

From: [Jan Van Slyke](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: aging in Juneau
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I have been a resident of Juneau for 40 years and have been active in many activities/community events and ongoing programs. I'm now 82 years old and have recently become limited in my mobility.

I went to apply for permission to ride the Capitol Access van. Every person I talked to was very nice and usually spoke directly to me rather than the younger person who was driving and assisting me. I was very glad I had my own helper because at the time I was using a walker and the door into the hallway was not handicapped accessible. The office for the permit was at the end of the hallway, which was a tiring walk with a walker. When I finished the paperwork there, I was told to go to the Capital Access office which was near the Aware Shelter, down a relatively steep rocky driveway which would have been impossible to navigate with a walker. The information that had to be given there could have been handled by the clerk at City Hall. I point these items out because it would be very difficult for a disabled person to manage independently on the city bus or walking. It seems to me this should be handled easily by a single stop at city hall.

The priority of a pickleball court for seniors in a recent article in the Empire caused me a great deal of concern. It would appear to me there are numerous needs that seniors need that would be higher on a list of priorities. There is a high need for a medium sized room for various groups to meet for such as card games, hand sewing, painting, puzzles, singing, dancing, play reading, sharing knowledge about and interpretation of articles or books and etc. It would be helpful if the room had multiple drawers to store items between meetings. This place would have to be easily accessible for persons with limited mobility, two handicap bathrooms, pathways free of obstacles so people with wheelchairs and walkers can easily move around. A couple of computers or laptops, so individuals can learn new skills. It would be beneficial to have an activities director to coordinate activities and make needed adjustments. This person could arrange group activities to see afternoon plays, symphonies, trips to the library with small group presentations by individuals both younger people and elders. There would need adequate parking spaces and room for the Capitol Access van. These are just a few suggestions and there are numerous others.

If there is a vacancy on the commission, I would be happy to apply for the position. If anyone has any questions I will try to answer them. Please send this email to the members of the Commission on Aging.

Jan Van Slyke
Juneau