

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

January 21, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Zoom Webinar



<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/81491760970?pwd=bkFwWk42Mllmazl0aFdMS3ArTG5qZz09>

Or Call In: 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 814 9176 0970 Passcode: 858248

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Present: Chair Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Carol Ende, Jennifer Garrison, Kimberly Adkison, Barb Murray, Chris Schapp, Diane Kyser, and Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall.

Absent: Ann Stepetin

Others Present: Holly Handler

B. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Welcome & Introduction of new JCOA Members: Barb Murray, Diane Kyser & Chris Schapp - The new members each briefly introduced themselves.

C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Linda moved, Diane seconded. Agenda approved.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **December 17, 2024 JCOA Regular Meeting Minutes** - Diane moved, Jennifer seconded. Minutes approved.

E. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** - none

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. **Holly Handler, Kinship Program** - The Kinship Program is celebrating its 6-month anniversary. They have served 35 families across Southeast, 20 families in Juneau. The program relies on funding from grants and focuses on grandparents and other relatives or close family friends who are caring for children who are not in the foster care system and don't have stable home environments. Family specialists provide social work services and other needed services working with families and school districts. Holly also mentioned the importance of multigenerational housing that incorporates senior, young adult, children and family needs. Holly mentioned a Housing Design Competition in Anchorage with designs displayed at the Library in Anchorage. Linda mentioned that the Anchorage Design Competition was funded by an AARP Community Challenge Grant. Linda invited Holly to work with JCOA, Age-Friendly Juneau, and Juneau AARP to bring together local architects and designers to apply for a grant for a housing design completion in Juneau.

3. Standing JCOA Agenda Topics - Main Projects/Subcommittee Updates

1. 1/6 Chair Craig made a presentation of JCOA Accomplishments to Assembly Human Resources Committee. The HRC agenda was busy and there were technology problems, so we weren't able to share a prepared PowerPoint on 2024 accomplishments and 2025 plans. The Assembly members present were supportive of JCOA, and we appreciated supportive comments from our CBJ Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall.

2. Chair Craig and Linda Kruger made a presentation to Gastineau Rotary on 1/16. Rotary members expressed appreciation of an update on JCOA activities, particularly Pickleball and a community center, and progress with Age-Friendly planning.

3. New Outreach on KTOO Juneau Afternoon - 1st Thursday of the Month at 3pm has been set aside for updates on activities, programs and events for and by older residents. Members are encouraged to suggest future topics/speakers.

a. January 2: Diane Kyser presented information on the newly organized Widow & Widower's Group that is meeting monthly at Riverview Senior Living.

b. February 6: Linda Kruger will lead a discussion of Age-Friendly Planning, Senior Tech Classes being offered with Juneau Public Libraries and Better Bones and Balance Classes being offered by Sarah Lewis at UAF Cooperative Extension.

4. AARP Age Friendly Planning Efforts – Linda Kruger mentioned that Barb Murray has agreed to help with Age-Friendly Planning. Linda has also reached out to Bartlett and UAS to engage them. AARP is sponsoring a two-day ZOOM Age-Friendly forum. Anyone interested in the forum can contact Linda to register.

5. Alphabet Group Charter and progress CBJ Senior Community Center – Chair Craig gave a brief history of JCOA efforts to attain grant funding to support expanding senior care. That effort resulted in the creation and funding of SREC, the Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition. The Alphabet Group is a spin off from that effort, and the name reflects the many acronyms for members of the group including JCOA, AARP, SEARHC, Bartlett, CCS, and others.

a. Outreach to Parks & Recreation – Chair Craig has continued to reach out to P&R regarding the pickleball community need for a space. Emails and phone calls have yet to be answered due to staffing issues with P&R. Alphabet Group members provided letters of support for a proposal for repurposing use of the Marie Drake gym and other facilities for multigenerational uses was submitted to CBJ. Maureen reported that the Assembly has not made any decisions about the future of Marie Drake. Chair Craig mentioned that the Pickleball Community is actively looking for a downtown place to play and the Marie Drake gym would provide an appropriate location. At issue are funding and employee positions for monitors to oversee use of city facilities. Maureen mentioned that the focus has been on opening Floyd Dryden this fiscal year and Marie Drake in the next fiscal year. She urged patience as the city works to open these two facilities. Chair Craig mentioned AARP Community Challenge Grants and requested help in writing a grant for pickleball, yoga, and other equipment. Linda suggested the timing might not work for this round of funding since we don't know when the Marie Drake gym will be available for use and Community Challenge Grant funded projects must be implemented by mid-November. Chair Craig mentioned that even plan to use the Marie Drake Gym would make it possible to apply for the grant that needs to be completed by November – well after the new Fiscal Year. The Pickleball Community has provided input as to costs for pickleball equipment and Carol offered to help research yoga and walking track equipment. She mentioned that a community center could become a focal point for pickleball and other activities that need dedicated space. Chair Craig said that a focus on a multigenerational facility will help retain workers in Juneau and bring all ages together.

6. Housing Group Development - Chair Craig commented on the critical need for housing in Juneau and requested volunteers to review past efforts on housing and champion a new conversation. Carol Ende and Kathleen Samalon, a previous JCOA member, previously worked on the effort. Carol volunteered to help but said she couldn't lead the effort. It was agreed that the housing group would gather and reenergize efforts toward age friendly housing.

4. **Assembly Human Resources Committee Review of CBJ Boards & Committees** - Chair Craig encouraged all JCOA members to read the Human Resources Committee review included in the meeting packet. It addresses efficacy and productivity of JCOA. Since JCOA isn't having trouble recruiting members and has been an active, engaged group Maureen recommended it shouldn't be dissolved or combined with another board or commission. She acknowledged that this is a critical time to focus on seniors with the senior population increasing. Chair Craig mentioned because this was her first year as JCOA Chair she had placed extra pressure on Deputy Municipal Clerk Di Cathcart while learning the ropes and rules. JCOA was also ramping up community outreach and new member education.

G. COMMITTEE MEMBER / ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- H. NEXT MEETING DATES** - at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom (check top of agenda for correct Zoom link)

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 - JCOA Workgroup Meeting - canceled

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 - JCOA Workgroup Meeting - Deb will lead this meeting on housing options.

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 - JCOA Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 - JCOA Workgroup Meeting

- I. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS** - Members were encouraged to review the supplemental materials included with the agenda.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the commission, Linda moved, and Diane seconded and the meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.