

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
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. Gauntner, opened the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Present

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

Staff: Alyea Barajas, Donna Tyson, and Kathy Russo

Absent: Ellen Cantor, Jason Boyd

From the Public: Mr. Joey Tomsick from Council on Aging, Ms. Carol Billetter from the Madison Senior Center and Ms. Denise Powell, Director, and Ms. Leona Shang, Outreach Specialist from the Painesville Senior Center

Public Comments -none.

Nomination and Election of 2018 Officers

Mr. Gauntner stated that, according to the by-laws, every two years a new chairperson and vice chairperson must be elected. He stated he would accept nominations from the Board for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Dreher nominated and moved for Mr. Frank Doberdruk as Chairperson, Mr. Kline seconded the nomination.

Vote: "Ayes": Mr. Gauntner, Mr. Dreher, and Mr. Kline

Abstain: Mr. Doberdruk

Motion carried.

Mr. Doberdruk nominated and moved for Mr. Tom Dreher as Vice-Chair, Mr. Kline seconded the nomination.

Vote "Ayes": Mr. Gauntner, Mr. Doberdruk, and Mr. Kline

Abstain: Mr. Dreher

Motion carried.

Approval of June 20, 2017 and August 15, 2017 minutes:

Mr. Doberdruk stated that there is not a majority to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2017 and August 15, 2017, therefore they will be placed onto the next meeting agenda.

Approval of October 17, 2017 minutes:

Mr. Dreher moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2017, Mr. Gauntner seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: Ayes: All ayes
Motion carried.

Correspondence –

- Mrs. Barajas provided and reviewed a letter that was received from Mr. Brian Massie – “Lobbyists for Citizens”. He had questions regarding the use of the Senior Levy Funds by several agencies. She explained that she provided Mr. Massie with the information that she had available. She suggested and he did speak with Mr. Tomsick from Council on Aging and RSVP. Mr. Dreher asked if someone had replied to Mr. Massie’s letter and he (Mr. Dreher) expressed his concern over several comments mentioned in the letter. Mrs. Barajas stated that Mr. Boyd met with Mr. Massie for quite some time to discuss his concerns. Mr. Dreher offered to speak with Mr. Massie to further explain the vital services that Council on Aging and RSVP provide to the senior citizens of Lake County.
- Mr. Tomsick from Council on Aging was present and reviewed the letter that his agency had submitted to the Board of Commissioners regarding the Senior Levy funding. Mr. Tomsick explained that, in many instances, there will be an expansion and enhancement of existing programs and services. Mr. Tomsick reviewed the new home modification and maintenance, potential partnership proposal with WRDC (Western Reserve Community Development Corporation). He explained that they are experts at major repair services for low income residents presently. The addition of a senior citizens program would be a relatively easy transition to WRDC and they would be permitted to use levy dollars with less restrictions than if it were funded by the federal government. The proposal will be presented to the Board of Commissioners by mid-March for their approval to hopefully begin the program by April 2, 2018. Mr. Tomsick added that many seniors live in mobile homes which are typically in need of major repairs. CDBG funding does not allow for work in mobile homes but the levy funds would allow for these types of repairs to be done for seniors living in mobile homes. He stated that they are working on a prescreening form. Mr. Kline commended Mr. Tomsick on the great work that they have done in getting this program underway and transitioned over to WRDC.

Presentation:

Ms. Denise Powell, Painesville Senior Center Director and Ms. Leona Shang, Program Outreach Coordinator at the Painesville Senior Center, were present and provided the Panel with a detailed update of their new Outreach Program. They explained the many capabilities these programs have to reach seniors who are homebound, working or unable to get to the center. They contracted out to have a strategic plan prepared and modeled it after “Seniors: Today, Tomorrow and in the Future”. They have been able to implement several programs. She stated that they were able to identify 32 working community components that are willing to support the Painesville Senior Center in some capacity with these programs. Ms. Powell complimented Ms. Shang on her hard work getting these programs off the ground.

She also gave an update on the NRP Development Corporation which has proposed to build a new 76 unit senior living residence located on Mentor Avenue near the Painesville YMCA. The design includes a freestanding community center which may be offered to the Painesville Senior Center for use. Mr. Doberdruk inquired whether there might be an issue with comingling State and County funding. Ms. Powell responded that should not be an issue and they are currently working on the terms. Mr. Gauntner complimented Ms. Powell and Ms. Shang for thinking out of the box to keep seniors engaged. Mr. Dreher stated that the intensity of these programs is incredible and will benefit the county greatly. He thanked Ms. Powell and Ms. Shang for their efforts.

Senior Services Coordinator Updates:

Mrs. Barajas reviewed several topics:

Contingency Fund Approvals

Mrs. Barajas updated the Panel on the following contingency request approvals:

- Willowick Senior Center in October, 2017 in the amount of \$10,196.25 for Fire Alarm upgrades
- RSVP in January, 2018 in the amount of \$5,835 for the purchase of 2,000 Deterra Drug Disposal bags. They will be hosting an Opioid Drug Presentation at several area senior centers in the near future in conjunction with the ADAMHS Board (a copy of the schedule was provided to the Panel)
- Council on Aging in January, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$69,750. for parking lot repairs. Mrs. Barajas explained that they will utilize the maximum allowable of \$50,000 from their 2017 permitted allotment and \$19,750 from 2018. The Panel discussed the project and funding options that were available for this project.

2018 Levy Priorities

- Mrs. Barajas stated that, as previously discussed, she has had several meetings regarding APS (Adult Protective Services), Guardianship, and home repair initiatives. She hopes to implement APS (Adult Protective Services) and the home repair initiative sometime in April.
- She is in the process of arranging a meeting regarding non-medical home health care services sometime in the next week and looks forward to setting up meetings to discuss transportation needs with LakeTran.
- Mrs. Barajas discussed the possibility of preparing a Request for Proposals for smaller initiatives such as evidence based self-management programs (CDSM, Matter of Balance), dental assistance, dementia support, caregiver support services, and behavioral health services; all of which were identified in the senior study. The RFP would identify gap/need and solicit proposals to address these concerns.

2018 Aging in Lake County Conference

- Mrs. Barajas explained that she has begun planning the “2018 Conference on Aging”. She is currently exploring different venues and format options. She is also looking into topics focusing on aging in place and/or innovations in aging. Based on feedback of the surveys she received from the last conference, she is looking at possibly extending the length of conference for those interested in obtaining additional education.

Old Business – none.

New Business –

Mr. Gauntner stated that in his role as an elected official in Madison Township, he was invited, to discuss the Lake County Senior Study and the long term strategic plan of the Madison Senior Center. In the study, Madison was identified as having a high population of low income seniors and they would like to discuss opportunities and plans for the future. Mrs. Barajas stated that she will be attending the meeting to discuss the operational plan.

General Discussion:-

Mr. Dreher stated that he feels the Senior Advisory Panel must reassess how Senior Center attendance is monitored. Mr. Doberdruk stated that through conversations with Mr. Boyd and Mrs. Barajas, new methods of tracking attendance are being discussed. Mrs. Barajas stated that at this time, the centers are reporting on hours of activity. This year, she has implemented a more detailed Excel spreadsheet with an expanded monitoring timeline. Mr. Dreher stated that there is a real need for scientific, solid reporting with no conjecture. He firmly believes that the scan card would be the most current and accurate means to report the activity. He added that Mrs. Tyson had previously presented the Panel with a breakdown of costs to implement the scan cards.

Adjournment: Mr. Dreher moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:12 p.m. and Mr. Gauntner seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: "All Ayes"

*The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.