

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING

City & Borough of Juneau

Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 10, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The Commission met at the Senior Center. Chairperson VandeCastle called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Other members present were: Pat Watt, Brynn Keith, Ric Iannolino, and Mary Lou Spartz and Eileen Hosey. Carol Trebian was absent. Also attending were City Manager Kim Kiefer, Assembly member Loren Jones, Brian Holst executive director of the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC), Gail Fenumai of Southeast Senior Services (CCS-SESS), and former Commission member Dixie Hood.

AGENDA; DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on February 12 was deferred pending review by our speaker of the notes from his presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Commission will be the focus of the radio Action Line program on March 22. Ms. VandeCastle, Mr. Iannolino, and Ms. Sparks will be interviewed.
- The Assisted Living project continues to be active. While funding and site are not yet confirmed, concept planning continues. Ms. VandeCastle attends the Task Force meetings, and is happy with the project's momentum.
- Ms. VandeCastle continues to attend the state Commission on Agency Legislative Tracking teleconferences.
- The AARP chapter in Juneau is pulling together a Caregiver Connection group, and hoping to involve the Commission in the production of a Senior Resource Directory.

JUNEAU ECONOMIC PLAN:

Ms. Kiefer reviewed the history and development of the Juneau Economic Plan, adopted by the Assembly a year ago. The JEDC led the project to create the plan with the assistance of consultants, and much input from the community – both individuals and organizations. The Plan identifies eight (8) Initiatives, and the City is reaching out to community organizations to help implement these initiatives.

The Assembly held a special work session last April (2015) where it broke down each initiative and identified the organizations which are best positioned to help implement it. In June, 2015 the Commission reviewed the objectives related to the Economic Plan

Initiative 2 (Build the Senior Economy) and what it might do to assist. Below is reprinted the summary from the Commission minutes:

NOTE: The entity listed in **bold** was requested to take the lead on the action item:

Goal: Facilitate development of services and facilities necessary for residents to comfortably and affordably retire in Juneau....

Objective 1: Support development of a range of housing options and supportive services that meet the needs of Juneau's senior population:

- Action 1-A: Implement recommendations from the 2014 Sr. Housing and Services Market Demand Study which focuses on senior assisted living housing development. (**JEDC**, CBJ, AHC, SCSSI, JCOA)
- Action 1-C: Identify alternate funding options for senior housing development. including..... (**JEDC**, CBJ, AHC, SCSSI, JCOA)

Objective 2: Increase the depth and breadth of local, skilled health care workers and services for seniors:

- Action 2-A: Prepare a needs list/gap analysis for senior health care services in Juneau and make it available to entrepreneurs and health care providers. (BRH, UAS, JCOA)

Objective 4: Improve senior access to community-based services and activities:

- Action 4-A: Expand data collection on Juneau senior needs and availability of resources (**JCOA**, CSS)
- Action 4-C Encourage entrepreneurial solutions to improve senior access to food, such as grocery deliveries, and medical resources, such as prescription deliveries. (**JCOA**, UW, CCS SEAKFB-Food Bank)
- Action 4-E: Consider a full-service senior center as a central information source and center for activities and services. (**JCOA**, CSS)
- Action 4-F: Institute a senior-friendly business program. (**JCOA**, JCC, CCS, SAIL)

Objective 5: Increase meaningful opportunities for seniors to be involved in the community through volunteerism, activities, and job opportunities:

- Action 5-A: Develop a senior "talent pool" of residents interested in paid jobs and volunteer positions. (**JCOA**, CCS, UW, JEDC, JCVB)

Objective 1: Ms. Kiefer discussed the overall housing shortage in Juneau and the role of the new Chief Housing Officer, who will begin work in April. Commission members pointed out that senior housing needs go beyond the current Assisted Living project. More independent living units will be needed as more residents age. Privatization proposals for the Pioneer Homes is a big concern.

Ms. Keifer then focused on how/where the Commission might assist with Objective 4. A great need is to collect data about senior needs for various supports. The Commission agreed to go back through the 2010 Senior Survey and pull out a summary of needs that were mentioned. While that survey's results are now more than 5 years old, the information is still useful. The Commission will also offer suggestions for how/where additional data could be found and/or collected, and good questions to ask in surfacing information about unmet senior needs.

Also, the United Way website is an underutilized resource. Mr. Holst pointed out that people go there and sign up to volunteer regularly. Before recruiting a volunteer, Mr. Holst recommended that an organization have a clear idea of the project they need volunteer help with. Ms. Kiefer will be meeting with Mr. Stevens to talk about how to build on the information collected on that site to become a useful senior resource directory. The group agreed it was more important to build on existing resources rather starting from scratch.

In regard to encouraging local entrepreneurial solutions to filling gaps in senior services, Ms. Hosey met with the manager of the Foodland IGA and asked that grocery delivery services be developed for seniors. The manager was receptive to the idea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Hood shared that she had testified before the House Finance Committee during its public testimony period on February 29th. She shared her testimony which focused on how best to deal with the fiscal situation.

OLD BUSINESS

The Assembly received the Commission's Legislative priority requests. The Assembly has sent a letter in support of the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging, which currently sunsets this summer. The Assembly asked the Commission to narrow its other priorities, and make them more specific. The group agreed on the following priorities:

- Death with Dignity along the lines of the Oregon law
- Budget issues:
 - Safety net for vulnerable seniors (specifying programs that should not be reduced)
 - Funding for Adult Protective Services
 - Capital assistance for the Assistance Living project
 - Keep the Pioneer Homes in the public sector.

Ms. VandeCastle and Ms. Watt will redraft the legislative priority letter and resubmit to the Assembly.

In considering the need for seniors to know how to get help, the group considered the work Mr. Ianolinno has done on SMART 9-11, including reviewing experience in Hawaii where he interviewed several people. The Commission agreed the Assembly should fund implementation of this as part of the 911 system upgrade this spring. Ms. Kiefer agreed to convey that request to the Assembly as they work on the upcoming budget. Mr. Ianolinno encouraged Commission members, and all seniors, to enter information into SMART 911 (<https://www.smart911.com>) where it would be available in emergencies anywhere in the US.

NEW BUSINESS

Older Americans Month – this will be in May. Activities will be discussed at the next Commission meeting (April).

Election of Vice Chair. Ms. Keith agreed to step into that role. Ms. Watt's and Ms. Keith's terms expire at the end of June. Ms. Watt noted that she will be out of town for the May meeting, and also that she will not apply for reappointment. Ms. VandeCastle noted that she has served as Chair for four years, and is ready for a break from that role. Election of Officers will need to be an agenda item at the August meeting.

CONCLUSION

The next meeting of the JCOA will be on April 14 at 1:15pm at the Senior Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.