

# JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

April 25, 2023 at 10:30 AM

Zoom Webinar

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<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** - Emily called the meeting to order at 10:32. Present: Emily Kane, Deb Craig, Linda Kruger, Kathleen Samalon, Jennifer Garrison, Jenn Carson, Carol Ende, Sue Warner, Ann Stepetin, Michelle Hale.
- B. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - There were no objections or changes
- C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - There were no objections or changes
  - 1. **2023-03-21 Juneau Commission on Aging Minutes**
- D. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
  - 2. **Public Comment Received for the JCOA** - One letter was received, and Emily will respond.
- E. **AGENDA TOPICS**

Some items listed below have been tabled for future discussion.

- a.) Drafting JCOA Annual Report to the Assembly - Emily will begin drafting a report. She will focus on housing, outdoor fitness, and success of SREC. Michelle offered her support for the JCOA. The report should be submitted to the Assembly by the end of June.
- b.) Create Process for Responding to JCOA Public Comments Received- Emily will receive letters to the JCOA from DI. Deb, Emily and Linda will build on the template developed by Carol and Kathleen so that letters have both some standard language and also respond to the specific questions or comments submitted. Linda suggested that JCOA or the AARP-CAT invite people who submit comments to help work with the Age-Friendly Initiative subcommittee.
- c.) Initiate Research on Feasibility to Expand Pioneer Home ([SOA/Dept. Family & Community Services](#))- Kathleen and Carol reported that there are no plans to expand the Pioneer Home. We will continue to explore options for Senior Housing.
- d.) Guest Speaker from Catholic Community Services (CCS) - tabled until June or July. We did discuss the possibility of having a Navigator at the Senior Center or The Bridge. We can talk more with CCS when we meet with them at a future meeting.

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

A.) Housing for Seniors -discussion of any future expansion of the Pioneer Home. Probably no future expansion. We can focus on supporting their mission and goals. Kathleen encourages review of the two documents in today's packet that recommend building age-friendly housing and a focus on seniors. Use these ideas as talking points. One is for developers one is focused on local government. Housing options are explored. What kind of housing can we imagine for seniors in Juneau? Letter should go to contractors **after acceptance by CBJ**. Age-Friendly Housing. Include comments from Senior Survey. What can CBJ do to support innovative senior housing? Move the conversation forward.

B.) Age-Friendly Listening Sessions - poster was in the packet. JCOA and AARP members will be present at all three meetings. Meetings are: May 9 Downtown Library 4:30 - 6:00 PM; May 16 Valley Dimond Park Library 4:30 - 6:00 PM; and May 23 Douglas Library 4:30 - 6:00 PM.

C.) Improving Volunteer Database - tabled

D.) Creating Senior Fitness & Social Opportunities - Sue - will initiate a sub-committee

E.) Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition - Deb - SREC has funding for a fulltime position as a Navigator. Will be housed at SAIL. No MOA with JEDC laying out roles and responsibilities. Hoping to have a signed MOA soon. SREC would like JCOA to support SREC. Deb asked the JCOA for a letter of support for SREC and a MOA with JEDC. Sue requested a copy of the letter and it will be sent to all JCOA members. Letter from JCOA on CBJ letterhead is ok. SREC and JEDC worked to try to come to an agreement but JEDC has been unwilling to sign a MOA with SREC. The project has been on hold. The JCOA voted to send a letter of support.

F.) 2020 Senior Needs Survey - [website link to full survey](#) (Executive Summary included in packet) - tabled for a future discussion. The needs survey will be included in the analysis for the Age-Friendly Plan.

**F. ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS** - COW meeting - Lands, Housing and Economic Development meeting - renewing Accessory Dwelling Unit Incredible work - ask Chair Lands, Housing and Economic Development Committee to give a presentation. Alisha Hughes-Skandis. Michelle would help bring this to that committee. Michelle is personally interested in building a tiny home. Zoning doesn't allow it. She would love it to enable her sister-in-law to live here. We need new homes! Accessory Dwelling Grants - don't require accessory dwelling and often become Air B&Bs. There is a restriction. CBJ-COW will be looking at accessory dwellings. Some people have gotten City funding for Accessory Units and then don't use the accessory unit. Hard to enforce. Deb has demographic info about the changing demographics in Juneau that she could share....if we are interested.

Emily asked Michelle how to sort out CBJ Lands Committee, CBJ Planning Commission and CBJ Community Development Department. Michelle recommended asking Lands Committee about proper process for input and questions...and be patient because nothing will happen quickly. Currently they are looking at Accessory Dwelling Units. Kathleen, Carol and Emily will work to get on the agenda and develop what to move forward.

The City Manager and Finance Director are leaving. The current City Treasurer will become Finance Director. Christine Woll will lead a special committee to select a City Manager.

Tax relief for seniors - sales tax exemption for food, hardship rebate for sales tax - form is onerous, property tax - relief for seniors-- \$150K unfunded mandate from the state, hardship real property exemption - lots of people qualify and don't apply. Michelle will talk with City Manager and Finance Department. Finance Department knows the forms need to be revised. Michelle will reach out to gain improvements. Linda has spoken with Ruth Kostik in the Finance Department and they are aware of the complicated and confusing forms, programs, etc., and they want to simplify and streamline the forms and processes for seniors. Almost anything they want to change will require Assembly action. It is nice to have Michelle as our Liaison to help us support these changes. The Finance Department is sending someone to answer questions and help people understand the senior exemption and relief programs at each of the public listening sessions.

**G. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 10:30am via Zoom - Regular JCOA Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 10:00am at UAS Egan Library Rm 211 - JCOA Housing Subcommittee Meeting

**H. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.