

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, August 16, 2016
2:00 p.m.

The Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting and that all deliberations of the Senior Citizens Advisory Panel, which resulted in formal action, were taken in a meeting open to the general public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairperson, Mr. Ken Gauntner, opened the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Present

Members: Ken Gauntner, Tom Dreher, Ellen Cantor, and Frank Doberdruk.

Staff: Donna Tyson and Kathy Russo

Also Present: Ms. Alyea Barajas

Via Telephone: Jason Boyd

Absent: Joel DiMare, Jr., Spence Kline

Mr. Ken Gauntner introduced and welcomed Ms. Alyea Barajas as the new Senior Levy Coordinator and stated she will begin on August 22, 2016 and he looks forward to working with her.

Public Comments -none.

Correspondence –none.

2016 Financial Review

Mrs. Tyson provided a copy of the Financial Review to the Panel and stated that currently there is \$1.1 million in the 244 account. Mrs. Tyson explained in detail the financial report; a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mr. Gauntner asked if the carryover was larger than in previous years. Mrs. Tyson responded that it is larger. The estimated carryover for 2017 is \$347,231.12 and the estimated 2017 revenue is \$2.8 million. Mrs. Tyson stated the Senior Levy is due to expire at the end of 2017. Mr. Dreher stated there needs to be further discussion of the study and the consideration of expansion of the necessary services that were found in the study. Mrs. Cantor agreed with the findings of the study and implementation of some of the findings and looking into food insecurities of the senior population. The Panel discussed a review of the Senior Levy ballot language after the first of the year.

Mrs. Tyson stated the next Senior Coalition meeting will be held Friday, October 28th at 9:00 a.m., Mr. Larry Harpster will present a brief 2-hour ALICE training to the Coalition and they will discuss the levy at that time. Mr. Boyd stated there is a work session scheduled with the Board of Commissioners next week and part of the discussion will be on the Senior Levy. He would follow up with the Panel on the results of the discussion.

Mrs. Cantor asked for clarification on contingency requests. Mrs. Tyson responded that if a center were to inquire about contingency fund assistance, their responsibility would be 50%.

Mr. Dreher asked what the total number of granted contingency requests is from its inception and requested a report of total funding during the history of the program. Mrs. Tyson responded there have been five requests with the largest amount granted of \$50,000 to the Council on Aging Meals on Wheels Program and she would provide a breakdown of funding to him. Mr. Gauntner stated that the Probate Court has inquired about funding for their Senior Guardianship Program. Mr. Boyd explained the Commissioners recently completed a feasibility study with Lutheran Ministries in regard to expanding a Senior Guardianship Program but funding for this study came out of the general fund. He stated he will continue to meet with various department heads to discuss several programs. The Panel discussed the balance of the contingency fund and whether there is a need to continue to maintain the current amount. Mrs. Cantor stated that while the progress of the program has been slow, there has been a greater sense of accountability and now might be a good time to look into the expansion of the program. Mr. Dreher stated Ms. Barajas would be the best resource for information on the contingency fund and which programs are in greatest need.

2017 Senior Levy Requests

Mrs. Tyson provided the Panel with a detailed report on each of the Centers requests and reviewed the requests with them. Mr. Dreher asked if all the centers had complied with submitting the reports. Mrs. Tyson stated that there were two centers with discrepancies in need of correction and overall, all the Finance and Senior Center directors complied with their portion of the report. Mr. Gauntner commented that the questionnaire will be very helpful in moving forward. Mrs. Tyson reviewed the requests and stated all but Kirtland, Willowick, and Mentor Senior Centers have requested their first half funding. Mrs. Tyson stated that the questionnaire this year is more specific than in the past. Mr. Boyd stated that there will be more responsibility on the centers to breakdown their need for funding. Mrs. Tyson referred the Panel to the summary submitted by Ms. Kristen Cane of RSVP on how she should report her accomplishments with the many hours their volunteers put in. Mrs. Tyson responded to Ms. Cane that she should report monthly the number of volunteers and the hours they serve as well as the age group RSVP is assisting. Mr. Dreher stated he is currently a volunteer for RSVP and they are required to complete monthly volunteer forms that include the location of their services, the volunteers hours performed, and the event or function for that volunteer time.

Ms. Barajas asked if the RSVP volunteers are only seniors and if they only serve agencies dealing with seniors. Mr. Dreher stated that there are volunteers of all ages and not all of the services are geared toward seniors.

Mrs. Cantor stated studies have shown that older individuals who volunteer are in better health and tend to spend less money for healthcare costs.

Mrs. Tyson gave an update on a discussion she had with the Perry Senior Center Director. Ms. Znidarsic stated that they are interested in beginning a pilot program that would offer respite care for seniors that have loved one at home in need of care, allowing the member to leave the home for several hours.

Mr. Boyd stated that there seems to be some disconnect in communication between fiscal officers and senior center directors.

Mrs. Tyson referred to the Willowick Senior Center and their interest in beginning a pilot program by opening the center on Saturdays. The Panel discussed possible changes to the guidelines for the use of funds by the Centers. Mrs. Tyson asked the Panel to review the reports submitted and give their input and then herself, Mr. Boyd and Ms. Barajas, will meet to review them in detail.

Old Business – Mr. Boyd explained that the decision was made to put the previously discussed collaborative program on hold at this time to allow new Senior Citizens Coordinator, Ms. Barajas time to review the program.

New Business – none.

Adjournment

Mr. Dreher moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m. and Mr. Doberdruk seconded the motion.

All voted “Aye”.

*The next meeting will be held October 18, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.