

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING

City & Borough of Juneau

Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The Commission met at the Senior Center. Chairperson VandeCastle called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m. Other members present were: Pat Watt, Ric Iannolino, Mary Lou Spartz and Eileen Hosey. Brynn Keith was out of town. Also attending were Assembly member Loren Jones. One member of the public also attended.

AGENDA; DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The agenda was adopted. It was declared that a quorum of members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meetings on February 12 and March 19 were approved,

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Watt and Ms. Keith have terms ending on June 30. Those previously applying for appointment to the Commission will be notified by the Clerk of upcoming vacancies. Ms. Keith will apply for another term. Ms. Watt is not applying for another term.

REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Ms. VandeCastle and Ms. Hosey attended the Caregiver Connections meeting at Bartlett Community Hospital on March 21. The need for a Resource Directory is paramount – many different groups maintain their own lists but there is no single central source. Ms. VandeCastle envisages a one-page brochure listing the dozen or so key agencies that can act as hubs for information on various needs.

Ms. Hosey attend the monthly Community Resource Network meeting yesterday. The primary focus was a presentation by Lesley Thomson of the Alaska Commission on Aging about action taken and pending by the Legislature. Several of these reduce the safety net for seniors.

Ms. VandeCastle attended the Alaska Commission on Aging Legislative Teleconference this morning. She reviewed the status of bills being followed by the AK Commission, which – as noted above- tend to reduce the safety net for seniors. She reported that Congress reauthorized the Older Americans Act through 2019, and the state Legislature also reauthorized the AK Commission on Aging, while further reducing its staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James Nelson shared that he and his wife, in their upper 80's, have been exploring supported retirement communities. They spent four months living in one in the state of Washington, and were hopeful that Juneau might have something similar with an array of options. Ms. VandeCastle

explained that there is a project underway to develop a single purpose 3-story 80-bed Assisted Living Home, with a Memory Care unit in the Vintage Park area. However, this is still at the concept stage with many hurdles to overcome. Jim McCall of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation is the most knowledgeable person as to the current status. The Planning Commission has rezoned a portion of the Vintage Park property for apartments, and construction will begin this summer.

OLD BUSINESS

May is Older Americans Month and Ms. VandeCastle and Ms. Spartz will coordinate publicity through radio PSA's and talk shows, the Tlingit Haida Central Council, and the Cooperative Church Council.

The group reviewed the results from its January Retreat. Future goals were considered in light of the mission statement adopted at the Retreat: ***"Our job is to promote Elders' well-being, safety, and respect by connecting them with community resources and activities."***

Goals in priority order are:

- Developed an Assisted Living Home;
- Address the issue of food security and hunger among seniors;
- Adopt SMART 911 in Juneau;
- Promote a Senior economy; and
- Increase community awareness of the Juneau Commission on Aging.

The Food Bank has asked for documentation or statistics on the need for food among seniors. The difficulty is how to measure it. Ms. VandeCastle will invite Mr. Wilcox, president of the Food Bank, to come to the May Commission Meeting. Ms. Hosey will explore with Catholic Community Services' new program Director, Ms. Fenumai, the possibility of having a food pantry in the Senior Center.

Officer Kalwara will be invited to the June meeting to help the Commission brainstorm ways to fund the SMART 911 program in Juneau.

CONCLUSION

The next meeting of the JCOA will be on May 12 at 1:15pm at the Senior Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.