

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

March 18, 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 JCOA meeting to order at 3:00pm via Zoom*

Present: Chair Deborah Craig, Carol Ende, Jennifer Garrison, Chris Schapp, Diane Kyser, and Barb Murray

Absent: Linda Kruger, Ann Stepetin, Kimberly Adkinson

Others Present: JCOA Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall, and Marty Lange, Alaska Commission on Aging

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – agenda approved as presented

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – minutes approved as presented

1. February 18, 2025 JCOA Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft
2. March 11, 2025 JCOA Workgroup Meeting Minutes - Draft

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

E. AGENDA TOPICS

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

1. Housing Subcommittee Updates

Chair Craig proposed that the next subcommittee meeting on March 25 be focused on Housing. Carol Ende and Kathleen Samalon will both be available and are the primary contributors to housing information for JCOA in the past. The April 8 subcommittee meeting will focus on AARP Age-Friendly Planning. The JCOA committee approved of this change.

Chair Craig also proposed that an Office of Aging would be an advocate in meeting with city planning staff to encourage universal housing. Chair Craig asked ACOA Marty Lange is there is statewide universal housing. Not yet, and he suggested contacting Jim McCaul from Alaska Housing Authority for more info. Chair Craig held meeting with Mayor Weldon to discuss and identify areas in Juneau for universal housing.

Carol Ende commented that it is important to get these concepts and conversations before architects, builders and the community. Linda Kruger has received an AARP grant to facilitate a better understanding of universal housing. The grant is with RL Mace Planners who will facilitate meetings and webinars in the summer/fall. Linda Kruger has reached out to city planners, architects and builders to attend for a better understanding of universal housing. Linda Krueger continues to work with AARP Age-Friendly Planning Process. Juneau has signed on and will be working to strategically plan on how to make a community more friendly for every age and not using knee jerk reactions when issues arise. This is a five-year process and JCOA will need city engagement so that decisions aren't made without data and planning.

2. Recreation/Fitness Subcommittee Updates

- a. **AARP Challenge Grant:** Chair Craig reported that the AARP Challenge Grant was unfortunately not submitted. Although there was tremendous support from the JAHC staff, the CBJ Parks and Recreation staff were unable to write a letter of support due to a shortage

of staffing and the CBJ was also unable to write a letter of support. AARP is encouraging JCOA to apply for the Challenge Grant in the fall so there will be another opportunity to apply. Many thanks to the JAHG for being so cooperative and supportive.

- b. **Senior Wellness and Recreation Facility:** Chair Craig reported that Marie Drake will not open as planned by July 1, 2025. The JCOA will continue to encourage the opening of Marie Drake as Seniors have expressed through listening sessions and surveys that there is a need for a wellness/recreation facility downtown. At the Recreation/Wellness subcommittee meeting on 3/11, other recreation opportunities were discussed. Chris Schapp recommended various outdoor opportunities such as covering outdoor space for usage; Diane Kyser suggested expansion of the Skate Park such as indoor/outdoor pickleball, picnic areas, etc.; Linda Kruger talked about partnering with the Cooperative Extension and the University about classes and other opportunities. Chair Craig has met with Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall to discuss these suggestions. All of these issues point to the need for a Juneau Office of Aging to coordinate these activities. Seniors in Juneau are 30% of the Juneau population, bring in resources and money to the community as well as serve as a huge volunteer pool, they need better representation to get Age-Friendly activities moving forward. Carol Ende suggested that this position focus not only on recreation and wellness but all areas of emphasis for JCOA and could be housed with the city or other non-profit in the community. Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall asked where these positions are usually housed, and Chair Craig reported that it could be municipal, non-profit or other agency in community.
- c. **Other recreation opportunities include:** UAS offers space for pickle ball on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2-4pm. There is a cost; Senior Center downtown offers recreational activities.
- d. **CCS Pancake fundraiser:** Jennifer Garrison shared that there is a pancake fundraiser at the Senior Center on Seward's Day, 3/31, from 9:30-1:00 to encourage volunteers for CCS.

3. Juneau Afternoon Presentation March 20

Chair Craig will include a statement "asking what can you do in your neighborhood to help seniors" and services that are currently offered in the community. Chair Craig asked members to send her information regarding activities in the community to report on Juneau Afternoon.

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER / ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall reported that the city budget process has begun and assemblymembers and city staff will hold an all-day retreat on April 5. She reported that budget discussions will be mindful of the quality of the community and the balance of tourism. There is a great deal of uncertainty about the budget at this time with federal funding issues. Also mindful of the stress level of staff with everything that is going on at this time.

Chair Craig mentioned that members of the community had met with Senator Murkowski to discuss how to best advocate, and Senator Murkowski reported that phone calls and written comments to delegation as well as attending meetings, are impactful.

Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall said that Senator Murkowski met with groups supporting the immigrant population. Many of the immigrants in our community work with Seniors and it would be good to include support for Juneau's immigrant community in your correspondence with our delegation.

Reminder that all information needs to go through the CBJ and Commission, please forward information to Chair Craig and she will get approval from CBJ.

G. NEXT MEETING DATES

March 25, 2025 - JCOA Workgroup Meeting (Housing)

April 8, 2025 - JCOA Workgroup Meeting (AARP Age-Friendly Planning)

April 15, 2025 - Regular JCOA Meeting

H. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS - None

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the commission meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.