

Meeting Minutes
Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA)
April 20th, 2021
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Via Zoom

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 AM. The meeting was chaired by Emily Kane and was conducted via Zoom.

Board members present: Emily Kane, Linda Kruger, Kathleen Samalon, Carol Ende, Sue Warner, Paul Douglas, Jennifer Carson

Board members absent: Christine Woll, Jan Beauchamp

Others: Robyn Mesdag, James Cheng, Di Cathart, Beth McEwen

II. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with unanimous consent.

III. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

The March meeting minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

None.

V. Discussion Items

A) Assembly Update

Assembly Update via email: 57% of Juneau has gotten their first shot and CBJ expects Juneau to hit 50% vaccinated by May 15th. The assembly is considering additional updates to the city's COVID-19 mitigation measures, including incentivizing vaccination rates. As of right now, fully vaccinated travelers are not required to test or "strict social distance" when they arrive in Juneau. As of May 1, testing and strict social distancing will become recommended (but not required) for unvaccinated travelers. The assembly is considering revising this in order to continue to make testing required of unvaccinated travelers. Free testing at the airport will continue indefinitely.

JCOA Board Members: Carol Ende, Jennifer Carson, Janet Beauchamp, Paul Douglas, Sue Warner, Emily Kane, Justin Jones, Linda Kruger, Kathleen Samalon. Assembly liaison: Christine Woll

Budget season is here and the draft budget includes services as a similar level as last year. Lost revenue anticipated by the loss of large cruise ships this year will be replaced by \$12.8M that will be received as part of the recent federal relief package. The Augustus Brown Pool is sleighted for a \$3.3M renovation this year. The draft budget includes a 0.2 mil increase in property taxes to account for last year's Assembly's decision to begin funding childcare services. All these items are subject to change as budget conversations progress.

It is looking less and less likely that any large cruise ships will come to Juneau this year. We are expecting an uptick in independent travelers. The state of Alaska is working to put together an aid package to support businesses and communities impacted by loss of tourism as a result of the pandemic.

Three petitions have been filed to put charter amendments on the ballot at the October local election. These charter amendments would limit the capacity of large cruise ships in Juneau. Once these petitions are certified, the organizers will have a discreet amount of time to collect 3000 certified signatures before the amendments are put on the ballot for the voters to vote on in October.

B) Finalization of cover letter

The subcommittee decided to make the JCOA cover letter separate than the survey booklet. Instead, it will be slipped inside the cover of the survey allowing the survey to be printed. Printing will be done in about a week.

Details of the cover letter were discussed. The language supporting tax exemptions was clarified to support tax exemptions for needy seniors. Minor spelling errors were identified and corrected.

Paul gave an update on Trillium Landing vacancies and identified a need for more 2-bedroom apartments. Language in the cover letter was changed to reflect the fact that Trillium Landing has vacancies for some dwelling unit types but a waitlist for 2-bedroom apartments.

The support services section of the letter was discussed. The consensus was to work with other relevant organizations as opposed to petitioning the state. Developing support services staff in Juneau would help relieve the CAN and nurse shortage.

C) Finalization of postcard, flyer & distribution list

The distribution subcommittee okayed the flyers, posters and postcards. JEDC will add a link to the survey to them and begin distribution. Jan is doing a thank you ad in the Juneau Empire. Paul is looking to get on KTOO and KINY to promote the Senior Survey. CBJ is working on the JCOA website.

D) Discussion on presentation to the Assembly

Emily will present to the Assembly on May 10th with James.

E) Next Meeting Date

JCOA Board Members: Carol Ende, Jennifer Carson, Janet Beauchamp, Paul Douglas, Sue Warner, Emily Kane, Justin Jones, Linda Kruger, Kathleen Samalon. Assembly liaison: Christine Woll

May 18th 10:30-11:30 AM.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM