

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING

City & Borough of Juneau

Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 12, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The Commission met at the Senior Center. Chairperson MaryAnn VandeCastle called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. Members present were: Pat Watt, Mary Lou Spartz, Dixie Hood, and Cliff Cole. Member Elizabeth Terry has resigned and Charles Wilson was absent. Also attending were Assembly member Jerry Nankervis, Marsha Partlow of Catholic Community Services (CCS), and Betty Cole.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the regular meeting on February 12 were approved.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED

Pat Watt attended the CBJ training for appointees to Boards and Commissions on February 24. She encouraged Commission members to review the Informational Pamphlet that is provided to all appointees, and periodically updated. This lengthy document provides essential guidance and rules of procedures for the various types of appointed bodies. The latest version is available on the CBJ website at http://www.juneau.org/clerk/boards/documents/2014-02_CBJ_FINAL_BOARD_PAMPHLET.pdf A detailed description of the Commission's purpose is online at http://www.juneau.org/clerk/boards/BCF_factsheet.php?UID=27

Dixie Hood and MaryAnn VandeCastle attended Assembly meetings on tax matters and senior benefits. MaryAnn continues to attend meetings of the Assisted Living Task Force.

PRESENTATION

Charles Wilson was not present as expected to discuss the Prema Home project, a proposed housing program for both seniors and homeless youth.

OLD BUSINESS

Older Americans Month: May is Older Americans Month. The Commission discussed ideas for celebrating and publicizing senior issues. MaryAnn has obtained a list of everyone who has served on the Juneau Commission on Aging. She will determine how many of these people are still in Juneau, and we will consider doing a catered lunch at the Senior Center to recognize their contribution. This would provide an opportunity to "pick their brains" as to what attracts seniors to stay in Juneau, and what might be improved. Mary Lou will research the possibility of doing some radio interviews. MaryAnn and Mary Lou will develop some short radio spots for Public Service Announcements, and see if we can get some publicity on local radio (such as Juneau Afternoon and Capital Chat.)

Senior Sales Tax Exemption: Mr. Nankervis provided a status report on the Assembly's work on the budget. The recommendations of the Tax Exemption Review Committee (TERC) have gone to the Finance Committee which is now developing its recommendations to go to the Assembly. The City Manager will present a proposed budget to the Assembly by April 1, and the Assembly will adopt a budget by mid June.

Commission Goals for 2015: The group reviewed the goals identified for 2014 and set priorities for 2015.

1. Help make Juneau an easier pace for seniors to live
2. Support development of assisted living and independent living senior housing in Juneau
3. Engage with community food programs to ensure seniors' needs are met
4. Improve seniors access to information resources
5. Draw attention to senior issues during Older Americans Month (May)
6. Increase participation in JCOA meetings
7. Advocate for lifelong learning opportunities at UAS
8. Begin an effort to obtain a larger, fully staffed, senior center for Juneau.

MaryAnn suggested we review these each month and identify next steps.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Vice-Chair: With Liz Terry's resignation, as well as having a vacancy, the Commission now lacks a Vice-Chair. No-one volunteered. Members were encouraged to advertise the vacancy.

Legislative Tracking: The Alaska Commission on Aging is following legislation impacting seniors, including the Senior Benefits program. The state Commission holds regular Legislative Teleconferences from Room 115 in the DHS&S building on Main Street on Thursday mornings. See <http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Pages/legislative/default.aspx> for the schedule.

Topics for Future Meetings:

- Dixie Hood requested that the Commission discuss taking a position on the relative reliance on property taxes over sales tax to produce revenue for the CBJ.
- It would be good to hear from Sarah Lewis of the Juneau office of the UAF Cooperative Extension Service to find out what services are available.
- The Commission is interested in the status of a potential empowered board to run Juneau's aquatic facilities, a knowledgeable speaker would be good.

CONCLUSION

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 14, at 9:30am at the Senior Center. MaryAnn committed to sending information about each upcoming meeting to Carol Comolli, site manager for the Juneau Senior Center, so that there is sufficient time for Carol to include it in the Senior Center's monthly newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.