

Juneau Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025 at 3:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER 3:01 pm

B. ROLL CALL – Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Carol Ende, Jennifer Garrison, Barb Murray
Absent: DJ Kyser and Chris Schapp, CBJ Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall at SE Conference
Public Member: Laura Revels (not yet official member)

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - approved with updates offered by Chair Craig

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – not attached - tabled until next meeting

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – no public members present

F. AGENDA TOPICS

1. Main JCOA Projects & Subcommittee Updates

A. Housing Subcommittee Updates

i. Deborah played a clip from a talk Meilani Schijvens (Rain Coast Data Housing Assessment) gave at SE Conference. The overall SE populations is declining but the senior populations in increasing. Juneau has added housing units, but the housing shortage continues as single occupancy has increased. Many seniors are living alone with a shortage of appropriate options of places to move. Missing Middle Housing is an issue. Small homes that work for all ages are needed. There is a strong connection between lack of affordable housing and jobs and the growing demographic of seniors.

ii. Follow Up to August 26 Design for Life Meeting – AARP Home Fit Guides will be shared with contractors, developers and others. AARP is focusing on the Missing Middle and may be offering a Missing Middle Workshop and may be doing a study in 2026. Deborah and Linda will participate in the CBJ Housing and Development Forum in early November. Linda, Barb and Carol will meet informally on 9/19 to review and prioritize housing actions listed in the Age-Friendly Plan.

B. Recreation/Wellness Subcommittee Updates — Follow Up with P&R Acting Director - Lauren Verrelli on Floyd Dryden – currently open for pickleball and Marie Drake is scheduled to open in October for pickleball and open gym. Deborah talked with Robert Barr about use of the commercial kitchen and classrooms/meeting rooms for a senior/community center. Deborah reached out to Erin Tolles-Walker about the Senior Center. The current senior center managed by CCS is close to Marie Drake and activities could be coordinated. Deborah mentioned starting a Mahjong Monday's group that could meet at the Senior Center or a space at Marie Drake.

C. Age-Friendly Planning Updates – We will be reviewing the Age-Friendly Plan and developing a report for the Assembly to be presented along with our JCOA Annual Review at the 11/17

Assembly Meeting. All JCOA members are requested to plan to attend. Members also are requested to review the Age-Friendly plan and offer suggestions to for inclusion in the report. It was suggested we continue to pursue Marie Drake as a Community Center and Carol suggested we also develop a Plan B.

2. JCOA Website – Deborah is working with CBJ to maintain the JCOA webpage as the go-to place for senior information. Deb and Linda are also continuing the monthly program on KTOO Juneau Afternoon to combat isolation and share activities for seniors. The next program will be October 2 at 3 pm. A proposed monthly newspaper column has been offered as a sample to the CBJ Manager’s Office for review.

3. Tlingit and Haida Senior Program - Laura is waiting to be confirmed as an official JCOA member. She described her current situation with Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes as a learning phase. She said housing is a big issue and food is also a big concern. Isolation is also concerning, and they are working to develop more activities and opportunities for people to connect with others.

For our next meeting Laura will invite Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority (mission is to connect Southeast Alaskans with sustainable housing opportunities and innovative financial solutions.) President and CEO Jacqueline Pata.

Jennifer reported that the Bridge Program is operating and offering seated tai chi, hydroponic gardening and other activities. Jennifer will reach out to CCS Senior Services to invite them to have someone talk to JCOA about what they are currently offering/planning.

Scheduling for most activities is included on the Capital City Weekly (Juneau Empire) calendar and KTOO and JACC calendars.

Carol asked about what questions we can ask ourselves to help monitor our progress toward a healthier community, and toward meeting our goals for Age-Friendly. Linda will check AARP resources to try to identify questions.

G. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS – Maureen Hall, our Assembly Liaison was out of town and not available for the meeting.

H. NEXT MEETING DATES - 3PM VIA ZOOM

9/23 - JCOA Workgroup Meeting - cancelled

10/14 - JCOA Workgroup Meeting

10/21 - JCOA Regular Commission Meeting

I. ADJOURNMENT – meeting adjourned 4:01 pm.