

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2025-ZOOM MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL-Chair Deborah Craig called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.

Present: Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Carol Ende, Laura Revels, Rhonda Ward, Jennifer Garrison, Barb Murray, Paul Kelly CBJ Assembly Liaison

Absent: Diane Kyser

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA-Chair Craig asked for the following amendments:

~**AGENDA TOPICS**-the elections will be moved to December 15

the guest speaker is unavailable and will be rescheduled

move the assembly presentation to December 15

add Pioneer Home Project update

~**OTHER**-approve documents

The agenda was approved as amended.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-Linda Kruger moved to accept 10-21-2025 JCOA draft meeting minutes.

Approved unanimously.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF NON-AGENDA ITEMS-None

E. AGENDA TOPICS

1. Introduction of New JCOA Members

2. Housing Subcommittee Updates-Presentation will be rescheduled

3. Recreation/Fitness Subcommittee-Update on Marie Drake Gym Use

a. **The Marie Drake gym** usage is unclear at this point with budget changes. JCOA will continue to work with CBJ on this issue.

b. **Pioneer Home Project Update**-Chair Craig has been collaborating with the Pioneer Home and others to host residents of the Pioneer Home at the upcoming Juneau Holiday Symphony. Five residents and volunteers have been identified to attend the event. Volunteers will pay for the tickets and accompany the residents to the event. JCOA members should contact Chair Craig if they are interested in participating in any way. The event is December 15, 2pm at Thunder Mountain Middle School. Capital AKcess will provide transportation to and from the event. Chair Craig is working out the details with all of the different entities.

Paul Kelly asked about ADA cards needed for transportation with Capital AKcess. Chair Craig reported all of the participants will have their ADA cards.

4. Age-Friendly Planning Report Update-Report Due in December

Chair Craig and Linda Kruger have worked hard with input from members to develop this progress report. The report needs to be approved by JCOA, then to CBJ for approval, once approved by CBJ the report will be submitted to AARP who will issue an extended Age Friendly Certificate. Linda proposed presenting the certificate to CBJ at the JCOA presentation/update the CBJ assembly on 12/15.

The report focuses on JCOA priority areas housing and recreation and other areas such as social participation and highlights JCOA accomplishments in the last 6 months to a year. The report educates people on Age-Friendly planning and how Juneau has become an Age-Friendly Community.

~Linda commended Bartlett Regional Hospital on being a strong age-friendly partner in the community, for employing and serving seniors.

~Chair Craig was instrumental in starting a monthly broadcast on KTOO's a Juneau Afternoon and a monthly column in the Juneau Independent focused on communicating with the community about Senior activities and issues. This was included as an important part of the plan.

~Carol Ende commented on how well written the update/report is.

~CBJ Liaison Paul Kelly asked that Chair Craig work with CBJ on scheduling as meeting scheduling is tight. Chair Craig will work with CBJ and Liaison Kelly.

5. **Outreach: Web, KTOO and "Senior Moments"**

Chair Craig presented the Senior Moments article that Linda Kruger did a great deal of work on.

Carol Ende appreciated the acknowledgment at the end of the article for National Care Giving Day.

Carol Ende asked how can we sustain the outreach and information sharing started by Chair Craig and Linda Krueger. Ideas on sustainability include: reaching out to senior/elder writers in the community about JCOA's goals/priorities to see if they would be interested in writing articles; Information about JCOA in newsletters such as Bartlett's, Catholic Community Services, SEARHC, etc.; reinforce to elders through various communication resources that JCOA is trying to reach out and collaborate on senior services and needs; possible JCOA newsletter through CBJ.

6. **AARP Update from Linda Krueger**

*AARP is hosting a 1/2 day program in May focused on aging in Juneau.

What do we need to think about to stay in Juneau as we age?

The program will offer information, lunch and will celebrate seniors in Juneau.

*Last year AARP sponsored a workshop on accessible housing, this year AARP will shift the focus to the missing middle housing. CBJ has done a wonderful job focusing on low income housing and housing the homeless. There is a need for seniors who want to downsize or smaller homes for working class.

*AARP will host a two day workshop on alzheimers and dementia in late summer or early fall with speaker from Alzheimers of Alaska in Anchorage. One day focused on caregivers one day focused on medical professionals.

*Continue to work with Park and Recreation to schedule library walks.

F. COMMITTEE MEMBER/LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Paul Kelly, CBJ Assembly liaison provided this report:

- Lands Committee met and forwarded a slate of 5 projects to be considered by the full assembly for the Affordable Housing project.
- Committee of the Whole discussed West Douglas Master Plan and Goldbelt Dock. The committee opted not to enter into Memorandum of Agreement with Goldbelt on workforce housing and public infrastructure at this time.

- Finance Committee at last meeting reviewed the CBJ budget, no cuts at this time for city services. CBJ will look at cost saving measures in the future and will engage with community to hold interactive budget discussions.

G. OTHER ITEMS

- Chair Craig asked if there were any objections to approval of CBJ Assembly report. No objections. Approved
- Chair Craig asked if there were any objections to presenting AARP Age Friendly Plan at December 15 Assembly meeting. No objections. Approved
- Chair Craig asked for approval of Senior Moment article. No objections. Approved.

H. NEXT MEETING

December 16: JCOA Regular Meeting-Elections

2026 Strategy and Priority Identification

CHAIR CRAIG ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:01PM