

Juneau Commission on Aging Meeting Notes

Mayor Beth Weldon, Deborah Craig, Chair and Linda Kruger, Secretary

November 19, 2024

Meeting with Mayor Beth Weldon was very positive and the Mayor commented on the importance of seniors in the community.

1. Introduced idea that JCOA takes its responsibility for making recommendations to the Assembly seriously and have developed JCOA three Priorities – comments and mayor’s suggestions follow
 - a. Planning – Mayor suggested contacting Alex Pierce due to planning experience or Jill Lawhorn from Support Services regarding how to add AARP Age Friendly Community Planning to consideration for the CBJ.
 - b. Wellness and CBJ Senior Community Center – Mayor provided update on Marie Drake – gym will continue to be used for public but unclear how the rest of the building will be used (see housing). Mayor suggested using the Centennial Hall during the winter in particular as this space is underutilized but it would be a great gauge of how much the space is needed for our proposed use. JAHc provides oversight of CH (NOTE: Phil Huebshen of JAHc contacted and he indicated there is a cost associated with use of CH or the JAHc that could be ameliorated by the Assembly if they chose to approve free usage.)
 - c. Housing – unclear if the Marie Drake two story building will be torn down depending on cost – if less expensive to abate the abatement or tear down and use for parking. Mayor suggested contacting the CBJ City Manager to consider using that space for senior housing – it’s a small space but could add to options in town. Mayor also indicated that there is space on Franklin and 2nd Street that could be housing friendly, as well.
2. Mayor indicated approval of priorities and supported continued outreach to the community to engender support:
 - a. Suggested presentations to the Rotary, Chamber of Commerce
 - b. Mayor suggested the JCOA make a quick presentation in early January Assembly meeting regarding our priorities and suggestions and we met with Secy to get on the agenda in early January.
 - c. Mayor also suggested continuing to meet with P&R as they would be the entity that would be managing a community space.