

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, August 18, 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 2:03 p.m.

Present

Members: Ellen Cantor, Tom Dreher, Ken Gauntner, Spence Kline and Frank Doberdruk.
Staff: Jason Boyd, Joel DiMare, Jr., and Donna Tyson and Jennifer Bell.

Minutes

Mr. Doberdruk moved to approve the May 19, 2015 minutes as submitted and Mr. Kline seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".
Motion carried.

Correspondence

Mr. Boyd reported that there are no correspondences at this time.

Senior Study - Update

Mr. Boyd presented an update on the Senior Study. He reported that everything is on track with MCS Consultants and he suggested a possible meeting in late September to review the draft. There was a 50% response rate for the surveys and membership mapping is complete. Adult protection services is noted in the document and a geographic distribution of where senior center clients come from creating an informative demographic breakdown per community. There will be plenty of data available for the County that will be useful to many other organizations in the County. Mr. Boyd mentioned that the way Lake County provides services to seniors is very different than other areas around the State. Dr. Marlene Stoiber of MCS contacted all 23 Lake County communities for the survey, held stakeholders meetings that were well-attended, and met with all the senior centers, Council on Aging and RSVP. A lot of good feedback was received and they appreciated having their voices heard. The methodology was well done.

Mr. Gauntner asked when MCS does the final presentation will it be with the Senior Panel members and the Commissioners and will a document be available?

Mr. Boyd thought that was a good idea.

Ms. Cantor thought that this survey could benefit groups such as United Way and the YMCA.

Mr. Boyd replied that the formal presentation will be held in late September.

2015 Second Half Levy Distribution

Ms. Tyson reported that revenues are up by \$145,000. This may be the last year for the Homestead rollback. Council on Aging received 50% of the low award in April. Ms. Tyson stated that \$2.7 million is available for the second half distribution, and about \$1.3 million was expensed out. The balance of the high-end award is \$1,353,702.00. Property tax has stabilized according to the Auditor's Office. This leaves a balance of \$9,389.46 after payment of the second half award based on the high end. There is \$500,000 in the contingency fund if needed. At this point the contingency fund is okay but there are impending capital items that will need to be addressed at some centers.

Mr. Gauntner replied that it was a good idea to set aside money for an emergency.

Ms. Tyson further explained that the first half rollback was \$166,190.95 and if the second half rollback is the same it would give us \$175,580.41 if unappropriated funds so we need to determine how to distribute these funds at the end of the year.

Mr. Gauntner thought that by the October meeting there should be a better idea of what the ending amount will be.

Ms. Cantor stated that she was not comfortable with building repairs, especially if they are city buildings. She thought that the municipalities should have the responsibility for the repairs.

Mr. Boyd stated when the contingency guidelines were created a match is required for projects, but this can be re-visited.

Ms. Cantor replied that she would like this to be explained clearly because there seems to be many requests for HVAC, flooring and other capital improvements. She would like to see the money go for something like Adult Protective Services.

Ms. Tyson replied that the levy recipients were told to submit their proposals for a portion of the contingency funds.

Mr. Gauntner called for a motion to approve the second half levy distribution for all the levy recipients except the Madison Senior Center.

Mr. Dreher moved to approve the second half levy distribution for all the levy recipients except Madison as submitted and Mr. Kline seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

Motion carried.

Mr. Gauntner called for a motion to approve the second half levy distribution for the Madison Senior Center.

Mr. Dreher moved to approve the second half levy distribution for the Madison Senior Center as submitted and Mr. Kline seconded the motion.

Ms. Ellen Cantor, Mr. Tom Dreher, Mr. Spence Kline and Mr. Frank Doberdruk voted "Aye".

Mr. Gauntner "Abstain".

Motion carried.

2016 Levy Fund Requests

Mr. Boyd reported that budget requests were sent out in June and they have been received. Last year they were talked through the new process.

Mr. DiMare reported that the total allocation is estimated to be approximately \$2.6 million and this is not the last year for the Homestead rollback, but it will not be around in a few years. This is a conservative amount.

Mr. Boyd stated that the Painesville Senior Center is actively looking to relocate in the City of Painesville. They have until April 30, 2016 to vacate the property. It was noted that some senior center's requests decreased from the previous year. It looks like there was more attention to the "local match" portion of the form. Some of the centers asked for less money than the previous year.

Mr. Dreher reported that he reviewed some of the requests and stated that he still noticed that many sections were left blank on the forms for some of the centers. Mr. Dreher did not understand the increases in employer benefits and salaries in some of the forms and thought that at least zeros be put in the columns instead of leaving them blank in order to make a financial analysis.

Mr. Dreher distributed a list of local organizations that provide food banks, food preparation centers, and meal services in Lake County to the members of the Panel for their information. It is helpful to be aware of what is available for people.

Mr. Kline stated that 211 has an extensive food bank list as well.

Mr. Boyd reported that the state and federal age for senior citizens is higher than Lake County so maybe it is time to increase the age to 60 or 65 and not 55. It was mentioned that the State senior citizen eligibility age is 62 and the age for the Older Americans Act is 65. The demand is so high and revenues are flat that maybe eligibility needs to change. Mr. Boyd asked the members how they would like to proceed.

Mr. Dreher stated that he would like more time to review the requests in more detail and Mr. Gauntner agreed. There was discussion on the information that was or was not provided in the forms pertaining to participation rates, salaries and benefits, and collaboration.

Ms. Tyson stated that a new line in the budget worksheet could be added for the Panel's recommendation.

Mr. Boyd stated some big picture items coming out of the survey is about senior housing and the ability to keep people in their homes that is a long-term objective. The resources are going down and the demand is going up.

Mr. Gauntner stated that keeping seniors in their homes and in-home health care services will become a huge issue.

Mr. Cantor stated that it would be something to strive for in the future and a good opportunity where organizations could collaborate with each other. She is anxious to see the report and is interested in a Department of Aging that would be accountable and would know all the resources and programs available. Basic needs is also a top priority.

Mr. Boyd requested that the Panel's recommendations be submitted to Ms. Tyson by August 28, 2015. The numbers will be consolidated and resent out, and if there is concurrence we can go from there.

Mr. Gauntner stated that grass cutting and snow plowing are considered in-kind services and should be included on the form.

Mr. Boyd stated next year it may be recommended to begin a reimbursement program similar to CDBG funds.

Old Business - none

New Business

Mr. Boyd stated that the final MCS report will be forthcoming.

Adjournment

Mr. Dreher moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. and Mr. Doberdruk seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

The next meeting will be held October 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.