

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

July 18, 2023 1:30 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 Emily Kane called the Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA) meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Present: Emily Kane, Kathleen Samalon, Carol Ende, Sue Warner, Linda Kruger, Deborah Craig, and Jennifer Garrison

Absent: Ann Stepetin, Jennifer Carson, and assembly liaison Michelle Hale

Others present: Marianne Mills and Eileen Hosey of Catholic Community Services (CCS)

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended by removing discussions of the senior activity subcommittee and a Juneau senior center and by adding a report on AARP goals for Juneau and the reception by the Juneau Assembly on the recent JCOA annual report.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 2023-05-16 JCOA minutes were approved, and the 2023-06-20 minutes were approved as amended.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public participation on non-agenda items.

E. AGENDA TOPICS

1. JCOA Annual Report

Emily Kane delivered JCOA's annual report to the Juneau Assembly public works subcommittee. Greg Smith, chair of the subcommittee, read the report. An assembly member said she is happy how active JCOA is, and people applauded. Another asked about the relationship between Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition (SREC) and JCOA. Emily noted that the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) may not be the most relevant fiduciary for SREC.

2. Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Emily noted a document in today's packet that is a request for money to pay for a year of rent to house the SREC Navigator staff position in the offices of SAIL instead of JEDC. Michelle Hale had said that the money will not come from the Juneau Assembly to avoid friction with JEDC; however, Michelle will meet with JEDC to discuss the issue. If unsuccessful, Emily said she will try to raise funds on social media and bill JEDC later.

Deb Craig provided SREC budget documents in the JCOA meeting packet, including explanations of direct and indirect costs. She said she collaborated with others in order to define three SREC staff positions and where they should be located. Linda Kruger reported that Tonya Muldoon was recently hired as the executive director of SREC and that Tonya gave an amazing talk on elder abuse recently. Tonya has worked on senior issues in SE Alaska for many years, and Linda said she cannot imagine a better person for the job.

3. Senior housing subcommittee

Carol Ende and Emily met with Charlie Ford of the Juneau permitting department about formatting and distributing the senior-friendly housing suggestions created by JCOA. Emily praised Carol's rapport with Charlie.

4. AARP Juneau projects

Linda said she applied successfully for two AARP opportunities for Juneau. One is becoming part of 8 80 Cities, a program promoting the idea that a senior-friendly city is good for all ages. The 8 80 program will send people to Juneau to give a technical assistance workshop on the weekend of September 16, 2023. Linda hopes to work with Juneau's Parks and Recreation department since the goal is to create a senior-friendly trail. Linda is promoting an old trail that begins near the Dimond field house and follows along the Mendenhall River downstream. The second AARP opportunity is a grant that provides Juneau with a two-day walkability training workshop by America Walks, which will occur just prior to the 8 80 Cities visit.

5. Southeast Senior Services, Catholic Community Service (CCS)

Eileen Hosey, case manager, Southeast Senior Services under CCS, said she meets with families to help find in-home and community services, and there are grants CCS processes to do that. She listed other services for seniors, including bridge day care and a senior center. During the covid epidemic, the federal government allowed CCS to deliver meals to anyone over 60, but now fewer seniors meet requirements for delivered meals, she said, so that has allowed CCS to start a newsletter and begin some activities for seniors. There are ceramics, needlecraft, and a game afternoon. She noted CCS staff shortages, but a case manager will be at the senior center for a few hours a week to answer questions. A city grant supports the new Gatekeeper program that is a "confidential way to help seniors with health issues" and other issues through the case managers. She added that CCS serves throughout SE Alaska.

Marianne Mills, program director, Southeast Senior Services, said she began at CCS over 33 years ago. She said the senior center used to have vaccine clinics, support groups, and visiting speakers, and it is endless what kind of activities CCS could offer. The senior center now has seat yoga and will add bingo in the future. She encourages seniors to visit and make friends. She said the food is good. She suggested that members of JCOA or others offer other activities at the center. Emily added that the chair yoga teacher is leaving and she is trying to find another teacher. Emily asked about Juneau having a more modern and appealing place with comfortable chairs and classrooms. Marianne said the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation owns the building, and CCS is a nonprofit with little money. She noted it has a commercial kitchen and CCS pays very little rent. She encouraged JCOA to make the center more attractive and to bring more people.

Marianne said about seven seniors participate in the center's activities each day. Deb asked if the center can expand daily exercise programs and include workout equipment. She also asked about outreach, which is difficult now without a daily newspaper. Marianne suggested that JCOA get a webpage and post senior activities. Marianne said the center is not open all day, but if there is a need, CCS can tell the owners to unlock it. She said JCOA and AARP could provide volunteers to help the building stay open. Asked if CCS has a brochure on services they have for seniors, Marianne pointed out a resource directory created by the Older Persons Action Group in Anchorage. Deb described the SREC mission.

F. NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 1:30 pm

G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.