

MINUTES
Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA)
October 18, 2022
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82167147539>

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:32AM. The meeting was chaired by Emily Kane and was conducted via Zoom.

Board members present: Emily Kane, Linda Kruger, Kathleen Samalon, Ann Stepetin, Jan Beauchamp, Jennifer Carson, Sue Warner

Board members absent: Bobbi Epperly, Carol Ende, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs

Others: Deborah Craig, Daniel King (JEDC), Emma Van Ness (SAIL), Mollie Carr (SAIL)

II. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with unanimous consent.

III. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

The September meeting minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

There was no public participation on non-agenda items.

V. Discussion Items

A) Question of the Month

There was no question of the month with Carol being absent.

B) Assembly Update

There was no assembly update with Alicia being absent.

C) AARP Age-Friendly Community Process Presentation

Linda presented on the potential AARP's Age-Friendly Designation, which applies to communities suitable for all ages.

Linda's presentation focused on Alaskan seniors, providing demographic information as well as AARP and AEDC survey results. She explained that Alaskan aged 45+ rank health

care, finances, and independent living/long-term care as their highest issues of importance. Alaska has the fastest growing senior population per capita in the US. The share of seniors in Juneau's population, specifically, is expected to reach 24% by 2025.

For their Age-Friendly designation, AARP evaluates communities based on eight "Domains of Livability", including housing, outdoor spaces, transportation, communication, civic participation, respect and inclusion, health care, and social participation. There is no cost to apply and join the Age-Friendly network. The JCOA has begun the process to submit an application, including gathering several letters from community stakeholders and forming a local team to get CBJ's support. The application requires a letter from the CBJ Mayor and/or the Assembly. The JCOA will also evaluate the previous Juneau Senior Survey and make necessary improvements. Age-Friendly examples already undertaken in Juneau include: Accessible Buses (Capitol City Transit/Capitol-AKcess), Concerts/Events at the Whale, First Friday Gallery Walk, Community Gardens, Parks and Trails (e.g. Twin Lakes, Savikko Park and Treadwell Trails), Augustus Brown and Dimond Park Pools, Pickleball, and Fresh Aire Markets.

The presentation concluded: "If you build a community great for an older adult you build a community great for everyone."

D) Mollie Carr & Emma Van Ness – SAIL

Mollie and Emma from Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) reflected on their organization's role and efforts to support Juneau seniors with healthcare, transportation, housing, social engagement, etc. Mollie spoke on her specific department efforts to help seniors find alternatives to living in nursing homes, assist families in taking care of their elders who remain in their original homes, and connect seniors with outdoor and social opportunities. She also explained that eldercare providers, including SAIL, are struggling to find employees.

Volunteers are plentiful. Linda and Emily asked Mollie about volunteer opportunities for people looking to help Juneau seniors. Mollie explained that because the Friends for Seniors program has ended it needs to be replaced with a new program that incorporates the many volunteers wishing to help seniors in Juneau. As an original organizer of the Friends for Seniors program, Jenn offered to help Mollie and SAIL as a resource. Emily explained that there needs to be a central database and communication system for volunteers. Deb offered up the Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition website to post specific organizations' volunteer opportunities. Emma explained that Mallory Nash, a student activities manager at UAS, is already creating a volunteer opportunity database for Juneau. Emily will contact Mallory.

E) Contact with the RoofTop developers for 7400 Glacier Hwy project

Emily and Kathleen provided an update on communication with the developers of the proposed 444 units at 7400 Glacier Hwy and next steps for the project. Emily explained that the CBJ Community Development Department gave JCOA permission to interact directly with the project developers. Kathleen has started a dedicated email channel with the lead developer, including presenting a list of senior-friendly construction choices. The developers have yet to plan and design the proposed units. Emily explained that she continues to learn more about CBJ's permitting process, specifically in regard to ADA compliance for public/private projects, and will have a meeting with new CBJ Housing Officer Joseph Meyers.

F) Update on outdoor senior fitness project

Emily explained that senior fitness equipment is included in the CBJ Parks & Recreation Department's new 10-Year Plan and the capital improvement project (CIP) budget. It is now a question of getting appropriate allocation in the budget. Emily is working with Juneau Community Foundation and CBJ Parks & Recreation for grant funds to support a survey brochure for seniors to choose from proposed equipment and locations for seniors to choose from. Deb explained that JCOA should contact Alaska Club (Downtown) and Pavitt Fitness (Valley) about offering senior-specific fitness classes during the winter months. Jenn offered to reach out to her contact at Pavitt Fitness.

G) Update on the Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Jenn provided an update on the Steering Committee of the Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition. She explained that the group is awaiting decisions on several grant proposals to come in October. There is a new job application for the *Program Director* position posted on the SREC website, Craigslist, AlaskaJobs, Indeed, and LinkedIn. SREC is also working with Glenn Mitchell with the Juneau Jobs Centers on a reverse recruiting strategy to locate potential applicants.

VI. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2022 at 10:30 AM via Zoom. The JCOA will skip the December meeting this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32AM.