



**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES  
February 26, 2025 ~ Anchorage Senior Activity Center/Zoom**

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Abi Haring-Brito – Chair Gordon Glaser Debbie Bear <i>Dr. Emily McMahan</i> Jim Bailey  <i>Italic: Virtual</i>	Suzanne Hickel Traci Willett – Vice Chair	Dr. George Conway, AHD Chief Medical Officer <i>Maureen Haggblom, ADRC</i> <i>Jeanne Larson</i> Melinda Gant, ACDA David Washburn, OPAG Anne Thompson, OPAG  <b>Staff Liaison:</b> Frankie Dahl

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Jim Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:56 a.m. with a quorum.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda, Commissioner Glaser; seconded by Commissioner Bear. **Commissioner Bailey called for a verbal vote, the motion passed.**

**Approval of the January 22, 2025 Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Bear; seconded by Commissioner Glaser. **Chair called for a verbal vote, the motion passed.**

**Introductions**

**Presentation**

Older Persons Action Group: David Washburn and Anne Thompson from OPAG/Senior Voice did a short presentation on the history of the group and the scope of the events and publications that OPAG puts out. Senior Voice has a large readership that is widely trusted and a good way for disseminating pertinent information to Alaskan Seniors. Anne Thompson helps to organize the breakfast events that OPAG puts on to network and connect people to providers and resources. They are booked out far in advance, but the commission expressed a desire to have a breakfast event at the Senior Center if possible.

Anchorage Community Development Authority: Melinda Gant gave a brief presentation on what ACDA does, and recent changes to accessible parking downtown. In December of 2024, the Assembly passed a resolution that allows people who have disability placards or license plates to park for free downtown. It also allows them to park for 1.5x the normally allotted time period for parking, i.e. a 2-hour parking space would actually be a 3-hour parking space. If you have a placard but not a license, she encouraged people to register their placard with their license to avoid accidental ticketing and the accompanying appeals process. She also talked about the comprehensive security measures that they take at their

parking garages, and commissioners encouraged her to spread the word more about that as not many community members know about that.

### **Legislative | AARP Report**

Marge Stoneking was not available to attend. Commissioners have requested a summary of the work that is happening so that they may stay informed.

### **Commission Focus Points**

Anchorage as an Age-Friendly Designation - Commissioner Bailey reported that he is regularly meeting with members of the Mayoral Administration to advocate for Age-Friendly designation. A lot of the domains of Age-Friendly overlap with the improvements for the city that the mayor already has in mind and is working towards. Discussions around a presentation in September are happening.

### **Continuing Business**

Brainstorming—Healthcare: Commissioners are working on designing a short questionnaire to get some baseline information about Senior access to healthcare providers and services. They discussed distributing that survey through the Anchorage Senior Activity Center as well as the Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center, and potentially through Senior Voice as well. Pairing the survey with programs that provide services, like meal delivery, could also be highly effective. Commissioners expressed concern about impending cuts to Medicare and Medicaid further complicating Senior access to healthcare providers and services.

### **New Business**

Older Americans Month Kick-Off Event. The event date has been set for Wednesday, May 7, 2025, and will be held at the Anchorage Senior Activity Center. Commissioner Bailey encouraged commissioners to reach out to local organizations for donations to the event, and to submit ideas for a main speaker for the event as well.

AgeNet Priorities 2025 – Commissioner Glaser stated that the priorities for AgeNet are nutrition, transportation, and socialization programs.

### **Public Comment**

- Dr. Conway stated that they completed a recent review of Medicare Providers and will be publishing a document that reflects that on the AHD website. The most effective way to get up-to-date information will always be reaching out to providers.

### **Commissioner Comments | Announcements**

- Two commission vacancies – please identify potential applicants

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Glaser; seconded by Commissioner Bear. Hearing no objections, meeting adjourned at 11:43. **Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 26, 2025**