

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING

City & Borough of Juneau

Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The Commission met at the Senior Center. Chairperson VandeCastle called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m. Other members present were: Pat Watt, Brynn Keith, Carol Trebian, and Ric Iannolino. Eileen Hosey was ill and Mary Lou Spartz was at work. Also attending were Marsha Partlow of CCS Southeast Senior Services, Marie Darlin, Sue Nielsen, and Dixie Hood. City Attorney Amy Mead attended as speaker.

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 meeting on September 10 were approved.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ms. VandeCastle welcomed new member Brynn Keith to the Commission. Ms. Keith shared her background as an economist at the Department of Labor having held the positions of Chief of the Research and Analysis section, Chief Operating Officer, and Deputy Commissioner.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED

Ms. VandeCastle and Mr. Iannolino attended the Assembly hearing on the senior sales tax proposal. Ms. VandeCastle also attended meetings of the Assisted Living Task Force. Currently, the group prefers a site in Vintage Park that could include a Senior Center and potential coordination with St. Vincent Paul's low-income senior housing proposal at the location. The current issue is how to finance the project. Ms. Watt attended meetings of the Aquatics Board and is facilitating this new empowered Board's planning retreat. Mr. Iannolino is on the Auke Bay Steering Committee is completing its proposed plan which then goes to the Planning Commission.

SPEAKER: CITY ATTORNEY AMY MEAD

Ms. Mead had come to explain the requirements of the Alaska Open Meetings Act (AS 44.62.310.) She said the key provisions relevant for the Commission have to do with public notice and communications. Public notice must be given for all pre-arranged meetings (in person or by phone) among 3 or more members, preferably one week or at a minimum 24 hours ahead. Previously, public notice was required whenever 2 or more advisory body members met at a prearranged time. In 2009 the legislature changed this

requirement to 3 or more members. This change will be reflected in a new Board Pamphlet for CBJ Board and Commission members. Ms. Watt noted that on the CBJ calendar website (<http://www.juneau.org/calendar/>) there is an Event Submission Form that makes it easy to create a public notice of a meeting. For email, the Chair or other person may originate an email to the group to provide administrative or procedural information. However, members responding should NOT use the "Reply All" function, since that could be construed as creating email discussion (i.e. meeting.)

OLD BUSINESS

Orientation of New Commission Members:

Marie Darlin provided a history of the Commission. Ms. Darlin has served on the Juneau Commission several times, and is currently on the Alaska Commission on Aging, where she is the Legislative Chair. Beginning, usually, the last Thursday in January at 9:30am, she convenes a teleconference with senior advocates statewide to track legislation of interest, and hear from legislators. Those teleconferences are typically held every two weeks through the Legislative session.

A predecessor group to the Juneau Commission on Aging - the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee was created January 6, 1977 for the purpose of advising the Alaska State Housing Authority and the Assembly on matters related to the development of a 42-unit elderly housing project in the City & Borough of Juneau. The Assembly then morphed that committee into the Commission on Aging in 1985 which is Ms. Darlin first was involved with the Commission. In 1990, the Commission conducted a survey of seniors to identify senior demographics as well as issues and concerns. The survey had an approximately 30% response rate (very good) and led to the creation of Senior Citizens Support Services Inc. (SCSSI) to spearhead to development of Fireweed Place, an Independent Living complex which opened in 1995. The Commission led a second survey in 2000 which helped to promote the development of Wildflower Court and and the 2010 survey helped advance the development of Smith Hall. The report on the 2010 survey is online on the Commission website at <http://bit.ly/1PI0U4u>. The survey is searchable by key word.

Ms. Watt talked about the issue before the Commission of how to fulfil the Assembly's expectations for it. In August (see attachment) she brought to the outgoing Commission some ideas about how to increase the membership so there was enough horsepower to tackle the issues identified by the Assembly for implementation by the Commission in the Juneau Economic Development Plan. Because the Commission has no staff support, any activities it undertakes has to be done by its members as volunteers. Ms. VandeCastle said that she will ask Brian Holst, Executive Director of the JEDC to come to one of our meetings to see how he anticipates implementation of the plan playing out.

Ms. VandeCastle handed out the 2014 Annual Report and talked about the Commission's accomplishment, mode of operating, and how she fulfills her role as chair. Generally, the meetings tend to be somewhat informal, with input from any public attending accepted as the meetings progress. Because the Commission's role is to advise the Assembly, proposed items for submitting to the Assembly are brought up at one meeting to learn

about the issue with time to do some homework, prepare draft comments, etc., before action which is then taken at a subsequent meeting. The Assembly Rules and Procedures for Advisory Boards are in the CBJ Board Pamphlet which, hopefully, the new members will soon be receiving from the Clerk's office.

Ms. VandeCastle encouraged members to attend the Alaska Commission legislative tracking meetings described above by Ms. Darlin. The group suggested it would be good to have Ms. Darlin and perhaps Denise Daniello (Executive Director) to our November meeting to discuss potential legislation so that the Commission could submit a request to the Assembly to support those bills of greatest interest to seniors.

End of Life Care

Sue Nielsen followed up on last month's discussion about the importance for seniors to prepare for their, and their loved ones, end of life. She circulated copies of the Juneau Foundation for End of Life Care's (<http://www.foundationforendoflifecare.org>) 40-page booklet "When You're Not Here" (ISBN: 9780615229935, published in 2009). The booklet provides guidance with estate planning, what to do when there is a death in the family, how to cope with grief, etc. It offers advice on where to get help when a family member is dying. The book is not just about death, but also about preparing for loss. The booklet has two journals for recording important information that can be lost or difficult to obtain after someone dies. Having this information in one place, safely recorded can remove some of the stress and agony from losing a loved one.

The Foundation was established in 1997 as a non-profit to support Hospice and Home Care of Juneau. Dr. Hal Geiger, Board President would be happy to come and talk to the Commission (907) 723-3234. Sue is involved with the Juneau Widowed Persons Program (contact Sue Nielsen at 586-6424) and an annual Holiday Program "Grief, Loss and the Holidays" to be held, this year, on Thursday, November 12, in the Community Room at Fireweed Place, 415 Willoughby Ave, at 5:30pm.

CONCLUSION

Ms. Partlow reminded attendees to come to the annual Pancake Breakfast at the Senior Center on Monday October 19 (Alaska Day) from 9-11:30. Tickets are \$15 in advance, and \$13 at the door.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

ATTACHMENT

DRAFT (prepared by Pat Watt, 7/1/15)

Suggested changes to the Resolution establishing the Juneau Commission on Aging for discussion at the 7/9/15 Commission meeting.

Membership:

Expand the membership so that:

- The Commission is sufficiently large that it has a realistic chance of achieving its goals without significant City staff support
- The Commission has enough members that it can establish various subcommittees to tackle various tasks;
- Younger persons with experience in senior issues and reservoirs of energy can be appointed;
- The Commission includes key representatives from the organizations involved in planning and implementing senior service facilities and programs

Suggested makeup:

- _____ members 65 years of age or older;
- _____ members who may be under 65 years of age and have senior family members or are employed by an organization involved in the provision of services to seniors;
- _____ members who hold key positions in programs addressing the needs of seniors such as:
 - Southeast Senior Services of Catholic Community Services,
 - Senior Citizens Support Services, Inc
 - Bartlett Community Hospital
 - University of Alaska Southeast, Department of Health Sciences
 - Central Council of Tlingit and Haida
 - Juneau Economic Development Authority
 -

Powers and Duties:

Rework the Powers and Duties to better reflect the current intentions of the Assembly:

- (a) To promote programs which benefit and/or enhance the health, safety, and welfare of senior citizens in the City Borough of Juneau
- (b) To serve as a focal point for the coordination of planning for senior citizen services and facilities, and implementation of said plans, among the various Committees, Councils, Task Forces, Non-profit organizations, City Manager, and Assembly involved in such matters within the City and Borough of Juneau
- (c) To promote senior citizen participation in the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of facilities, services and programs designed to principally serve senior citizens
- (d) To collect, or promote the collection of, facts and statistics, and make studies of conditions and problems pertaining to the employment, health, financial security, social welfare, and other factors that bear upon the well-being of older Juneauites.
- (e) To make recommendations to the Assembly on how best to meet the needs of senior citizens living within the City and Borough of Juneau