



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SUMMARY MEETING/PLANNING SESSION MINUTES  
February 24, 2021 ~ Microsoft Teams**

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

**Call to Order**

Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. without a quorum.

**Introductions**

**Legislative | AARP Report | Marge Stoneking**

Legislative / AARP: The Legislative brown bag, in partnership with Age-Net, Alzheimer's Resource and the Alzheimer's Association, had good attendance with 13 legislative offices represented. Lobbying by AARP volunteers resulted in 46 legislative visits. Some topics were permanent changes to Medicaid telehealth, nursing licensure, multi-state licensing for RNs, COVID-immunity for businesses and special licensing. They received very good feedback on the priority issues and very good response. At the January meeting there was discussion about Commission participation-if someone wanted to come and talk about the senior commission and how we interact with administration it would be valuable.

**Alaska Commission on Aging Report - Gordon Glaser**

Anchorage is biggest village in the state. The ACoA is in process of developing a statewide plan and welcome input. They recently came out with a snapshot of where the aging community is in the state and will send copies. Lisa Morley is the new Executive Director. ACoA recently went to the legislature to provide their priorities: funding for senior grant services support the Medicaid waiver, support for basic programs that help keep people home i.e. heating assistance, senior benefits.

The meeting was re-opened with a quorum at 10:18 am.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Bailey called for approval of the minutes for the January 27, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Gardner moved to approve; seconded by Commissioner Kelley. **Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.**

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

### Planning Session – Mary Shields, Facilitator

How have 2020 plans moved forward in the past year or have they? A letter was written to the Mayor supporting our efforts to bring information to all the Community Councils. Due to the pandemic it was impossible to complete those efforts. Pam Kelley with Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska said outreach efforts have been very much truncated because of COVID. The Older Americans Month celebration was also cancelled. What do we as a commission want to see being done in the coming year? Commissioners were asked to look at planning to see what we need to carry on with; look at how we can get back to normal in order to advocate for seniors.

Older Americans Month. Ms. Shields urged the commission to move on with planning for some sort of event to celebrate in May to replace the annual luncheon. The Senior Center will more than likely not be open to large groups and Gordon Glaser volunteered the Center's Zoom assistance. The Senior Center could become a co-sponsor of the event. To summarize, the commission agreed to do a small event in May; recognize the Ron Hammett Award Winners, use the Senior Center's Zoom capabilities; in the fall have a larger event outdoors (tentative as it would be difficult to do at this time)

Committees formed: Ron Hammett Award – Jim Bailey / Dawnia Clements

Older Americans Month – Gayle Schuh / Hattie Gardner

Our POCs at ASAC are Rebecca Parker, Gordon Glaser, Mary Shields, Jim Bailey with Rebecca making all final decisions.

A suggestion was put forth to have a festive procession/parade for seniors who could either watch from their windows or social distance outside. At this time, there was no support for the idea. Perhaps at a later time.

Annual Letter to the Mayor – Commissioner Schuh will draft the letter and review with Jim Bailey.

2020 Focal Point – Alzheimer's Awareness – The commission will continue supporting the implementation of this program however there is not much to do at this time.

## **Comments from the Chair**

Chair thanked everyone for participating in the Planning Session with special appreciation to Mary Shields. Reminder of the Age-Smart Zoom event on March 13.

**Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements**

Commissioner Clements commented on the ongoing issue of loneliness and Seniors. Factors have included transportation issues, the weather, no immediate family and recently, COVID. Seniors in housing don't come out of their apartments. What is being done to reach people who are isolated? Let's explore resources to combat this issue.

Gordon Glaser urged support of Proposition 2 which affects senior centers and libraries. Property taxes will only increase 25 cents/\$100,000.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Schuh, second by Commissioner Clements; hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Wed., March 24, 2021.