



JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING AGENDA

August 19, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Downtown Library Large Meeting Room & via Zoom

In-person: 292 Marine Way (Downtown Library Location)

Zoom: <https://juneau.zoom.us/j/81491760970?pwd=bkFwWk42Mllmazl0aFdMS3ArTG5qZz09>

Or Call In: 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 814 9176 0970; Passcode:858248

JCOA Commissioners: Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Carol Ende, Jennifer Garrison, Diane Kyser, Barb Murray, Laura Revels, Rhonda Ward, & John Brett JCOA Assembly Liaison: Paul Kelly

JCOA Meeting Moved From 8/18 To 8/19 Due To State of AK Primary Elections Happening on 8/18

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 2026-07-21_JCOA_Minutes - Draft

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. AARP Updates

Special Meeting Agenda topic — the AARP Vital Voices Survey, will be provided to both the JCOA, the AARP Community Action Team, interested members of the Assembly and the public. AARP National to provide a PowerPoint presentation that compares Juneau and statewide data including housing, transportation, caregiving, fraud, and questions on whether people plan to stay in Juneau/Alaska or move.

JCOA Guest: Terri Guengerich, AARP Senior Research Manager, will speak to JCOA about the Vital Voices Survey.

3. Standing Agenda Topics - Main Projects/Subcommittee Updates

a. Housing Subcommittee Updates: November Conference <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/housing/info-2020/missing-middle-housing/>

b. Transportation Update: Chair Craig Testimony to CBJ Assembly (see attached)

G. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

4. JCOA Assembly Liaison Paul Kelly's Monthly Newsletter

H. NEXT MEETING DATES

5. 2026 Meeting Dates

September 15, 2026 – Regular Meeting

October 20, 2026 – Regular Meeting

November 17, 2026 – Regular Meeting

December 15, 2026 – Regular Meeting & JCOA Election of Officers

I. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

J. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: contact the Clerk's Office (907)586-5278 or city.clerk@juneau.gov at least 36 hours prior to a meeting, to request ADA arrangements.



JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES - DRAFT
July 21, 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

JCOA Commissioners: Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Carol Ende, Jennifer Garrison, Diane Kyser, Barb Murray, Laura Revels, Rhonda Ward, & John Brett JCOA Assemblymember Liaison Paul Kelly

A. CALL TO ORDER Chair Craig called the JCOA to order at 3:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Deborah Craig, Linda Kruger, Carol Ende, Jennifer Garrison, Diane Kyser, Barb Murray

Absent: Laura Revels, Rhonda Ward, John Brett

Others: JCOA Assemblymember Liaison Paul Kelly, AK Commission on Aging Marty Lange, Assemblymember Nano Brooks

C. Approval of Agenda -Amended to add Outreach to Agenda Topics
Agenda approved as amended

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-Minutes approved as presented

1. 2026-06-16_JCOA_Minutes - Draft

E. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items-None

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Standing Agenda Topics - Main Projects/Subcommittee Updates

a. Housing Subcommittee Updates: Smart Growth America is currently reviewing Juneau's updated comprehensive plan and zoning code, specifically to assess how they support or impede middle-income new housing developments that are accessible and senior-friendly. A report will be written for use at the November conference. Linda Kruger will have an update at the next JCOA meeting.

<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/housing/info-2020/missing-middle-housing/>

Chair Craig proposed that the JCOA Housing subcommittee meet to develop a plan to address housing issues for seniors in Juneau, to be included in the Age-Friendly Planning document. Chair Craig will send an email to JCOA members requesting input on priorities/issues to address.

b. Recreation/Fitness Subcommittee Updates: Update on Marie Drake usage for Pickleball. Chair Craig reports that Park and Recreation is currently working to hire a Recreation Supervisor; once hired, they will be hiring monitors. Mahjong at Douglas Library

is going strong, and a Mahjong group will be starting in the valley. The group will meet at a church in the valley. More information is coming on the Valley Mahjong program.

b. c. Age-Friendly Planning: Report will be completed in the Fall for year-end report.

d. Transportation Update: Chair Craig reported on outreach to organizations using Capital AKcess. Chair Craig shared that she is continuing to hear concerns from seniors regarding transportation issues. The Assemblymember liaison, Paul Kelly suggested that the JCOA Chair Craig attend the next assembly meeting and share with the assembly members concerns about services. JCOA Commissioners approved the Chair's report for the Assembly, outlining the issues and concerns regarding transportation for seniors. Commissioners were encouraged to complete the CBJ transportation survey to share any concerns they may have.

e. Outreach: Chair Craig and Linda Kruger are doing outreach on KTOO's Juneau Afternoon once a month. They are asking JCOA commissioner's and/or other agencies who are interested to join them on Juneau Afternoon.

3. AARP Update - Linda Kruger

Planning for November AARP Conference — AARP will hold a summit and resource fair at Centennial Hall on November 4, lunch will be included. The topic of the summit will be "Aging in Juneau, Caring for Caregivers". The summit will include panel presentations and resource tables with information on housing, adaptations you can make to stay in your home, and other information will be available.

AARP Sponsored/Participating Events

July: 7/29 Adair Kennedy Park to Mendenhall Valley Library, round trip. 10am-12pm open to all ages. Linda will be on the walk. the walk location was changed to Adair Kennedy

August: 8/21 National Senior Citizens Day. Walk SE Douglas Library Walk. 10am-12pm. Linda on walk. (need help at the library)

The Field House elevator is now working. A celebration/ribbon-cutting to celebrate the installation and opening of the elevator will be held at noon on July 23rd at the Field House.

G. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

4. **JCOA ASSEMBLY LIAISON PAUL KELLY'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**-Assembly Liaison Kelly's newsletter is attached to the meeting packet. One correction to the newsletter: Page 1, Ordinance 2026-21 passed.
Chair Craig requested information on evacuation plans for senior facilities located close to the river.

H. NEXT MEETING DATES

5. 2026 Meeting Dates

August 18, 2026 - Regular Meeting--Chair Craig will send email to Commissioner's regarding moving this meeting to August 19, 2026.

September 15, 2026 – Regular Meeting

October 20, 2026 – Regular Meeting

November 17, 2026 – Regular Meeting

December 15, 2026 – Regular Meeting & JCOA Election of Officers

I. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

J. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

To: Juneau Commission on Aging
From: Chair Deborah Craig
Re: Testimony to the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly
Date Testimony Given: July 27, 2026

Following is the Testimony provided by Chair Craig to the CBJ Assembly per the instructions of the Juneau Commission on Aging:

"I'm Deborah Craig, Chair of the Juneau Commission on Aging whose role is to advise the Assembly. Commissioners recently voted in favor of my testifying about Transportation issues of concern.

Last year, CBJ choose a new provider for Capital AKcess, the transportation system serving ADA eligible seniors and persons with disabilities. The new provider has struggled to provide services as required in the contract for nine months.

Issues include challenges to make reservations for service, failure to pick up and deliver as arranged, difficulty with door-to-door service requirements and, most importantly, lack of a basic understanding of the service population: people with cognitive and physical disabilities.

I learned of these issues last December when the JCOA hosted Pioneer Home residents to attend the Symphony. I personally called Capital AKcess 25 times to make travel arrangements – the contractor lacked multiple phone lines and voicemail as required in the contract.

Last week, my 96-year-old neighbor arranged a drop off and pick up at Foodland. When Capital AKcess no-showed for the pickup, she called - they'd mistakenly made the pick-up reservation for her grocery trip for the following day.

SEARHC has implemented a transportation shuttle because Capital AKcess failed repeatedly to get clients to medical appointments.

JCOA met with Capital Transit staff to discuss these issues multiple times. Staff were very responsive, but issues continue. Surprisingly, the Capital AKcess contract was renewed in June.

CBJ's current transportation survey might provide insights but also might not reach the intended audience. In light of the severity of issues, a phone survey of current users might be more appropriate.

It's been nine months and winter is coming. Winter weather increases the risk for our most vulnerable adults who must rely on an unreliable service to get food, medicine and to medical appointments.

CBJ's contract is explicit and the requirements need to be met. CBJ is urged to review the situation immediately to ensure viable transportation service for Juneau's most vulnerable population."

Follow-up Questions from the CBJ Assembly:

Assembly member Alicia Hughes Skandijs: Thanked the Commission for bringing this to their attention and asked if the commission collected information or horror stories we've heard or is the better way to go to the recipients of service.

Chair Craig's response: We have heard many stories and many Assembly members have heard horror stories, too. It's all over Facebook. I don't think it's our role to be doing surveys or that kind of work – we are an advisory Commission. We did bring it to the attention of Capital Transit and we've met with them multiple times, they are very aware of some of the issues going on – it's that we are not seeing resolution for those issues.

Paul Kelly's Public Report

July 31, 2026

Finance Committee Highlights

MEETING RECAPS:

Met 7/8/26 @ 5:30pm

Full agenda:

<https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/5058/files/agenda/13021>

Highlights:

- We discussed the city's investment practices and portfolio
- We discussed changes to the Senior and Veteran's Hardship exemption
 - City code now:
 - You qualify for the basic Senior and Veteran's Exception if either:
 - You are over 65;
 - You are a disabled veteran; or
 - You are over 60 and your late spouse qualified.
 - You qualify for the *added* Hardship Exception if you get the Senior and Veteran's exception and make under **120% of the median income in Juneau.**
 - There is no upper limit for the Hardship Exemption.
 - Proposed changes:
 - The basic Senior and Veteran's Exception is mandated by state law, so it would stay the same.
 - You qualify for the *added* Hardship Exception if you get the Senior and Veteran's exception but make under **250% of the federal poverty guidelines.**
 - This is consistent with qualifying for SNAP and other benefits.
 - However, it also means that fewer people would qualify.
 - The hardship exemption would be capped at no more than the property tax on the median value single family home in Juneau.
 - **Finance Committee Action:** None. The ordinance was already scheduled for a public hearing at the July 27 meeting.
 - **Full Assembly Action 7/27:** The Assembly amended the threshold. Hardship threshold raised to **300%** of federal poverty guidelines
- We discussed the Airport Board's request to lease a firetruck funded by the city's sales tax revenue
 - Airport Board has received a federal grant to purchase a new firetruck.
 - The Board asked for funding to lease a firetruck until the new one arrived, but leases are not eligible for federal grants.
 - They are projected to have \$1,574,100 in fund balance by the end of this fiscal year (FY 27).
 - **Finance Committee Action:** **Did not approve request.**



Next meeting: 9/2/26

Full agenda: <https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/5085/files>



WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS ZOOM LINK:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81610970232?pwd=PGWGSZVRf9WZGUS6FISSTNZEIKQ.1>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Public Works and Facilities Committee @** Assembly Chambers 8/3 at noon
- **Lands Housing and Economic Development Committee - 8/3 Canceled**
- **Committee of the Whole - 8/3 Canceled**
- **Finance Committee - 8/5 Canceled**
- **Human Resources Committee @** Assembly Chambers 8/17 at 5pm
- **Regular Assembly Meeting @** Assembly Chambers 8/17 at 6pm

Full Assembly Calendar:
juneau.org/calendar

Retractions:

- In Issue 9, I reported in the Finance Committee Highlights that the Assembly did not pass a change to the remote sellers tax (Ordinance 2026-21). It did pass.
- In the same section, I reported Assembly action set for 7/23 when it was 7/27

WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS:

Saturday, Aug 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
Assembly Chambers or ZOOM
from 10am-noon

Lands, Housing, and Economic Development

7/13/26 @ 5pm

Full agenda:

<https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/5084/files/agenda/13068>

- Juneau Housing First Collective has asked to lease property at the end of the cul-de-sac by Home Depot to build an affordable rental housing complex from the city at less-than-market rate
 - Design allows for 24-28 units in the first stage.
 - The project requires planning commission approval for a re-zone.
 - The City Manager is asking for permission from the Assembly to negotiate a lease.
 - After the lease is negotiated it would still need final Assembly approval.
 - **Committee Action:** Forwarded to the Assembly for action.
 - **Full Assembly action:** At the July 27 meeting we gave the City Manager permission to negotiate a lease.

Next meeting 9/28/26 - No link available yet

Public Works and Facilities Committee

Met 7/13/26

Full agenda:

<https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4726/files/agenda/13072>

- The committee discussed a request from the Public Works Director to apply for an additional ~\$1.3 million in state revolving loan funds (fully forgivable). This would be for purchasing a unit to treat our solid waste with pyrolysis.
 - An ~\$2.8 million has previously been approved by the state, but is not expected to be enough to cover all of the costs.
 - New total for the revolving loan would be \$4.1 million
 - **Public Works and Facilities Committee Action:** Asked legal staff to draft a resolution supporting the Public Works Director's request.
 - **Full Assembly action:** The resolution has not yet come before the Assembly.



Next meeting 8/3/26

Full agenda:

<https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4727/files>

Human Resources - **Canceled** (7/27)



Next meeting: 8/17/26 - Full agenda

<https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/5066/files>

Committee of the Whole

Met 7/13/26 - Full agenda:

<https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4939/files/agenda/13078>

- The Committee heard from Huna Totem about the reduced design for their proposed dock at Áak'w Landing
 - As the timeline for construction has been pushed out, materials have gotten more expensive, especially steel.
 - Less room for commercial space (food and beverage; and other retailers)
 - Parking no longer goes underground, but still has a bus turnaround to help mitigate downtown tour-bus traffic.
 - Year-round cultural center still in the plans.
 - Amending the city's lease agreement will be subject to Assembly approval after their new plans are approved by the Planning Commission
- We reviewed language for an amended public safety agreement requested by Tlingit and Haida
 - Agreement would be to provide fire protection for sovereign tribal land and be compensated for it.
 - The first property this would apply to would be the Two Coppers Casino in North Douglas.
 - **Committee Action:** Forwarded the amended agreement to the full Assembly for approval
 - **Full Assembly action:** At the 7/27 meeting, the Assembly approved amending the agreement.

Did you know?

For the Assembly to take action, a majority of the full Assembly (5 out of 9 members) must vote in favor, even if some members are absent.

What would you like to know?

Email paul.kelly@juneau.gov to get your question answered in a future issue.

Committee of the Whole – continued

- Received an update on moving City offices to the Burns Building
 - At this point the Manager was waiting for bids
 - Now projecting to move offices in May 2027
 - Anticipating approving bids at the 7/27 meeting
 - **Committee action:** None
- We discussed the conditions at which we would sell City Hall
 - Standing proposal we've been considering since February is to ask for sealed competitive bids starting at \$2.5 million and possibly placing certain conditions on the sale.
 - An alternative proposal from Sealaska is to purchase City Hall for \$1.5 million to expand their arts campus.
 - **Committee action:** Decided to take testimony from the public on both proposals at the August 17 Assembly meeting.
- We discussed 3 sets of changes to our Rules and Procedures
 - We considered a proposal from Mr. Brooks to make taking public testimony normal at committee meetings instead of only taking it in exceptional cases
 - **Committee action:** Failed on a 4-4 vote
 - We considered 2 proposals from staff
 - One proposal established procedures for filling unexpected vacancies on Empowered Boards.
 - The other proposal removed redundant sections, reinforced rules set in Charter, and codified current practices of the Assembly
 - **Committee action:** These two proposals were forwarded to the full Assembly
 - **Full Assembly action:** Passed at the 7/27 Assembly meeting



Next meeting: 9/28/26:

Full agenda:

<https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4942/files>

Regular Assembly Meeting

Met 7/27/26 – full agenda:

<https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4716/files/agenda/13128>

- We **approved** a bid from Carver Construction at \$4.4 million to do renovation work in the Burns building (This work was budgeted at \$6 million)
- Bond proposals - **Postponed to next year**
 - \$16 million for school facilities maintenance
 - Attorney reported that additional numbers need to be added to ballot language to be eligible for partial state reimbursement.
 - \$9.4 million for wastewater facility maintenance
- Adding renewal of the 3% (out of the existing 5%) sales tax to the ballot - **Passed**
- We considered a proposal to narrow sales tax exemptions for non-profits.
 - **Action:** We sent this back to the Finance Committee to be heard on September 2.
- We considered a proposal to adjust the hardship exemption (for details refer to Finance Committee Highlights on page 1)
 - **Action:** We amended so that the hardship threshold applied at 300% of federal poverty guidelines instead of 250%.
- Repeal the property tax exemptions for historic property repair - **Passed**
- Adjusting the flat tax on commercial aircraft for inflation - **Passed**
- Raising property taxes on some vessels - **Passed**
- Amending the public safety agreement with Tlingit and Haida - **Passed**
- Sales tax appeal from AELP
 - **Action:** The Assembly chose to hear the appeal
- Juneau Housing First Collective proposal to lease land (for details refer to Lands Housing and Economic Development Committee on page 2)
 - **Action:** Gave the manager permission to negotiate



Next meeting: 8/17/26

Full agenda:

<https://juneauak.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4711/files>

Offered in print and digital form

Weekly updates available at <https://facebook.com/PaulKellyCBJ/>



Please email paul.kelly@juneau.gov if you have feedback or want your own copy sent directly to you.