

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING
Full Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025 at 3:00 PM – ZOOM MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER - – Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Barbara Murray, Jennifer Garrison, Laura Revels, Diane Kyser.

Absent: Carol Ende

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chair Craig asked for the addition of the CBJ FY2027 Leg Capital Priorities Response from JCOA to be added to the agenda. Agenda addition approved unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- all minutes attached approved unanimously. Barb Murray has volunteered to be the JCOA Secretary replacing Linda Kruger.

1. 2025-08-19 JCOA Meeting Minutes - Draft
2. 2025-09-16 JCOA Meeting Minutes - Draft
3. 2025-10-14 JCOA Meeting Minutes - Draft

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

F. AGENDA TOPICS

4. Main JCOA Projects & Subcommittee Updates

1. CBJ FY2027 Leg Priorities Letter from JCOA – unanimous support to send the letter developed by the JCOA to the CBJ. Chair Craig will send the comments to the CBJ Planning Department (*sent 10/23/25*)
2. Housing Subcommittee Updates — UNAVAILABLE: Presentation from Jacqueline Pata, President/CEO of Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) on information regarding housing opportunities with THRHA. SUGGESTION: Laura Revels will contact Ms. Pata to attend the Nov 18 meeting and it will be a good time to ask if T&H would be willing to use the No Douglas complex as a model for tours.
 - a. Other Housing info – Rich Harris will be building the little house development at Auke Bay – he has 95% of his permits, will begin building in 2026 and Deb reached out to determine if he would like to meet to discuss age friendly amenities. Examples would be straight line stairs for easier installation of chair lifts, wider doors, low/no thresholds, larger bathrooms, levered door handles, etc.
 - b. Ms. Hall indicated an interest in housing information and Diane indicated the Coast Guard might have data concerning the influx of CG coming to Juneau – Diane will provide Deb with a contact for the Coast Guard.
3. Recreation & Wellness — Update on Gym Use – Chair Craig has not heard from P&R regarding opening Marie Drake and has been in contact with Erin Walker-Tolles of CCS regarding collaborations on gym use. CCS manages the current senior center that provides recreation and senior meals, and their kitchen is in disrepair. CCS is interested in options for kitchen use to ensure ongoing senior meals. CCS indicated a willingness to discuss staffing to alleviate P&R staffing burden. Chair Craig has made contact with Robert Barr, Deputy Manager CBJ to discuss use of the MD complex north of the gym (which is managed by P&R). Emails have been sent to both Lauren Verelli and Robert Barr in this regard.

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4. Age-Friendly Planning — Due in December, Chair Craig is looking into housing data and requests and assist from members. Of particular concern is the idea of the “Missing Middle” income housing for people from low income to rise up to and for seniors to downsize. Ms. Hall suggested Deb contact Rain Coast Data for any updates they are working on.
5. AARP Update – Linda Kruger reported as the Chair of the AARP CAT Juneau.
 - a. AARP will be providing a Virtual Dementia Tour to Legislators to ensure understanding and advocacy of the legislature for senior programs.
 - b. May – AARP CAT Juneau Planning an Aging In Place Conference
 - c. AARP is also working on Brain Health Series, is hosting a piano series
6. Other Announcements
 - a. Jennifer Garrison commented on changes coming to Capital AKcess that will impact seniors across Juneau. As of Nov 1, the contract will change from CCS to GTS in that they were the lowest bidders to provide service. It is unclear how they will be able to continue the current level of service and CCS will be laying off drivers. Most importantly, riders will need to verify their ADA Transportation Disability. *(See attached info that Jennifer provided after the meeting)*
7. Website, KTOO & Newspaper Updates
 - a. Website needs update – the local election has impaired the ability of CBJ staff to respond to all request but Chair Craig will send over a new layout for the webpage.
 - b. KTOO next meeting November 6 – please provide input – suggested that we focus on the changes in transportation availability for seniors.
 - c. Senior Moment FIRST article published in Juneau Independent and November article needs to be written – AARP CAT Leader Linda Kruger will take November.

G. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Maureen Hall, CBJ Assembly Liaison provided her final report to the JCOA, commenting that on Oct 27, the CBJ Assembly will make new appointments. Maureen reported:

- The election is being certified today and the results will be a \$9-12 million budget shortfall, in addition to the issues on our federal level (immigration impacting various employment sectors, Food Stamps being out of funding on Nov 1 if the government does not reopen, etc).
- Parks and Rec hired Marc Wheeler as the new Director and he is being regarded as an innovator who will bring small business start up and management experience.
- Housing continues to be an issue – the Cold Weather Shelter opened. Maureen attended two events that have broadened her view of housing options: at SE Conference she toured the Sitka Land Trust’s model of housing expansion (lots leased with caps on profit at time of sale) and touring the Eugene Oregon homelessness projects for ideas for Juneau. JEDC is working on homebuilding models, the Coast Guard is working closely with the CBJ regarding potential housing at Telephone Hill and Pederson Hill. The THHA project is one that will be a great model.

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- Maureen expressed her enjoyment working with the JCOA and was encouraged to attend our meetings or ask the JCOA to be a resource at any time.

H. NEXT JCOA MEETING DATES - 3pm via Zoom

~~October 28, 2025 – JCOA Workgroup Meeting – Cancelled~~

November 11, 2025 - JCOA Workgroup Meeting - Discussion on CBJ Assembly Presentation

November 17, 2025 – JCOA presentation to the CBJ Assembly HR Committee

November 18, 2025 - JCOA Regular Meeting – Presentation THHA on the Douglas Subdivision, Discussion of draft Age Friendly Report

December 9, 2025 – JCOA Workgroup Meeting – Approval Age Friendly Report

December 16, 2025 – JCOA Regular Meeting – Elections of Chair and Secretary

~~December 23, 2025 – JCOA Workgroup Meeting – Cancelled~~

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CALENDAR REFLECTS ATTENDING OUR REGULAR MEETINGS EVERY THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 3PM VIA ZOOM.