JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING

City & Borough of Juneau

Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 12, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

The Commission met at the Senior Center. Chairperson MaryAnn VandeCastle called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Other members present: Elizabeth Terry, Dixie Hood, Pat Watt, and Marie Darlin. Mary Lou Spartz, attended part of the meeting by telephone. Member absent: Cliff Cole. Also attending were Jerry Nankervis, Dale Castle, Sioux Douglas, Diane Tigges, Marsha Partlow and Joan O'Keefe

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Sioux Douglas, Co-Chair of the Assisted Living for Seniors Task Force described the current status of the project to create an Assisted Living facility in Juneau. The project is being carried out under the non-profit umbrella of Senior Citizen Support Services, Inc., (SCSSI) with financial support from SCSSI, CBJ and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA). About a year ago a community meeting of about 120 persons met to consider senior housing needs, identified Assisted Living as a major unmet need, and many people volunteered to serve on committees. As a result, a consultant (Agnew Beck Consulting of Anchorage) was procured through the Juneau Economic Development Council to do a demand study that would determine the need for, and scope of, a potential Assisted Living facility. The consultants have held public workshops, conducted surveys, and done many interviews - their report is expected in early September. The project's Lands Committee has developed location requirements and identified land that might be available. 27 potential sites are being evaluated. The group is also identifying potential non-profit developers. One non-profit has already visited Juneau and met with the project steering committee. SAIL, under the umbrella of United Human Services of Southeast Alaska, is collaborating on the land search and developing hypothetical ideas for a senior services campus that would take advantage of economies of scale for efficient service delivery. A suggestion was offered that involvement of Habitat for Humanity, Community Gardens, the School District, and others might be fruitful. The Commission felt it was essential to look at innovations and/or successes of other Senior Centers in Alaska, to see what creative ideas might be adapted for Juneau's project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the regular meeting on May 8 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Older Americans Month. This was recognized in May and PSA ads were run on KJNO, KINY, MIX 106, and KXXJ. Also, Dee Longebaugh of The Observatory Bookstore read a review of the book *Two Old Women* by Velma Wallis on KTOO.

Food Pantries and Food Bank. Commissioners reported on their findings from visiting various food pantries. Not all pantries have been surveyed, so the report is incomplete. The report from the Food Summit the Commission sponsored in March is ready to be posted on the Commission website. The Food Bank is holding its Annual Meeting on Saturday, June16, from 12 to 1:30pm in the Mendenhall Mall Library Conference Room. MaryAnn and Dixie planned to attend.

Commission Membership: The terms of MaryAnn and Marie are up at the end of June. They were encouraged to reapply for a new term. The Assembly Human Resources Committee will make appointments for those two seats at its meeting on June 30.

Senior Services Resource Directory: The Assembly did not fund this project. The cost to print and mail is estimated at approximately $5,000. The Commission has the option to look for other methods, such as fundraising or finding a donor or sponsor. A Directory could be produced and made available solely on line. Absent staff support, the Commission did not feel it had the resources to bring this off.

NEW BUSINESS

Water and Sewer Rates: Dixie raised the issue of the impact of the water and sewer rate increase on low-income seniors. The Commission recognized this concern and discussed whether to convey it to the Assembly. On a split vote (3-2) the Commission decided it was too late to research the issue and still respond appropriately prior to the Assembly's action on June 30. Any item proposed for Commission action needs to be provided well ahead of time so the Commission has time to become fully informed before acting.

Commission Goals: The draft Goals circulated with the Agenda were reviewed and adopted with the addition of adding language to the goal "Help Make Juneau an Easier Place for Seniors to Live" by: (1) resolving food security issues for seniors, (2) addressing the need for hardship exemptions, and (3) improving transit services to cover holidays and weekends.

Annual Report: MaryAnn will present the Commission's Annual Report to the Assembly Human Resources Committee on June 30, summarizing activities for the year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Nankervis indicated he had decided to attend Commission meetings to learn about senior issues and observe the Commission, but he is not acting as Assembly liaison to the Commission.

CONCLUSION

There will be no Commission meeting in July. The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 14, at 9:30am at the Senior Center. At the meeting, officers will be elected for the coming year.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.