



JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING WORKSESSION AGENDA

May 23, 2023 at 10:30 AM

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

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 2023-05-16 Juneau Commission on Aging Minutes - Draft

D. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Drafting JCOA Annual Report to the Assembly

E. COMMITTEE MEMBER & ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

F. NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 - JCOA/AARP Listening Session 4:30pm at Douglas Library

Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 10:30am via Zoom - Regular JCOA Meeting

G. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

May 16, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Zoom Webinar



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A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Kane called the Juneau Commission on Aging meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Present: Emily Kane, Linda Kruger, Kathleen Samalon, Jenn Carson, Carol Ende, Jennifer Garner, Deb Craig

Absent: Sue Warner, Ann Stepetin, Michelle Hale

Other:

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Emily added that Jennifer Garrison is leaving the Bridge. Emily asked her to consider options. -

Carol added discussion of \$15,000 budget for June agenda.

Agenda approved with additions.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES approved as submitted.

1. 2023-04-25 Juneau Commission on Aging Minutes

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - no public members present

E. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Drafting JCOA Annual Report to the Assembly -- what we've done, what we hope to do, and ask for continued support. Time to brag on accomplishments. Report on forming the coalition, building partnerships, and collecting information. Kathleen wrote a draft. Carol suggested taking Kathleen's draft and Emily's draft and having the Housing Subcommittee review. Linda questioned why the Housing Subcommittee is taking this on. Deb volunteered to take the lead. The group decided to schedule a special committee of the whole (COW) meeting next Tuesday 5/23 at 10:30 via ZOOM. Send thoughts and ideas for the report to Emily to be considered in the next draft.

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

A.) Housing for Seniors - tabled

B.) May Listening Sessions - Only 6 people attended the first session. Hoping for more at the second session in the Valley and the third session next week in Douglas. Lots of publicity. Lots going on in Juneau! Collecting comments online, mail, in-person.

C.) Improving Volunteer Database- tabled

D.) Creating Senior Fitness & Social Opportunities - discussion on loneliness epidemic. A subcommittee is working on this. Sue Warner is the lead.

E.) Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition - update - MOA has been signed with JEDC. SREC will provide input. JEDC is recruiting a Program Director. SREC will make recommendations for the hire. A founder from JCOA will be on the hiring committee along with Glenn Mitchell, Department of Labor and another SREC member. Director care providers are the focus. Emily asked about overlap with AHEC? Deb

clarified that AHEC is focused on hospitals, clinics and hospital care statewide. SREC is focused on home care and senior centers. Opportunities to access some of the funding exists. There are also opportunities to partner with Juneau Community Foundation. Working with SERRC is important. The Pathways program is oriented to younger people. Opportunities for youth to engage in healthcare. There are also Job Fair opportunities. SREC will continue to work with JCOA. The Program Director will be doing a large outreach to other entities.

F.) 2020 Senior Needs Survey - [website link to full survey](#) (Executive Summary included in packet)

G.) Jennifer Garrison - Jennifer has left the Bridge and would like to take year off. She will be running the Caregivers Support Program remotely. She would like to stay involved in JCOA. Emily asked if they could incorporate a Friends of Seniors type program. She will explore possibilities.

H.) How is Hospice coming along? Jenn Carson - They are working on getting it up and running. Medical Director Dr. Peterson. Also - Wildflower Court - progress is being made. Hospice and Home health, Kim Stout is in charge. Wildflower needs designated Hospice beds. Emily asked how to provide sub-acute care designated rooms. Jenn is working on behavioral health. Jenn is pushing for mental health care for seniors. JAMI has housing for seniors, some assisted living. Bartlett Psych ER. up to 24 hours of crisis observation. Can stay up to 7 days for stabilization. Adults and adolescents.

I.) Deb made a plug for a JCOA website - Lots of things happening - we need a website! We need a virtual website for JCOA and SREC. A place where people could go look for information. Add to June agenda.

F. ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS - Michelle Hale was absent - no Assembly report.

G. NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - JCOA/AARP Listening Session 4:30pm at Mendenhall Library

Tuesday, May 23, 10:30 AM COW via ZOOM to discuss and work on the annual report.

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 - 4:30-6:00 JCOA/AARP Listening Session at Douglas Library

Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 10:30am via Zoom - Regular JCOA Meeting

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, meeting adjourned at 11:37am.

D R A F T annual report from JCOA to CBJ

Authors: Emily Kane, Kathleen Salamon, Linda Kruger, Carol Ende, Deb Craig

TO: Assembly Human Resources Committee Chair Greg Smith

FROM: JCOA Chair Emily Kane

Cc: JCOA committee members including Assembly member Michelle Hale

RE: JCOA July 2022 – June 2023 Annual Report

The purpose of the Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA) is to advise the Assembly on issues regarding seniors in Juneau and to promote awareness of all aspects of life affecting our seniors, and the role of seniors in the social and economic life of CBJ.

We take seriously our duty to “promote senior citizen participation in the planning and development of programs which benefit and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of senior citizens.” Our charter mandates that we “build a coalition among established groups and support programs working to address the needs of seniors,” which we have. We take seriously our duty to “collect facts and statistics, and make studies of the conditions and problems pertaining to the employment, health, financial security, social welfare, and other factors that bear upon the well-being of older Juneauites,” which is an ongoing focus of our work. We are actively engaged in our duty to “support the Assembly’s Economic Plan as it relates to the senior economy.”

In the past year the nine members of JCOA have been focused on the top contenders for senior needs in our community based on data gathered during our 4th decennial survey (2019-2021), from Listening Sessions in partnership with our local AARP, and via our monthly meetings where we share intel about senior-focused projects in our community. Summaries of our accomplishments include:

- 1) Created a coalition partnership to tackle the lack of home-health care personnel, focusing on training and compensation through grants. There exist major turn-over and egregious vacancies in these positions not only in Juneau and SE Alaska, but nationally. More information about the formation and mission of SREC (Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition) is attached.
- 2) Created two housing position papers: one for developers, “Building Age Friendly Housing in Juneau,” and another for CBJ employees, “Can You Support Age Friendly Construction in Proactive Ways?” (attached). We urge you to read these papers, which give detailed examples of what can be done to support the creation of new housing with universal design.
- 3) Qualified as the second Alaska community to receive recognition by AARP’s national “Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.” Anchorage received the recognition in 2022. This is not just an honor, but a responsibility, and the JCOA will continue to partner with Juneau AARP Community Action Team (CAT) to increase the all-age friendliness of our community. (Award certificate attached)
- 4) Established a subcommittee focused on increasing opportunities for senior recreation, fitness and social connectedness. The US Surgeon General recently warned that our elders are suffering from epidemic levels of boredom, loneliness and helplessness. We are committed to alleviating this plague.
- 5) Co-sponsored 3 “Listening Sessions” throughout the city to gather information from seniors about their perspective and needs in eight domains of livability. These sessions included presentation by CBJ staff (Ruth Kostik) on the 4 major tax relief programs offered to seniors by the borough. (graphic of the 8 domains attached)

Going forward, the JCOA will continue to request support from the Assembly in accomplishing our mutual goals to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our senior population, many of whom form an important source of volunteer support and whose savings are a vital basis for upholding the CBJ economy. Very specifically we would like the Assembly to give deliberate consideration to paving the way for three major missions which require your buy-in.

- A. Change the building code, likely incrementally, towards universal design. This will require both “carrots” (grants, CBJ incentives, easements, increased density allocation, etc) and “sticks” (mandates for universal design for permitting new multi-home structures).
- B. Create a position for a “senior navigator” who would be housed at CBJ or perhaps at Teal Street, who would act to facilitate matching seniors’ needs with local resources. There are many agencies and organizations which serve seniors, many of them somewhat tangentially, and JCOA sees a deep need to have a central coordinator connected to CBJ, JCOA, CCS, SAIL, Bartlett, Teal Street, ORCA, Hospice and Home Care, Cornerstone, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Lions Club, The Alaska Commission on Aging, etc.
- C. Related to item B, deploy CBJ IT resources to significantly expand the JCOA webpage to become a robust resource hub for seniors in our community. JCOA envisions not just a list of services, but a more lively document, ideally an algorithm, which would allow seniors to start with their need (transportation, a friend to play cards with, cataract surgery, retro-fitting their bathroom, help filing taxes, etc) and easily find the resource most likely to help them.

Please contact me or any of our members for clarification and information about where CBJ already has momentum towards any of our stated goals, so that we can help you accomplish our shared mission.

Sincerely,