

A light blue silhouette of a water tower on a wooden structure, with a line extending from the tower to a cluster of trees on the right. The background is white.

**City of Palmer, Alaska  
Joint City Council and  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Board**

**July 11, 2017, at 6 PM**

City Council Chambers

231 W. Evergreen Avenue, Palmer

[www.cityofpalmer.org](http://www.cityofpalmer.org)

## **Agenda**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Approval of Agenda
- E. Audience Participation
- F. New Business
  - 1. Committee of the Whole (note: action may be taken by the council following the committee of the whole)
    - a. Connecting Trails and Walkability
    - b. Projects that Enhance Palmer's History
    - c. Arts and Cultural Projects
    - d. Parks
- G. Record of Items Placed on the Table
- H. Council and Commission Member Comments
- I. Adjournment



## Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Board

CHAIR	Meggie Aube-Trammell
VICE CHAIR	Jan Newman
BOARD MEMBER	Stephanie Allen
BOARD MEMBER	Jo Ehmann
BOARD MEMBER	Dot Helm
BOARD MEMBER	FRAN SEAGER-BOSS
BOARD MEMBER	Shannon Connelly

May 2, 2017

Palmer City Council  
231 W. Evergreen Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Council Members;

It is with much enthusiasm that the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Advisory Board (PRCRAB) recommends that the city council move forward with the application process to the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities.

The PRCRAB has been actively working towards a cohesive long-range plan for Palmer. Our vision includes outdoor spaces free of crime and vandalism, accessible, clean, attractive spaces that accommodate persons with a range of mobility and abilities, with services and amenities nearby. To make this vision a reality, we believe the city needs to include public transportation, increased pedestrian and bicycle safety and well-marked signage and roadway design. We envision a city where people can choose where they want to live as their needs change. We also envision a Palmer where people have information about events, activities, services, and resources that help them stay connected, where people can participate in a wide range of activities (cultural, leisure, recreational) that bring generations together.

The vision the PRCRAB holds is in perfect alignment with the AARP Age Friendly Communities. As an age friendly city, safety and quality of life will improve for all. Affordable housing built in mixed use neighborhoods, along with added public transportation will allow seniors to age in place and continue to be physically active, mentally involved, and socially connected. The city's present interest in improving crosswalks, sidewalks, street lighting, and bikability should be strengthened and expedited, as it would result in making our streets safer for young and old, pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.

We can see that there are several benefits to the city's membership in the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities. Foremost, membership would provide national recognition of Palmer as a state leader in creating place based aging, and age friendly communities. The program would allow the City of Palmer the opportunity to design and implement a plan for the future based on the goals of the community. Additionally, city staff would have access to a global network of participating communities, as well as experts that can assist with implementation. Finally, AARP would provide city staff

with the latest information regarding funding opportunities, challenges and best practices related to the Network of Age Friendly Communities.

Just as Age Friendly Palmer will accommodate people of all ages and walks of life, it will take a broad coalition to move this effort forward to a successful conclusion. Becoming an Age Friendly Community requires wide spread community support and a shared mindset that must be incorporated into every phase of life – the way we design our parks, our streets, our neighborhoods and more. We as a Board believe that together we can lay the foundation for Palmer to thrive as an Age Friendly Community for generations to come.

The next step in the process is to submit a membership application accompanied by a letter of commitment signed by our Mayor. We encourage you to act swiftly towards this end with the knowledge that the PRCRAB would actively participate in this shared goal.

Sincerely,



Jan Newman, Vice Chair  
Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Board