



SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2020 ~ Microsoft Teams

| Members Present | Members Absent | Guests |
|--|----------------|---|
| Theresa Brisky, Chair AnnaBell Stevens, Vice Chair Pam Kelley Dawnia Clements Jim Bailey Gayle Schuh Hattie Gardner Emily McMahan | | Teresa Holt, AARP Heather Harris, AHD Director Mary Shields <u>Staff:</u> Judy Atkins |

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Brisky 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 Brisky called for approval of the minutes for the June 24, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Bailey moved to approve as presented; seconded by Commissioner Kelley. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.**

Introductions were deferred until Heather Harris joined the meeting

Presentations

Older Persons Action Group (OPAG) – Jim Bailey. Established in 1968, OPAG supports and advocates for seniors statewide. They provide referral services, publish a statewide Directory for seniors, co-sponsor a monthly forum with the senior center and AARP and publish and distribute an award-winning newspaper. They also support the Inter-Agency Breakfast which allows non-profits and organizations to get together and share their information. The breakfast is now a Zoom event, allow many more to participate. OPAG has need of a sponsor for the statewide directory this year. Commissioner Clements proposed sending a thank you letter to David Washburn, the editor of the Senior Voice, recognizing the support both he and OPAG have provided over the years. It was agreed that Dawnia would draft the letter to send to the commissioners for approval. Further discussion evolved into drafting a resolution to send to the Assembly.

Comments from the Chair

Legislative | AARP Report | Teresa Holt

Legislative: no report at this time

AARP- Ms. Holt was welcomed to the meeting; she will be continuing where Ken Helander left off, providing a legislative report on issues affecting seniors when in session and updating the commission on the hot issues AARP is addressing. They look forward to continuing the partnership with OPAG for the monthly forum, Age Smart, Let's Talk, held online. Zoom training will be provided for those new to it. AARP continues to support voter education and safety through tele town halls and Facebook. She mentioned that Ballot Measure 2 continues to be a topic of interest to AARP. The local office has an opening for Advocacy Director. Ms. Holt mirrored what Pam Kelley said about the deterioration of individuals during the pandemic. It is absolutely impacting this population and is a trying time for all. Contact information for Theresa Holt – 223-9520 / tholt@aarp.org

Old Business

Term Expirations. Commissioners Clements, Kelley and Bailey have said they would like to serve another term (3 years) on the commission. Ms. Atkins will send this information to the Boards and Commissions office who will submit this information to the Assembly for approval. All three can continue to serve as active members until the process has been approved.

Commission Vacancy. Mary Shields has indicated an interest in applying for the Commission vacancy. She must complete and submit the application form, located on the muni website and then will be considered. The Commission feels she would be a welcome addition and an asset. Thank you Mary. Commissioner Clements inquired as to the max number of volunteers/ Commissioners that can serve – that number remains at nine. She believes the number should be expanded and would like to address this at a later date.

2020 Commission Topic of Interest – Dementia / Alzheimer's. Commissioner Kelley reported that the project continues to focus on services for caregivers of those living with dementia in the community. Structured formal assessment tools measure their burden and ascertain what the areas are that they might be able to alleviate burdens by providing specific services and supports to the household. The goal is to keep the individuals in the home a bit longer. The long-term goal was to assist 200 families and they will likely hit that mark. Statistics are not available at this time, however an estimate of families impacted is 50.

New Business

Monthly Presentations. The October presenter is Pam Kelley, Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska. Please think about the November meeting and who could provide a presentation.

Commissioner/Guest Comments/Announcements

Jim Bailey – Jim spoke about the 2020 Ron Hammett Award winner – Mary Shields. We appreciated her attendance at today's meeting and spoke of one day presenting the physical award to her. Jim read the wording on the plaque.

AnnaBell Stevens – AnnaBell announced that there will be a Thanksgiving Blessing this year. Monday, November 23, 2-7pm. For more information on how to participate contact 2-1-1.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Wed., October 28, 2020.