

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

May 20, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Zoom Webinar



<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– Chair Craig called the JCOA meeting to order at 3PM via Zoom

Present: Chair Deborah Craig, Carol Ende, Jennifer Garrison, Chris Schapp, Barb Murray, Linda Kruger, Kimberly Adkinson, Anne Stepetin joined toward the end of the meeting.

Absent: Diane Kyser.

Others Present: JCOA Assembly Liaison Maureen Hall.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chair Craig requested Assy Liaison Hall provide update first. No objection.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes approved – no objection

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D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

E. COMMITTEE MEMBER / ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: Maureen Hall, CBJ update -

Maureen Hall gave the committee an update of recent CBJ activities. The CBJ Assembly meeting Monday night and covered a wide range of issues including; Homelessness (especially related to Teal St. area), lack of housing (including affordable), Mendenhall Glacier (keeping it a public entity), AEL&P electricity delivery future, Juneau School District (budget and staffing issues), HESCO flood barrier project status (phase 1 being complete, with 1a and 1b proceeding).

Questions posed in regard to updates were about Pederson Hill project of land given to T&H for 80 housing units, and if there would be any focus on Senior affordable housing, what the city would get in return for this? Maureen stated she would get back to us on that.

F. Standing JCOA Agenda Topics - CBJ Update/Main Projects/Subcommittee Updates

1. **Housing updates** – Chair Craig and Linda Kruger met with Contractor Richard Harris regarding the Pederson Hill, "tiny houses", housing alternatives that is in the permitting stage. His primary concern is not being able to get permit from CBJ in a timely manner, hopes for some sort of "age-friendly" housing alternatives and thinks an over 55 complex would do well but needs to do the math to determine if it is fiscally viable. Deb, Linda and Rich had a 1.5 hour discussion of the need for age friendly amenities, left an AARP Age Friendly handout and a short list of Contractor items that would be a first step toward age friendly: low or no threshold, wide doorways, larger bathroom space to accommodate wheel chair or walker and straight line stairs to accommodate chair lift. Mr. Harris was very responsive and willing to accommodate if it pencils out fiscally.

2. **Age-Friendly Community Planning** - Age friendly plan due June 17, 2025. Question posed to members if we had enough information in the plan to send to Mayor Weldon for letter of recommendation? Group agreed it looked good, however add another entry for more home health care. Maureen Hall commented on current Federal immigration crackdowns over temporary immigration status hurting the overall numbers of "home-healthcare workers". She urged everyone to contact their congressional delegation and voice objection on this issue.

Linda/Deb/Carol will do final edits of the Juneau Age Friendly Community Plan before sending plan along to Mayor Beth Weldon to request a letter of support. Idea of an "Office of Aging" that the CBJ would benefit from still a topic to explore further and will be included in the plan, as well as comments on Home Healthcare workers. Document then gets forwarded to AARP for their input/approval and then resubmitted to the CBJ to add to the CBJ Comprehensive Planning process that is now underway.

<https://juneau.org/community-development/our-juneau-comp-plan> (info for CBJ Planning)

Commission members unanimously voted to move the Juneau Age Friendly Community Plan forward after edits.

3. Recreation and Wellness -Marie Drake complex still on hold. Low staffing at Parks and Rec. coupled with CBJ concentration on higher priority topics (Flood barriers, budget, under-staffing, Eaglecrest, tourism). Still a focus and won't give up trying for use of that facility. Maureen Hall let us know there is a vacancy on the Parks & Rec. committee, maybe a good spot for one of the pickle-ball community!

G. MEETING DATES - 3pm via Zoom (check top of agenda for correct Zoom link)

May 27 JCOA Workgroup – Recreation & Wellness (cancelled)

June 17 JCOA Regular Meeting

June 24 – JCOA Workgroup TBD

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the commission, meeting adjourned at 3:45.