

Commissioners are invited to attend the Older Americans Month Event on Wed., May 26, 2021 – regular meeting will not be held.