

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
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.

The Chair, Mr. Ken Gauntner, opened the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Present

Members: Tom Dreher, Ken Gauntner, Spence Kline and Frank Doberdruk.

Staff: Jason Boyd, Joel DiMare, Jr., Donna Tyson and Jennifer Bell. Ellen Cantor was absent.

Minutes

Mr. Doberdruk moved to approve the minutes with the correction of a last name spelling and salutation on Page 3 of the March 18, 2015 minutes as submitted, and Mr. Kline seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

Motion carried.

Correspondence

Mr. Boyd reported there was none at this time.

Senior Study Update

Mr. Boyd reported that he recently met with Perry to clarify the senior study that is taking place to the community leaders. He likened the study to a comprehensive plan stating that this is an all-inclusive project for any agency that provides services to the senior community. He has received positive feedback and further explained that once the results are reported it will inform us on what direction we need to go in the future.

Mr. Boyd explained that surveys were mailed out to 5,000 households and the target was to receive 500 back. To date, over 2,400 surveys have been returned. The consultant, MCS has never seen anything like this response. The data received is being input and sent to a statistician.

Mr. Gauntner thought that the data should be fairly accurate since the response has been so great.

Mr. Boyd explained that 5 focus groups were established and they all have met to discuss various topics related to the Lake County senior citizen population. The five groups are; Basic Needs, Social and Civic Engagement, Physical and Mental Health and Well Being, Independence for Frail and Disabled Seniors, and Users of Current Levy-Supported Agencies. The consultant is compiling the information from these meetings and researching other communities in Ohio with senior levies.

Mr. Boyd presented a senior center membership map indicating where seniors reside and which senior center they visit. A map was also shown indicating the population projection. The question asked will be is the levy sufficient enough to meet the future demands. A draft of the results of the rest of the study should be available for the August 18, 2015 Advisory Panel meeting. He has been briefing the Commissioners on the project and is confident that the final report will be a guide for the future.

Mr. Gauntner asked if this information would be given to the senior centers and Mr. Boyd replied absolutely. The entire process and results are transparent.

Mr. Kline asked about centralized versus de-centralized senior centers?

Mr. Boyd stated that all of the senior centers in Geauga County are under the Department of Aging and that information will be included in the study.

2016 Levy Fund Request Review

Mr. Boyd reported the Lake County Senior Citizens levy will be on the ballot in 2016. The estimated levy fund revenue for 2016 is \$2.6 million, which is a slight increase over last year and there is a \$500,000 cap in the contingency amount.

Mr. Boyd stated that the centers continue to familiarize themselves with the funding request forms. He mentioned that United Way and CDBG have processes where agencies must apply for funds and they are awarded and paid out on a reimbursement basis. He thought that the creation and use of a formalized agreement would be appropriate in this situation since taxpayer funds are involved. A contract can be entered into annually. The idea is making this reimbursable with up to a 50% allocation but a report must show that the funding was spent appropriately. To reiterate, the two ideas are a formalized contract, or a reimbursement-based request possibly requiring a monthly progress report that would be directed toward the person who handles the senior center financials.

Mr. Doberdruk asked if there were any questions about non-discretionary funds? Mr. Boyd replied that it could be noted on the application.

Mr. Dreher stated that the contract could be what is needed to obtain the applicants compliance with the application process. He endorses the idea with the stipulation of explaining why a contract is required, which would be to provide information to the Senior Citizen Advisory Panel in order for the Panel to assist the Centers with their goals. The report is a good idea to be sure the funding is spent on legitimate items.

Mr. Kline stated that the average taxpayer would probably want a contract to protect the tax money. The CDBG process is fair and he thought it was a good idea.

Mr. Dreher stated that recipients of the money should be required to participate in the process. If they do not participate then they should not be funded.

Mr. Boyd understands the concern and stated that he would mention this concern to the Commissioners.

Mr. Boyd stated that it sounds like the Panel members are in agreement and approve of some type of contract to be implemented. He will reach out to the Senior Coalition and informing them what is coming down the line.

Ms. Tyson explained the timeline for the 2016 Levy Fund Requests. All recipients should receive the applications by June 1, 2015, with the submittal date for all applications being July 1, 2015. Applications will be reviewed August 18, 2015, with a recommendation being given to the Commissioners for their review, and an amount will be determined by October. A contract will not come into play until April of next year.

Mr. Gauntner asked about sub-recipient agreements.

Mr. Boyd replied that the agreements could ask for the benefits and/or accomplishments of the centers and any collaboration between them. The forms are to be filled out by the finance directors. The contract would hold everyone accountable.

Old Business – none

New Business

Mr. Boyd reported that the County purchased the Painesville Senior Center building on May 1, 2015. The center has 12 months to find another location. The purchase of this property contributes to the long-term County office plans to consolidate many satellite County offices into one location. The Painesville Senior Center Board agreed to the acquisition.

Adjournment

Mr. Kline moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 p.m. and Mr. Doberdruk seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

The next meeting will be held August 18, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.