

**Juneau Commission on Aging
Board Meeting 3-9-2017**

Present: Mary Ann VandeCastle, Mary Lou Spartz, Ric Iannolino, Eileen Hosey. Also present were guests Jean Hunt and Andi Hirsh of the Juneau Public Libraries. It was determined that a quorum was present, and Mary Lou called the meeting to order.

The review of the January minutes was deferred until the next meeting as several board members did not have copies in their packet.

The board then reviewed the Commission goals and Mission Statement that was developed in January 2016 to determine their ongoing applicability. There was general discussion about whether or not the board feels like it's fulfilling this statement and it was generally agreed that we were working towards the Mission Statement: **"Promote Elders' wellbeing, safety, and respect by connecting them with community resources and activities."**

The goals established last year were reviewed and discussed by the board members. There was vigorous board discussion about the **food issues for seniors and lack of resources and food**. We wondered how can we help seniors and facilitate easier access to food? We will continue to explore options.

Regarding the goals in general, the board decided to take the top three items and make an action plan for each, then review them periodically.

There was also a discussion about **transportation issues for seniors**. A question was raised about publicity for Care-A-Van services so that seniors were aware of this service. Eileen will check with Gail Fenumiai of S. E Senior Services. Additionally, she will contact Myra Mullen of the Social Services department at SEARHC to see if they publicize the Care-A-Van services.

Smart 9-1-1 was discussed and we looked for ideas on how to generate more interest in the program generally, and follow-up with the Juneau Police Dept. specifically. It was felt that some research in some other similar systems would be helpful. Mary Anne will find out and give the information to Ric, who will do some research.

There was general discussion about how to promote the numbers and dollars generated by the **senior economy** within the state. It's felt that it would be a good idea to increase community awareness of this very important piece of the state financial picture.

Lifelong Learning was another of the 2016 goals and the board discussed some aspects to make short term classes, discussions, and events available to seniors. There had been a program through the Bernard Oscher Foundation and the University but due to budget constrictions this is no longer available. It's felt that seniors who were eligible for free tuition at the local campus would find the semester-long commitment too much.

Incidentally, the library outreach program every other Tuesday at the senior center has had some limited success so far. Andi Hirsh said she was contemplating doing some advertising to the residents of Mountain View Apts.

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The board decided on the following three things to develop this next year:

- 1) Hunger and Seniors
- 2) Smart 9-1-1
- 3) Senior Economy

Mary Ann will work on a data sheet for the senior economy for the next month's meeting, and will try and obtain data from the Dept. of Labor.

New Business:

Mary Lou brought up the looming **2020 Senior Citizen Survey** that is conducted every ten years. It's time to begin putting together a plan for this. It's felt it might be time to have the survey primarily on-line and perhaps enlist the help and support of the library for those seniors who don't have computers at their homes. The board will continue to discuss and put together a long range plan so that we can reach as many seniors as possible.

Older Americans Month is in May and this topic was deferred until our meeting next month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm, with the next meeting scheduled for April 13, 2017, 1:15 p.m., at the Juneau Senior Center.

Eileen Hosey, Secretary