

Notes
Juneau Commission on Aging (JCOA)
July 20, 2021
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
612 W Willoughby Ave, Conference Room A &

There was not a quorum for this meeting.

Those present choose to stay in the zoom meeting to discuss future meeting times. While discussing future meeting time options a fifth commissioner joined the meeting after it was decided to cancel the regularly scheduled meeting for July. However, the group decided to give a brief update on topics of interest. The following is a brief outline with notes on what was discussed. Started approximately 10:45 AM.

Board Members Present: Emily Kane, Linda Kruger, Sue Warner, Jennifer Carson, Anne Stepetin

Board Members Absent: *Kathleen Samalon, Carol Ende, Christine Woll, Jan Beauchamp*

Others: Kristy Speciale, Beth McEwen, Lacey Davis

Proposed no August meeting and discussed a potential September meeting date: Tuesday, September 14th 10:30-11:30, board members are encouraged to meet in person for the September and October Meeting times. The October meeting time will potentially conflict with municipal voting period and the clerk will not be able to host the meeting.

While on the subject of meeting times the board was reminded by the clerk that all committee meetings are required to have a public announcement and the clerk must be informed in order to release a public announcement of the meeting.

Assisted Living/ Alternative Housing Subcommittee Update

The two subcommittees the Assisted Living and the Alternative Housing Subcommittee merged to better serve the assisted living needs. The committee is building ideas for alternative housing; a tiny home alternative for folks that are not yet on the housing waitlist; shared housing idea brought to JCOA by Janna Auger. There was a brief discussion about the work that Janna is doing and the amount of work that the JCOA is free to conduct around this idea. There was a reminder to the board that the importance of “cross pollination” with other sub-communities in Juneau is one major way to move these ideas forward. From a healthcare point-of-view communities need to consider ways to allow seniors to age in the home. Find ways to give seniors the assisted

JCOA Board Members: Carol Ende, Jennifer Carson, Janet Beauchamp, Sue Warner, Emily Kane, Linda Kruger, Kathleen Samalon, Ann Stepetin. Assembly liaison: Christine Woll.

living resources they need, in their home. How do you provide modifications? Consider reaching out to a specialist on both areas of need, hardware/physical modifications to the home and personnel/occupational therapy/in home care needs. This reveals a need for coordinated services a “Senior Navigator” of sorts to connect the senior to a trusted source to equip them with the assisted living needs as they age in the home. Research is needed on funding for this idea. Does medical insurance help pay for home modifications. What about Mental Health Trust Funding? Board members were asked to stay alert on potential funding sources.

Future Guest Ideas

1. Bartlet Occupational Therapist
2. Senior Friendly Contractors, possibly a list, Coogan Construction, Bicknell Construction, LowPete
3. Bill Heumann, Rich Harris, Travis Arendt, Constellation Development (Pre-Fab Condos)

Master Plan Subcommittee Update

The committee met with Nadine LaFebvre with the “Senior Voice” published by Old Persons Action Group. They are working on getting an article from the Juneau AARP group published. They also talked about researching other master plans that have been produced by the city as well as looking at other states/big cities that have an aging population for good examples on how to develop the JCOA outline for a Seniors Master Plan that focuses on making Juneau an age friendly city. The Blueprint Downtown master plan was brought up and the committee would like to reach out to the plan’s committee to better understand how to integrate a senior element into the plan. See <https://juneau.org/community-development/blueprint-downtown> for details.

It was mentioned by the clerk that the current CBJ master plan does include and consider seniors as part of the plan.