

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING

City & Borough of Juneau

Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 8, 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, Mary Lou Spartz, Pat Watt, Marie Darlin, Cliff Cole. Also attending were Barbara Sheinberg, Kirsten Shelton-Walker, Elizabeth Cole, Carol Comolli, Zach Hazid.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Barbara Sheinberg of Sheinberg Associates and Kirsten Shelton-Walker of the McDowell Group are consultants working for the Juneau Economic Development Council to develop a 10-year vision and strategic action plan for the community's economic future. The project is due to be completed in December. The consultants facilitated a very well attended town meeting last month and are now meeting with community organizations and leaders to gather information and insights. A telephone survey has been completed and online surveys are now open until the end of May on the project website – <http://www.juneaueconomicplan.org>. Currently, an economic baseline report is being finalized. All documents are being made available to the public on the project website. The consultants posed the following questions to the Commission:

- What is the definition of “economic well-being” for Juneau’s seniors?
- What are the barriers to seniors’ economic well being?
- What opportunities exist for moving to greater well being for seniors?
- How do we measure progress towards economic well being for seniors?
- What brought you to Juneau and what factors make you want to remain here?

Commission member responses covered numerous issues all of which were recorded by the consultants. Concerns included affordability, financial resources, housing, transportation, walkability, health care, arts and culture, community and family supports, and the natural environment. The growing number of seniors and their increasing longevity, as well as climate change, are factors that will play out over the next ten years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the regular meeting on February 20, the regular meeting on March 13, and the special meeting on March 20, were unanimously approved. The minutes of the regular meeting on April 7 were approved with one dissenting vote.

REPORT ON MEETINGS

Marie Darlin reported on the Power of Aging conference in Anchorage on May 1. The conference was very well attended and produced much useful information. A number of people including Pat Watt attended by videoconference. A report will be produced and made available on the Alaska Commission on Aging website - <http://dhss.alaska.gov/acoa/Pages/default.aspx>.

A follow-up symposium is planned for the fall of 2015 to focus on Senior Power at the Local Level.

OLD BUSINESS

Older Americans Month. This is recognized in May and PSA ads are being run on KJNO, KINY, MIX 106, and KXXJ for two weeks. Southeast MiniLube may sponsor the ads for an additional two weeks. Also, Dee Longebaugh of The Observatory Bookstore will read a review of the book *Two Old Women* by Velma Wallis on KTOO.

Food Pantries and Food Bank. MaryAnn VandeCastle provided a print-out (see attached) of the food pantries and other nutrition resources from the United Way website. Commission members will visit the food pantries during their normal hours and evaluate accessibility for seniors with various impairments. Results will be reported at the June meeting. Factors to be evaluated include:

- Stairs
- Lighting
- Signage
- Reachability of food on shelving
- Parking
- Accessibility of pantry doors to parking
- Curbs
- Availability of nutritional support beverages

Assisted Living project. Agnew-Beck, the consultant selected to do the demand survey has begun work and is doing a telephone survey. A public "Town Hall" type of meeting is also under consideration. Sioux Douglas, Co-Chair of the Assisted Living for Seniors Task Force will be at the Commission's June meeting to provide an update.

CONCLUSION

Next meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, at 9:30am at the Senior Center. The main agenda item will be reviewing and finalizing Commission goals. Members are asked to review last year's goals and consider priorities prior to the meeting.

Both Marie Darlin and MaryAnn VandeCastle are coming up on the end of their terms of appointment to the Commission. Both were urged to apply for reappointment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 am.