

**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

December 16, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held at or hosted from the  
Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers  
Juanita Helms Administration Center  
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK

This meeting will be conducted in-person and by zoom or zoom-only with consideration given to the Borough Operational Status and if the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public. Please visit <https://www.fnsb.gov/406/Boards-Commissions> or contact the Borough Clerk's Office (907) 459-1401.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. MESSAGES**

C.1. Citizens' Comments - limited to three (3) minutes

C.1.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

C.1.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

C.2. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (\*) on agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any Commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

**E. MINUTES**

**E.1. \*Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2021.**

Documents:

[11\\_18\\_2021\\_SCAC\\_MINUTES.pdf](#)

## **F. REPORTS**

- F.1. Report from Brian Charlton, Recreation Superintendent, Update on Senior Recreation and Other Activities.**
- F.2. Report from Dey Johnson, Transportation Manager, update on Senior Transportation and Van Tran.**
- F.3. Report from Commissioner Rosser and Commissioner Hunter on distribution efforts of the Senior Transportation Survey.**

## **G. NEW BUSINESS**

- G.1. Discussion of Outreach Efforts for suggestions for John A Carlson Community Activity Center activities.**
- G.2. Review and approve draft memorandum recommending the use of the unallocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the welfare of the FNSB Senior Citizens.**

Documents:

[SCAC ARPA MEMO.pdf](#)

- G.3. Review and approval of a draft letter to Mayor Ward recommending modification of the FNSB Community Research Quarterly Rental Housing Survey.**

Documents:

[SCAC ADA HOUSING MEMO.pdf](#)

## **H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

### **I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

### **J. ADJOURNMENT**

### **K. AUDIO FILES - SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

[12-16-2021 SCAC AUDIO TRACK 1](#)

[12-16-2021 SCAC AUDIO TRACK 2](#)

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH  
Senior Citizens Advisory Commission  
November 18, 2021  
12:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission was held Thursday, November 18, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

**ROLL CALL**

There were present appearing telephonically and in person:

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Marleyne Hunter                      | Carol Davila                           |
| Darlene Supplee                      | Michele Rosser                         |
| Goldie Southwood (Left at 1:15 p.m.) | Janice Whitton (Arrived at 12:10 p.m.) |
| Barbara Sevier (Left at 1:15 p.m.)   | Denise Daniello, Chair                 |

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Jessica Mower, Administrative Assistant III, Clerk  
Michelle Leonard, Acting Parks and Recreation Superintendent  
Dey Johnson, Transportation Manager

Absent

Karen Wood, Vice-Chair

**MESSAGES**

1.a. Citizen's Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.

NONE

1.b. Citizen's Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.

NONE

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

DAVILA,  
Seconded by HUNTER

moved to approve the agenda and consent  
agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses: Southwood, Hunter, Rosser, Davila,  
Sevier, Supplee, Whitton, Daniello

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 7 Yeses, 0 Noes

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. \*Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2021.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

## **REPORTS**

1. Report from Michelle Leonard, Acting Parks and Recreation Superintendent

Michelle Leonard, Acting Parks and Recreation Superintendent, provided updates on the Senior and adaptive programs and hiring efforts for the department's superintendent.

Chair Daniello requested a progress update on senior exercise classes at the Carlson Center.

Commissioner Rosser mentioned a potential need for outreach efforts to seniors for activities or events they would like to see at the Carlson Center.

2. Report from Michele Rosser, Darlene Supplee, and Marleyne Hunter on location Senior Transportation surveys.

Commissioner Rosser and Commissioner Supplee stated printing dates would be decided today, North Pole Senior Center location update and outreach to the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner resulting in a future article on the transportation survey.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1. Approve Final Senior Transportation Survey

Discussion ensued on readability between color and black-and-white, minor clerical edits and distribution options for printed brochures.

WHITTON, moved to approve Final Senior  
Seconded by DAVILA Transportation Survey as-is adding  
Borough logo and coupon.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE FINAL SENIOR TRANSPORTATION SURVEY AS-IS  
ADDING BOROUGH LOGO AND COUPON.

Yeses: Supplee, Sevier, Davila, Southwood,  
Rosser, Hunter, Whitton, Daniello

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Consider a request from Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Group to the commission asking for assistance on drafting a letter to the administration requesting access to Americans with Disabilities Act accessible housing data in Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Chair Daniello explained the nature of the request. Discussion ensued on the drafted memorandum.

- 2. Discussion on recommendations to the Administration on use of the American Rescue Plan Act funds for the welfare of senior citizens that are within the limited powers of a second-class Borough.

Chair Daniello provided an overview of the history of this item and suggested some priorities to focus on. Discussion ensued on the potential priorities to suggest for the funding and how to obtain data to find direction for recommending the funding.

### **NEW BUSINESS - continued**

3. Discussion and consideration of extending duration of meetings to an hour and a half.

Discussion ensued on longer meeting times and the need for flexibility with schedules.

### **EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

NONE

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Whitton commented on her availability concerns with Thursday meetings.

Commissioner Hunter requested pushing the start time of meetings an hour later.

Commissioner Supplee commented on the discussion of moving the date or time of the meeting as many applied for appointment knowing the current meeting schedule.

Chair Daniello wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.



# Fairbanks North Star Borough

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY  
Division of Boards and Commissions

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Main: (907) 459-1401  
Fax: (907) 459-1224

December 16, 2021

Mayor Bryce Ward  
907 Terminal Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Subject: Recommendation for use of the unallocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the welfare of FNSB Senior Citizens

The FNSB SCAC met on November 18, 2021 and held a discussion regarding recommendations to the Administration for use of unallocated ARPA funds to address the needs of older adults living in the Borough. Based on our understanding, the FNSB Assembly advanced ordinance 2021-20-1D on September 23, 2021 which approved acceptance of \$18.8 million in ARPA funds for the Borough and allocated roughly \$12 million for Borough projects, leaving \$6.75 million unallocated for future budget deliberations by the Assembly and Administration. Regarding utilization of the unallocated ARPA funds, the FNSB SCAC believes that the Borough work to improve transit services for Fairbanks seniors using a small amount of the ARPA funds to produce a Coordinated Transportation Plan. Reliable and safe transportation is vital for all of us, but especially for seniors who do not drive, and connects our older people to senior programs and activities provided by the FNSB, as well as the means to make other essential trips. An allocation to enhance senior transit services would promote the welfare of the growing number of seniors living in the FNSB and falls within the powers of our second-class Borough.

**Senior Transportation, Investment in a FNSB Coordinated Transportation Plan.** The FNSB SCAC, in collaboration with the FNSB Parks and Recreation Department, are in the process of distributing a Senior Transportation Survey, from December 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 (survey attached). The purpose of this survey is to gather data from seniors regarding their transportation needs, particularly older adults who no longer drive. Older people require reliable, affordable, and safe transportation to medical appointments, activities, visits to family and friends, and community life which are essential for senior health and well-being. Transportation has been particularly problematic during the pandemic as some providers have limited this service due to workforce shortages and for healthy/safety reasons, leaving seniors who do not drive with few options to get to their destinations.

According to the [2019 FNSB Senior Needs Assessment](#) (p.26), transportation was identified as one of the highest needs for seniors by FNSB provider interviews. The FNSB senior population is projected to peak in 2025 and continue to grow slowly through 2045. In 2019, the FNSB



provided approximately 133,000 MACS senior trips annually (or 182/daily) and Van Tran provided 1,000 trips/year (including seniors and people with disabilities). Unfortunately, current data regarding senior rides from the Transportation Department is not available because no fares have been charged since the pandemic, which is the main criteria the Department uses to identify its senior passengers. According to the projection in the FNSB Senior Needs Assessment, the average number of MACS senior rides is expected to increase to 231 daily by 2035, an increase of 49 daily rides from 2019. There are few options to compensate for this increase as there is no additional capacity for the door-to-door Van Tran service and accessible taxis are limited in the Borough.

A borough-wide Coordinated Transportation Plan between all agencies providing senior transportation services is needed to reduce duplication of effort and to maximize limited funding for our growing senior population's transit needs. This Plan would help to coordinate scheduling, purchase insurance, vehicle maintenance, make bulk fuel purchases, and address other logistics to reduce burden on transportation providers who are at or over capacity, including Van Tran. The SCAC recommends that the FNSB contract with a consultant to convene transportation providers to produce a workable coordinated transportation plan that could effectively increase ridership at the lowest cost. Findings from the senior survey can be used to inform development of this plan by identifying specific unmet senior transportation needs, areas in the Borough most affected, and explore suggestions from seniors and the FNSB Transportation Department of ways to improve services. The survey findings will be shared with the Administration as well.

We appreciate your consideration of this recommendation as we work together to improve the quality of life for our growing senior population. Please let me know if you would like further information. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Denise Daniello  
FNSB Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Chair





# Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY  
Division of Boards and Commissions

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Main: (907) 459-1401  
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December 17, 2021

Mayor Bryce Ward  
Juanita Helms Administration Center  
907 Terminal St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Subject: Recommendation to Modify the FNSB Community Research Quarterly Rental Housing Survey

Dear Mayor Ward,

Affordable and accessible housing is an ongoing senior concern, according to the [FNSB Senior Needs Assessment](#) (pp 43-46), for people who are capable of living on their own but whose current housing no longer works for them due to costly maintenance while living on a fixed income and/or deemed unsafe for an older person with mobility limitations. According to the FNSB Senior Needs Assessment, an additional 149 senior accessible units are needed by 2025 in order to keep pace with current utilization trends.

During our October 21, 2021 meeting, the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission heard a presentation from the Senior Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP) workgroup, sponsored by Foundation Health Partners, regarding senior needs identified in the Borough. One area of concern discussed is the need for more affordable independent living rental housing options for seniors who are able to live on their own but require accessible housing accommodations in order to continue living safely at home. Efforts to develop new housing projects have been unsuccessful due to costs however, improving access to state grants would help to offset some of the capital and operating costs of projects designed to be affordable senior housing. Applying for grants to build new affordable and accessible senior housing requires data that demonstrates the need. While the FNSB completes rental unit vacancy surveys on a quarterly basis, the survey used does not ask the landlord if their vacant unit is accessible and could accommodate someone with disabilities. This data would be valuable to perspective developers, in addition to nonprofit organizations applying for grants, as it would provide a more accurate assessment of vacant rental housing available for an older person and others with mobility impairments that could be used to document the need for accessible rental housing in our community.



Because of changing Borough demographics, and the fact that many seniors are choosing to remain in Fairbanks during their retirement years, the need for ADA or universal design housing has and will continue to increase. Anecdotally, the rental complexes that have ADA-style housing appropriate for seniors have long waiting lists. There is a lack of good information regarding what portion of FNSB's rental housing stock is suitable for seniors and others with mobility limitations. For developers considering whether to pursue projects in Fairbanks, or for social service agencies considering applying for grants to help offset the costs of project development, it would be helpful to have data regarding (1) what portion of FNSB's stock is ADA appropriate and of that stock, (2) what are the average vacancy rates. We recommend that the Community Research Quarterly's rental survey be modified to ask these two questions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if you would like further information.

Sincerely,

Denise Daniello  
Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Chairperson