

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

December 17, 2024 at 3:00 PM



Teal Street Center/Zoom Webinar

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

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

Or In-Person at the Teal Street Center, located at: 8711 Teal Street Suite 101

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Craig called the Juneau Commission on Aging Meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. at the Teal Street Center and via Zoom.

Present: Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Jennifer Carson, Jennifer Garrison, Ann Stepetin (joined later), and Kimberly Adkison (joined later).

Chair Craig commented that this is the last meeting for Jennifer Carson who is resigning at the end of her term (12/24), has served admirably on the Commission for multiple terms. Ms. Carson was an early visionary and founder of the Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition in late 2021 and a primary grant contributor in the summer of 2022 for the MACP grant that funded services currently facilitated by SREC. Ms. Carson, Director of SOA Behavioral Health, is applauded for her work for seniors and offered to provide assistance as needed in the future, particularly in the area of Behavioral Health.

Absent: Carol Ende

Others Present: JCOA Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall, new members who have applied but are not yet approved: Chris Schaff and Diane Kyser.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Linda moved, Jennifer Carson seconded, and the agenda was approved as presented.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jennifer Garrison moved to approve the October 8 minutes, Linda seconded, and the minutes were approved as presented.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Two new JCOA applicants in attendance in person and on Zoom introduced themselves. Diane Kyser has applied to join the JCOA and described her efforts to establish a widow and widowers support group. She has been distributing a flier that describes the group that she will share electronically. Chris Schaff has applied to join the JCOA and introduced himself as the Home and Community Based Coordinator with Catholic Community Services. Both expressed excitement to serve on the Commission and will be appointed at the 1-6-25 CBJ Assembly Meeting and become voting members for the next full JCOA meeting January 17, 2025.

E. AGENDA TOPICS

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

a) Linda reported on the AARP Age Friendly Planning Efforts informing the group that the Age Friendly Planning 1st Phase Due Date has been extended to June 19, 2025 – Linda Kruger

b) Alphabet Group Charter & Updates on Potential Senior Center Space – Chair Craig

Chair Craig reported on the status of the Community Center proposal for Marie Drake, asbestos issues, and efforts to save the gym and planetarium and possible meeting space. CBJ is aware of our interest in this space for senior activities and we will continue to meet with other groups to move the idea of a Community Center forward.

c) Recruitment to JCOA & Discussion of Meeting Time (Tues @3pm) - Group Discussion

Chair Craig mentioned that Barb Murray would be submitting her application and with the appointment of Barb, Chris and Diane all positions are filled, however she is still searching for help to keep our website (on the CBJ website at <https://juneau.org/clerk/boards-committees/jcoa>) updated. We also discussed the meeting time of 3PM in the afternoon and whether it worked for people in general. One member commented on the difficulty of the time and Chair Craig will follow up with mitigation strategies but it was determined that later afternoon on Tuesday continued to be a workable time.

2. Updating JCOA Members on Meeting with Mayor Weldon

Chair Craig and Linda met with Mayor Weldon to discuss JCOA's priorities with particular emphasis on the Marie Drake Community Center proposal, and the possibility of scheduling senior activities there once it is cleared for use. Mayor Weldon suggested contacting Parks and Rec Deputy Director Lauren Verrelli and City Manager Katie Koester regarding JCOA's recommendations. Mayor Weldon also suggested looking into various locations that might be suitable for senior housing. Lastly, the Mayor suggested reaching out to the Assembly and local Chamber of Commerce, as well as Rotary. Mayor Weldon facilitated Chair Craig and Linda being calendared to present a brief overview of accomplishments and plans (2024 Annual Report) to the Assembly on January 6th

Post Meeting Note: Chair Craig has also scheduled a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce on January 7th and sent a memo to Parks and Rec Deputy Director Lauren Verrelli describing JCOA interest in working with Parks and Rec on senior programming starting with an emphasis on facilitating Pickleball in the Marie Drake Complex. Several Pickleball enthusiasts have contacted Chair Craig to advocate for JCOA's concept of use of the gym for community activities.

3. Memo to Borough Assembly for Retreat Planning Consideration – Chair Craig submitted a memo to the CBJ Assembly for their Retreat outlining JCOA priorities and the proposal for a Community Center that was included in the packet.

4. JCOA Annual Report to the Assembly – Chair Craig shared a draft of the JCOA Annual Report that highlights 2024 accomplishments and previews 2025 priorities. Based on discussion at the meeting a revised document will be sent out for review and JCOA members can send comments on the document to the Chair until 12/24. There was a suggestion to add more detail about 2025 plans in a summary statement, still keeping it condensed. It was also suggested to end each priority with an action statement for moving forward. Chris recommended adding a quote from a senior to each priority. Chair Craig mentioned that she has several quotes from pickleball players who have contacted her. Commissioners are encouraged to provide input to the final report that will be updated and submitted to the CBJ Clerks office by the end of month in preparation for presentation to the CBJ Assembly on Jan 6.

5. Commissioner Champions: Chair Craig is championing Wellness and Recreation and Diane volunteered to help. Carol has been working on Housing and would like a fellow Commissioner to help - Ann volunteered to join her, and others are encouraged to join. Linda has been leading the Age-Friendly Juneau group and needs help with this effort. Please reach out to each of the leads to see how you can help. Chair Craig again requested help with the website.

Housing and Healthcare are both critical needs in Juneau and the group briefly discussed the need for medical specialists and specialized care mentioning ophthalmology, cardiology, and urology.

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER / ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Chair Craig welcomed Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall and expressed enthusiasm that Maureen requested the opportunity to work with the JCOA.

G. NEXT MEETING DATES - at 3pm via Zoom (check top of agenda for correct Zoom link)

January 14, 2025 - JCOA Working Group Meeting

January 21, 2025 - JCOA Regular Meeting

H. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

JCOA email to Parks & Recreation Regarding CBJ Community Center

JCOA Website - Front Page

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the commission, meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.