



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING NOTES
November 17, 2021 ~ Microsoft Teams**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jim Bailey, Chair Dawnia Clements Dr. Emily McMahan	AnnaBell Stevens (U) Mary Shields (E) Abrianna Haring-Brito (E) Traci Willett (E) Suzanne Hickel (E) Amanda Rinner (E)	Hattie Gardner Gayle Schuh Jim Curran, Anchorage Public Library Meneka Thiru, Anchorage Public Library Marge Stoneking, AARP Maureen Haggbloom, ADRC Joe Gerace, Director, AHD Staff Liaison: Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Bailey started the meeting at 10:05 a.m. without a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Introductions

Presentation – Jim Curran and Meneka Thiru – Anchorage Public Library

The Anchorage Public Library is one library with five locations. Books are available in many different formats and may be checked out for three weeks or more. Audio books are available on CDs as well. The library no longer assesses fines, just return the items. Hoopla offers streaming opportunities; databases are available including Ancestry. Check out the event calendar and click on the events for more information. Book clubs are available. Internships are available for seniors; volunteer opportunities exist, the Muldoon location has Senior Saturdays to assist seniors with tech issues; many more events were offered prior to COVID. There are three community resource coordinators who help folks with any type of resources in the community and have been very busy. The library partnered with OPAG to offer a book club for residents in assisted livings; they are now reading books on Alaska history and hope to come together online for a larger discussion.

Resources: Anchorage Public Library homepage: www.anchoragelibrary.org Search what is available at the library using the search bar at the top of the page

Downloadables and Streaming – ebooks, audiobooks, movies, and music available on your phone or computer with a library card: <https://www.anchoragelibrary.org/books-plus-movies-plus-music/find-it/downloadables-streaming/>

Events and programming: For Kids (grandkids, godchildren, nieces, nephews, etc.):

<https://www.anchoragelibrary.org/events/events-for/kids/> For Adults:

<https://www.anchoragelibrary.org/events/events-for/adults/> Complete event calendar:

<https://anchoragelibrary.evanced.info/signup/calendar>

Databases: <https://www.anchoragelibrary.org/resources/research/databases-a-to-z/> Anchorage Daily News, U.S. Major Dailies (includes current and past issues of New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times, Chicago Tribune, & Wall Street Journal), Value Line (investment information), Ancestry.com (available at home through the end of 2021, patrons will need to be inside the library to access in 2022), HeritageQuest (genealogy research), Consumer Health Complete
If you have further questions or ideas for future collaborations, please don't hesitate to reach out: james.curran@anchorageak.gov or meneka.thiru@anchorageak.gov They're always looking to connect with new partners!

Alaska Commission on Aging Report - Gordon Glaser

Legislative | AARP Report - Marge Stoneking

Legislative: Nothing to report.

AARP: AARP is the top advocate for seniors in Alaska. On Monday, the President signed the infrastructure investment and jobs act. Senator Murkowski and Representative Young were present at the signing as they were instrumental in the documents' passing. This will result in a significant influx of dollars to Alaska. AARP advocated for broadband/hi-speed intranet which will mean affordable access to internet for everyone, including seniors. Access to affordable, reliable hi-speed internet came more into focus during the pandemic around telehealth and education. These funds along with others will close the digital divide. The final report has been issued with recommendations to go to the governor. Other things coming through the infrastructure bill are transportation dollars making safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists. Additional funding for senior and disability programs for transportation alternatives will be available. Also included is funding for ferries and for clean water and wastewater – close the honey bucket gap. Senator Murkowski will appear at an upcoming Tele-Town Hall meeting to answer questions regarding the bill. Aging in Place is the AARP's biggest priority.

Old Business

Focal Point – Alzheimer's. Discussions tabled.

New Business

Appointment of Vice Chair. Discussion tabled.

Comments from the Chair

Commissioner Bailey thanked Gayle Schuh for her service and hope she is available for consultations. He looks forward to meeting the new members and will reach out personally when he has the contact information. He will miss all of the outgoing commissioners.

Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements

Adjournment

Next meeting will be virtual on Microsoft Teams on December 15, 2021, 10AM. Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.