



SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2021 ~ Microsoft Teams

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests
Theresa Brisky, Chair AnnaBell Stevens, Vice Chair Pam Kelley Emily McMahan Jim Bailey Gayle Schuh Hattie Gardner	Dawnia Clements (E)	Maureen Haggblom, ADRC Teresa Holt, AARP Marge Stoneking, AARP Sherri Von Wolfe, SAIL <u>Staff:</u> Judy Atkins

Call to Order

Chair Brisky called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. with a quorum.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Brisky called for approval of the minutes for the November 18, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Schuh reported a typo (Senate) in the legislative portion of Ms. Holt's report. Commissioner Gardner moved to approve as corrected; seconded by Commissioner Schuh. **Hearing no objections, the Minutes were approved.**

Introductions – through Teams, the Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

Presentation

Aging in Place – HomeMAP – Sherri Von Wolfe, SAIL. HomeMAP is a tool that Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) developed years ago. It is a person-centered assessment to help those who want age in place. Most people want to age in place as long as possible and live the way they want to live so being proactive is the way to go; don't wait until you are forced. A home tune up can be very simple such as improving lighting or getting a shower bench. Starting with the AARP Home Fit Guide, specialists help identify a range of solutions unique to individuals needs i.e. visual needs or living on multiple levels. It's important to get a full picture of what a person might need such as lever door handles, sink handles, auto door openers, caregiver alert devices (mats), lifeline, - grabbers or reachers, adaptive writing implements, dressing aids, shower seats, chairs to assist with standing up. There are costs involved in having a home assessment done.

Legislative | AARP Report | Teresa Holt - Theresa introduced Marge Stoneking who will be providing updates to the committee.

Legislative: With the session underway, planning advocacy for AARP with several other organizations has started. A lunch and learn has been planned to educate legislators on aging in Alaska – which has the fastest growing senior population in the country. One third of the legislators are new this year. No specific cuts to areas of concern to seniors have been identified. The top priority is defending Medicaid and the waiver program. Also, of interest are senior safety net programs to include the senior benefits program. Some of the bills being followed are a COVID immunity bill for businesses and professional licensing, two income tax bills, the nursing licensure bill, a bill regarding PERS and TERS retirement plans and a bill regarding health insurance incentive program. Additionally, the tax on electronic smoking products on a statewide level is of interest.

AARP- Alzheimer's Resource Advocacy week is the 2nd week in February; the 3rd week is AARP Advocacy and ACOA Advocacy week. On local level there is the upcoming mayoral election, AARP is doing voter engagement and planning a briefing for mayoral candidates on the last day of February at 9am. Is there a role for the commission in that meeting? We are unsure.

Alaska Commission on Aging Report - no report

Old Business

Reappointments/Vacancy. Ms. Atkins confirmed the reappointments of Dawnia Clements and James Bailey. No applications have been received to fill the vacancy. Commissioner Bailey will reach out to Mary Shields.

New Business

Election of Officers. Commissioners Brisky and Stevens were asked if they would like to continue their roles as officers, both declined. Chair Brisky opened the floor to nominations. After declining her nomination to Chair, Commissioner Kelley disclosed she had spoken with Jim Bailey and Gayle Schuh. Motion by Commission Kelley to nominate Jim Bailey for the Chair position and Gayle Schuh for the Vice Chair position. Second by Commissioner Brisky. Both accepted the nominations. **After a show of hands, the motion was passed.**

2021 Planning Session. The February meeting will be the annual commission Planning Session; Commissioner Bailey will ask Mary Shields to facilitate again. Ms. Atkins will send the minutes from the 2020 Planning Session to all.

Older Americans Month. This topic will be touched on at the planning session in February, commissioners should bring ideas on how we can recognize this event. Note: The 2020 Ron Hammett Award has not been presented to Mary Shields.

Comments from the Chair

Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements

Various commissioners joined in thanking Commissioner Brisky for her service as Chair for the last two years.

Commissioners spoke about the importance of the COVID vaccine to the senior community.

Commissioner Kelley reported that AnchorRides will offer transportation to vaccine sites and will assist in other services.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Brisky, second by Commissioner Schuh; hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Wed., February 24, 2021.