



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
August 24, 2022 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Jim Bailey, Chair Dr. Emily McMahan Mary Shields AnnaBell Stevens Traci Willett Suzanne Hickel	Dawnia Clements (E) Abi Haring-Brito (E)	Marge Stoneking, AARP Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Terrence Shanigan, AHD Gordon Glaser Tabitha Karpow, ASAC <u>Staff Liaison:</u> Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Bailey started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum.

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Shields; seconded by Commissioner Willett. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Approval of the July 27, 2022 Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Shields; seconded by Commissioner Hickel. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

Presentation

Senior Center Programs and Membership Update | Tabitha Karpow, Anchorage Senior Activity Center

The senior center is now fully functional with the grand opening of the gift shop .The next annual meeting will be held in April. The programs are going full tilt with additional classes being added in October such as ballroom dancing classes, line dancing, hip hop etc. – always new things going on. More new classes will focus on health and wellness. The center is celebrating their 48th anniversary next year. Two of the oral history projects are wrapping up with 35 interviews. They have partnered to start a community garden with 4-6 completely stationary raised garden beds. The goal is to get the fence built and fully leveled. Golden Afternoons with the Anchorage Public Library starting in the fall. They are short staffed right now, 2-3 open positions. Social hours going strong, usually 70-80 attending; Age Smart starts in person in September – subject is customized travel. Membership going well, 1,750 members. Jim Posey has been added to the advisory council.

Legislative | AARP Report - Marge Stoneking, AARP

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) lowers prescription drug costs, health care costs, and energy costs. It has also been a high priority for AARP. The act will raise revenue and result in cost savings to millions of Americans and the federal government. The prescription drug cost in American is the highest. Drug companies will spend millions trying to overturn the new law however it will save money and save lives. Medicare will negotiate the price of certain prescription

drugs and drug companies will pay penalties if costs are higher than inflation. Additionally, there will be no co-payment for vaccines that are recommended to include the shingles vaccine. Insulin cost is capped at \$35 per month. 2024 begins with no cost for catastrophic spending for Medicare part B.

AARP will again focus on voter education for the upcoming elections with video, materials, outreach at the state fairs. They will also mail informational post cards to members regarding absentee voting.

Old Business

Senior Health Screening Event. Commissioners Bailey and Shields reported that the event was well attend and much appreciated in the community. We will send Thank You cards to Makar, Dr. Emily and the senior center.

Bold Infrastructure Support Letter feedback. We received notes from both Senators Murkowski and Sullivan reiterating their support for this issue and appreciation for the commission letter.

Commission Vacancy Update. Amanda Rinner missed more than six meetings and has been removed from the Commission. This is Mary Shields last meeting – resigning to move out of state. This leaves two vacancies. Two commissioners are facing term expirations in October, AnnaBell Stevens and Emily McMahan. AnnaBell has submitted her application.

Focus Point Alzheimer's. Staff will contact Pam Kelley for an up-to-date presentation on their needs.

Anchorage as an Age Friendly Designation. Commissioner Bailey is on the committee and reports they are working on identifying needs surrounding the city's walkability in various neighborhoods. They will attempt to do both fall and winter walks. It was suggested that children be watched to identify safety issues for them walking as well. The committee meets weekly, and Jim will report back again next month.

New Business

Public Comment

Gordon Glaser commented on the difficulty of working with the State of Alaska to ensure older Alaskans and those with disabilities do not lose their services.

Commissioner/Announcements

Chair Bailey appreciated the in-person meeting and glad that senior concerns are always considered important. Commissioner Shields will be missed.

Commissioner Shields commented on her time working with the Senior Commission.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Willett; seconded by Commissioner Stevens; hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 10:56.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 28, 2022