



JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING AGENDA

January 20, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Zoom Only

<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

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 2025-12-16 JCOA Minutes - Draft

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

E. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Standing Agenda Topics - Main Projects/Subcommittee Updates

a. Housing Subcommittee Updates

b. Recreation/Fitness Subcommittee Update — Marie Drake Gym Use

c. Age-Friendly Planning Report Updates — Presentation by Minta Montalbo, CDD Senior Planner on CBJ Comprehensive Planning Activities

d. Transportation — Presentation from Capital AKcess on progress

3. AARP Update - Linda Kruger

4. Outreach

Website, KTOO & "Senior Moments" Monthly Article

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

G. NEXT MEETING DATE

5. 2026 Meeting Dates

JCOA Workgroups are canceled: January through March

February 17, 2026 - Regular JCOA Meeting (Confirmed Guest: Scott Ciambor CBJ CDD Planning Manager, Housing)

March 17, 2026 - Regular JCOA Meeting (Proposed Guest: SAIL w/ program reports from CCS, BRH & SEARHC)

H. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

6. Age-Friendly Action Plan - December 2025

I. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's Office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's Office telephone number is (907) 586-5278, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov.



JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

DRAFT

December 16, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Zoom Only

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

JCOA Members Present: Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Diane Kyser, John Brett, Jennifer Garrison, Carol Ende, Barb Murray, CBJ Assembly Liaison Paul Kelly
JCOA Members Absent: Laura Revels, Rhonda Ward
Others Present: None

B. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

John Brett welcomed to the JCOA.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as amended.
Move-#3 Strategy and Priority Identification after #4 Standing Agenda Topics. No objection.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **2025-11-18_JCOA_Minutes – Draft** – Minutes approved as presented

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Election of Co-Chairs & Secretary

- a. Nomination of Linda Kruger for Co-Chair & Barb Murray for Secretary
- b. Nomination of Deborah Craig for Co-Chair
- c. Additional Nominations

MOTION: by Deb Craig to nominate Linda Kruger for JCOA Co-Chair and Barb Murray for JCOA Secretary for 2026 and ask for unanimous consent. ***Hearing no objection, motion passes***

MOTION: by Linda Krueger to nominate Deborah Craig for JCOA Co-Chair for 2026 and ask for unanimous consent. ***Hearing no objection, motion passes.***

3. **2026 Strategy & Priority Identification - see attached reports**

4. Outreach

a. Follow up on CBJ Assembly HRC Annual Report Presentation from December 15- Chair Craig reported the presentation was well received, it was an opportunity to share the JCOA priorities, goals and the activities completed by JCOA to meet them.

b. Presentation to Rotary - Deb Craig presented information on JCOA activities to the downtown rotary.

c. AARP Presentation to Rotary - Linda Krueger gave a presentation on AARP and Age Friendly activities that are happening in Juneau to the newest Juneau Rotary Club. Linda also presented information on Work and Save legislation she is working on that would support small business setting up retirement savings plans with employees.

Website, KTOO & "Senior Moments" Monthly Article-The website has been updated to highlight projects like walking safely; Co-Chairs Craig and Krueger continue to present on KTOO Juneau Afternoon discussing ways that people can reach out to support seniors in the community, and the Senior Moments monthly article in the Juneau Independent will be coming out soon.

JCOA organized a group of community members to take seniors from the Pioneer Home to attend the Holiday Symphony. The event/outing was a great success.

5. Standing Agenda Topics - Main Projects/Subcommittee Updates

Transportation-the Capital AKcess contract has changed from Catholic Community Services to a local cab company. Concerns were discussed regarding issues with communication and scheduled pickup times for seniors since the change in contractors. A question about the type of specialized training dispatchers and drivers who are dealing with people with disabilities and seniors have completed. Carol Ende suggested having Capital AKcess attend JCOA meetings to discuss concerns and answer questions, JCOA members agreed this would be beneficial. Commission members agreed that Transportation is a continuing priority and needs to be added as a standing agenda topic item.

a. Housing Subcommittee Updates-Efforts by JCOA and AARP are helping with community awareness of Age Friendly housing needs. Linda Krueger reminded JCOA members of the Juneau Comprehensive plan and encouraged members to go the CBJ website to review the plan.

b. Recreation/Fitness Subcommittee Update — Marie Drake Gym Use-Co-Chairs Krueger and Craig met with Marc Wheeler, the newly appointed Director of Juneau Parks and Recreation and Lauren Ferreli. The meeting was an opportunity to educate the new Director on JCOA goals and efforts to meet recreation and social needs of seniors. Marie Drake is currently being used for some youth programming. JCOA members were disappointed that senior programming needs have not been met or addressed. JCOA members discussed the need to continue advocating for multi-generational use of Marie Drake. Co-Chair Krueger and Craig sent a follow-up letter to Marc Wheeler to strongly reinforce that senior needs identified by JCOA be

implemented at Marie Drake.

c. Age-Friendly Planning Report Updates — Submitted to AARP & CBJ

- 6. AARP Update - Linda Kruger**-Presented at the Alaska Municipal League in Anchorage. The presentation focused on Alaska Age Friendly planning and how to become an Age Friendly community. It was a great opportunity to bring senior issues and activities to the forefront.

Every year there is an opportunity for funding through AARP to work on a community need. The AARP offers funding to bring consultants/experts to the community to focus on a community need. In 2025 the focus was on accessible housing, for 2026 the focus will be on the missing middle income age friendly housing and how the community can meet this need.

G. COMMITTEE MEMBER / ASSEMBLY LIAISON COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Assembly member Kelly was in attendance and spoke on the assembly retreat focusing on finance, departments and goals. Most of assembly attended the Alaska Municipal Board meetings in Anchorage.

At the last assembly meeting current amendments to Title 49 passed and they reviewed the Juneau Comprehensive plan.

Assembly member Kelly offered to prepare monthly report of the previous month activities. Chair Craig asked if he would send the information to be included in JCOA minutes. (see attached)

H. NEXT MEETING DATE

7. 2026 Meeting Dates (January - March)

JCOA Workgroups are canceled: January through March

January 20, 2026 - Regular JCOA Meeting-Guest: Minta Montalbo, CBJ CDD Senior Planner; Chair Craig will ask Capital AKcess to attend meeting.

February 17, 2026 - Regular JCOA Meeting-Guest: Scott Ciambor CBJ CDD Planning Manager, Housing.

March 17, 2026 - Regular JCOA Meeting-Proposed Guest: SAIL w/ program reports from CCS (Jennifer), BRH(Rhonda) & SEARHC(John), Widow/Widowers Group (Diane), and will request Capital AKcess attend for update

I. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

J. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the commission, meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN Progress Report December 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Juneau joined the Age Friendly Network in late 2022 and submitted their plan June 2025 as a joint effort between the Juneau Commission on Aging and the AARP Juneau Community Action Team, as well as engaging many community partners. This plan was submitted to the City and Borough of Juneau for consideration during their multiyear Comprehensive Planning process that began this year. Our goal is to weave senior/elder considerations into all phases of our community planning processes as we implement this Age Friendly Plan.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM MAYOR OF JUNEAU 3

WELCOME TO JUNEAU 4

COMMUNITY PROFILE 5

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING (JCOA) 6

JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 7

HOW DID YOUR ORGANIZATION FACILITATE AGE FRIENDLY? 7

WHAT DID AGE FRIENDLY PLANNING ACCOMPLISH? 7

What are you most proud of This Year? 7

 DOMAIN: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings 8

 DOMAIN: Transportation 8

 DOMAIN: Housing 8

 DOMAIN: Social participation 8

 DOMAIN: Respect and Inclusion 9

 DOMAIN: Communication and Information 9

 DOMAIN: Community and Health Services 9

 DOMAIN: Work and Civic Engagement 9

WHAT WAS LEARNED? 10

WHAT ARE NEXT STEPS? 10

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM MAYOR OF JUNEAU



Office of the Mayor
155 Heritage Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801
PHONE: (907) 586-5240
FAX: (907) 586-5385
Beth.Weldon@juneau.gov

Ms. Teresa Holt
AARP Alaska State Director
3601 C Street Suite 1420
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

November 20, 2025

Dear Ms. Holt,

As Mayor of the City and Borough of Juneau, I am writing to support the Juneau Commission on Aging and AARP Community Action Team's efforts to implement an Age Friendly Community Plan, as well as acknowledge the attached Juneau Age Friendly Community Plan Progress Report.

The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) is currently engaged in a community wide Comprehensive Plan, and we welcome these additional efforts to complement and ensure we develop a Comprehensive Plan that is inclusive to all, including our fastest growing age cohort in Alaska: seniors.

In our effort to be a more livable community, we support efforts to ensure Juneau remains a great place to live for people of all ages. We strive to ensure safe, walkable streets, affordable housing, safe transportation options, access to needed services and opportunities so that residents of all ages can participate in an active, welcoming, supportive and enriching community.

Thank you for the opportunity to join the Age Friendly Network and promote these efforts through the Age Friendly Juneau Community Plan.

Sincerely,

Beth Weldon
Mayor

WELCOME TO JUNEAU

Alaska's capital is a land locked southeast coastal rainforest community located in a unique geographical area surrounded by glaciers, mountains, and tidal waters. The Tlingit people and their clans were well established and actively trading in Southeast Alaska when European explorers made their first advances into the Gastineau Channel in the 1700s. The A'akw and T'aaiu Kwáan maintained thriving villages in the Juneau, Auke Bay, Douglas and Taku River area for over 750 years.



In the late 1800s rumors of gold findings lured prospectors to the Gastineau Channel and in 1880 and 1881 Juneau and Douglas were founded as townships. Soon Douglas was operating one of the world's largest hard rock gold mines. By the mid-1900s, Juneau was operating three mines and became the capital of the territory. It was also a travel and trading hub in and out of Alaska with regular Canadian Pacific Steamship arrivals and departures. In the 1920s Filipino workers were brought to Juneau to work in the mines, and the canneries and many stayed and married contributing to our community and cultural fabric.

Alaska achieved statehood in 1959 and Juneau became the capital of the 49th state. Today, the City and Borough of Juneau is the second largest (square miles) municipality in the United States and is a vibrant and diverse multicultural city of about 32,000 people. Our Capitol conducts state business and houses the legislature from January-May.



Alaska has always experienced surging economic periods: fur trade, gold, fisheries, military, oil and gas and now tourism. Over a million summer visitors contribute to the tourism industry and experience our rich wilderness and cultural experiences. Regional and local Native Corporations headquartered in Juneau benefit tribal citizens and share native culture and history. Two productive mines operate outside the city.



The University of Alaska Juneau offers advanced education with about 3000 students actively attending classes. Additionally, Juneau has an active parks and recreation program, a robust boating community with four harbors and houses the third largest fishing fleet in Southeast Alaska.

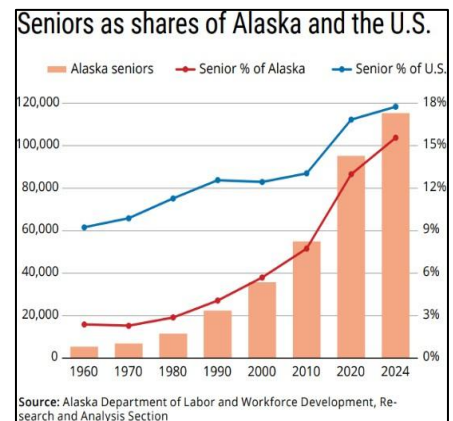
Juneau continues to be home to a diverse community of Alaska Natives, Filipinos, South Pacific Islanders, African Americans, as well as a magnet for young people seeking adventure and has become the home of a high number of active,

healthy seniors. Almost 30% of Juneau’s residents are over 55. Juneau’s seniors tend to be homeowners, active in the community and contribute to the community both financially and as volunteers.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

The number of Alaskans 65 and older has skyrocketed over the last decade and a half, continuing to rise even as youth and working-age populations have declined. Today, seniors play a bigger role in Alaska than they ever have. Alaska has always been a young state and this shift toward an older population is one of the ways Alaska has begun to look more like the rest of the country. The highest concentration of seniors is in Southeast Alaska and Juneau is the largest Southeast community. Juneau’s Senior population (60+) has steadily grown 39% (3.3% annually) between 2012 and 2021. There are 11,494 seniors 50+ living in Juneau and 3,997 are AARP members.



Juneau Commission on Aging 2020 SENIOR SURVEY FINDINGS

Seniors are healthier and better off than in previous survey years:

- 28.7% of Juneau residents are 55 and older**
- 84% own their own homes and pay taxes
- 80-90% (depending on age) drive their own cars
- 63% volunteer in the community
- 95% over 65 have Medicare Insurance
- 66% over 65 have State of Alaska Retirement
- 40% have Long Term Care Insurance
- 42-46% (depending on age) take continuing education classes (UAS/CS)
- 72 – 84% (depending on age) recreate weekly (walking, hiking, swimming, biking, gyms, skiing)

** AKDOL has updated this figure to 30% in 2023

The City and Borough of Juneau provides funding for a Senior Survey every decade via the Juneau Commission on Aging. In 2020, the JCOA reached out to a broad swath of the community for the fourth Senior Survey in 40 years and found that seniors are a growing demographic and are doing generally well due to a number of factors. This data was critical to understanding our status, issues and needs in community.

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING (JCOA)

The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly appoints the Juneau Commission on Aging with nine volunteers representing elders and relevant senior organizations in the community. The JCOA is charged with advocating for Seniors within the community and reporting to the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly at least annually.

JCOA VALUE STATEMENTS

- ❖ **Inclusion:** We value our community’s diversity and strive to create a welcoming environment where all residents, regardless of age or ability, can thrive.
- ❖ **Equity:** We are committed to addressing systemic disparities and ensuring that resources, opportunities, and programs are accessible to all, particularly marginalized and underserved groups.
- ❖ **Collaboration:** We believe in the power of partnerships and work collectively with residents, organizations, and policymakers to create sustainable solutions.
- ❖ **Empowerment:** We aim to empower individuals through education, resources, and opportunities, enabling them to lead fulfilling, independent, and connected lives.
- ❖ **Innovation:** We embrace creative approaches and adaptive strategies to address the evolving needs of our community.
- ❖ **Sustainability:** We prioritize long-term impact and resilience, ensuring the success of age- and ability-friendly initiatives for generations to come.

The JCOA had been proactive about reaching out to the community via a website (see sample right), a monthly radio show highlighting senior activities and a monthly newspaper article entitled “Senior Moments”.



JUNEAU AGE FRIENDLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HOW DID YOUR ORGANIZATION FACILITATE AGE FRIENDLY?

How was the AF process structured and organized? Detail leadership team and how it evolved. Identify organizations and stakeholders, and how residents engaged. Describe methods used to implement.

The JCOA represents and collaborates with both volunteer seniors and senior oriented community organizations. Organizations represented included the senior services grantee, Catholic Community Services, tribal representative Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) and AARP. Stakeholders included SE Alaska Regional Health Consortium and Bartlett Regional Hospital (who later joined the JCOA as appointed members).

The JCOA 2020 Annual Senior Survey (see Page 5) provided a robust picture of senior status and needs. The AARP provided additional outreach to seniors that complemented the Survey and provided up to the minute data, as well as including AARP Age Friendly Senior Data Sets describing Age Friendly elements of our specific community.

The AARP CAT and the Juneau Commission on Aging teamed up to write the Juneau Age Friendly Community Plan and then submitted the plan to the City and Borough of Juneau for consideration and inclusion in the CBJ Comprehensive Plan currently in the process of being written. This partnership has resulted in meetings with the CBJ Planning Team and discussion of how our recommendations fit into the overall plan of the CBJ going forward.

The Juneau Commission on Aging and the AARP Juneau Community Action Team welcome everyone in the community to join with us as we advance these priority action items. Becoming an Age-Friendly Community provides an opportunity and a responsibility for each of us to do what we can to promote the ideas described in the following pages. That said, our overarching philosophy is that inclusion of our recommendations into the long term CBJ Comprehensive Plan would assure increased likelihood of continuation of Age Friendly concepts into the future.

WHAT DID AGE FRIENDLY PLANNING ACCOMPLISH?

What are you most proud of This Year?

Name three key accomplishments. Of the Eight Domains of Livability, we are focusing on Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, and Respect and Social Inclusion as our highest priorities but also played a role in contributing in many ways to the other domains.

One of our key accomplishments that we are most proud of is that the Age Friendly Plan was prepared and submitted to both the AARP and the CBJ Community Planning Department. This required gathering information and input from a large array of resources and community members, culminating in a document that comprehensively represents Juneau seniors.

DOMAIN: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Concept: Availability of safe, public, recreational facilities.

Community members have long expressed the continuing need for a Community Senior Activity Center with fitness center/gym and meeting spaces for classes and gatherings in a central location. To that end, the JCOA and AARP strongly advocated for use of the Marie Drake Complex with an indoor walking track. This effort is ongoing and has resulted in improved access at a valley location but we continue to work toward a more centralized Center that will serve a broader population. Community members expressed interest in the Dimond Park Fieldhouse and CBJ responded by adding an ADA compliant elevator. AARP completed a Walk Audit and facilitated Walks to the Library

DOMAIN: Transportation

Concept: Safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation.

Community members long expressed a desire for improved Capital AKcess (Care-A-Van) and, unfortunately, the contract for this service changed in November 2025 resulting in reduced service. While out of our control, we used our media resources to ensure the public was aware of this change in service.

DOMAIN: Housing

Concept: Availability of home modification programs for aging in place, as well as range of Age-Friendly housing options.

Community members expressed a desire for Age Friendly, affordable, first floor or accessible units. The AARP CAT successfully obtained a grant for RL Mace Universal Design Institute who provided a community forum In August 2025 on Universal Design and Multigenerational Housing that included CBJ Community Development Staff. In light of our advocacy for Senior Age Friendly Housing JCOA and AARP Leads were also invited to a CBJ Housing Forum in November of 2025 to ensure senior needs were included in planning for Code Changes to the CBJ Building Code. At this meeting, the CBJ revealed that permits related to Accessory Dwelling Units had been upgraded and expanded to further assist seniors (and others) with adding ADU's to their home.

It is noteworthy that Juneau voted to lower property taxes which is a benefit for seniors who own homes but unfortunately, it may eliminate funding for other housing and recreational opportunities. AARP also distributed copies of the AARP Home Fit Guide at many of these venues.

DOMAIN: Social participation

Concept: Access to leisure and cultural activities, including opportunities for older residents to socialize and engage with their peers as well as with younger people.

Community members expressed interest in both an Office of Aging within CBJ, a Community Senior Activity Center (discussed above Outdoor Spaces). Despite the difficulty with having a permanent space, we sponsored or co facilitated several senior activities. AARP co-sponsored Walk Southeast and Walk to the Library, the Piano Music Series, Juneau Community Band Concerts. JCOA

sponsors a Monday Mah Jongg Meeting and facilitated a Senior Friend Project with the Juneau Pioneer's Home with a several Pioneer Home resident matched and hosted by a volunteer community members at the Juneau Holiday Symphony.

DOMAIN: Respect and Inclusion

Concept: Programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as multigenerational interaction and dialogue.

Community members expressed a desire for an Office of Aging within CBJ to promote and advance inclusive senior programs and issues. This remains a future priority for consideration.

DOMAIN: Communication and Information

Concept: Access to communications technology and other resources so older residents can connect with their community, friends and family.

Over the last year, JCOA and AARP have increased outreach and mechanisms for information sharing by developing a JCOA Website <https://juneau.org/clerk/boards-committees/jcoa> that has become a focal point for referring to during our monthly radio slot on Juneau's Public Radio Station - KTOO Juneau Afternoon Program. JCOA are hosting a monthly column in the local newspaper "Senior Moments" to highlight our activities and issues of concern. JCOA and AARP have also made presentations to local Rotary Groups.

DOMAIN: Community and Health Services

Concept: Access to home-based care services, health clinics and programs that promote wellness and active aging.

It is noteworthy that Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) became to first community hospital in Alaska to receive Age-Friendly Health Care System Level 1 Designation from the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*, the *Institute of Healthcare Improvement*, and the *American Hospital Association Collaboration* by adopting Age-Friendly Health Care concept. JCOA is also working with Catholic Community Services in light of their challenges in providing Senior Meals and Meals on Wheels. There is a need for an upgraded commercial kitchen and we are advocating for use of space at the Marie Drake Complex that is currently not available to the public.

DOMAIN: Work and Civic Engagement

Concept: Paid work and volunteer activities for older residents and opportunities to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives.

While not one of our top priorities, the JCOA maintains a space on our website for volunteer opportunities for seniors. Bartlett Regional Hospital also signed the AARP Employer Pledge - affirming the value of experienced workers and a commitment to developing a diverse organization.

WHAT WAS LEARNED?

What were your challenges, benefits, successful practices, opportunities to leverage and outreach to diverse partners?

The first challenge was to ensure the community was engaged in the process of planning and the JCOA/AARP team effected a robust outreach process that included developing a website, providing regular presentations on the radio, providing presentations to local groups such as Rotary and writing a monthly newspaper column to ensure Seniors 1) are aware of the activities and 2) have an opportunity to participate. We also learned that being nimble is an important quality to ensure we can adjust to unexpected opportunities or challenges. These practices were found to be both beneficial for the public and a successful practice for our team. These opportunities also allowed us to connect to diverse partners across the community.

WHAT ARE NEXT STEPS?

How will you build upon accomplishments, share new opportunities to tackle, have your mission vision and values evolved? Describe future aspirations.

We are continuing to use our outreach venues to connect to the public and with our newfound visibility, we are able to expand on our original mission and be more inclusive as issues arise. For example, Transportation was not one of our priorities until the senior transportation system was changed and we were able to use our outreach to ensure seniors across the community were made aware of the changes that would impact their access to transportation.

We have also accomplished one of our key goals – creating the Juneau Age Friendly Community Plan and we will continue to ensure it is integrated into our CBJ Comprehensive Plan while also refocusing on other key issues such as housing, wellness/recreation and transportation. Lastly, we will continue to work collaboratively with AARP, as well as our community stakeholders to ensure that senior voices are heard throughout our community.