

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Wednesday, March 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: Tom Dreher, Ken Gauntner, Spence Kline and Frank Doberdruk.

Staff: Jason Boyd, Joel DiMare, Jr., and Donna Tyson. Ellen Cantor arrived late.

Minutes

Mr. Doberdruk moved to approve the October 21, 2014 minutes as submitted and Mr. Kline seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".
Motion carried.

Correspondence

Mr. Boyd reported that two articles were published in the News-Herald on March 14 and 15, 2015 and they were written fairly and the message was consistent. He received a few calls from communities that were in support of their senior centers.

Mr. Dreher stated before the article appeared he spoke with the Mayor of Willowick and explained to him in detail of the risks he is taking when there are communities who are contributing up to \$300,000 and there are those that do not contribute a dime. They discussed their reporting and where they can generate monies to contribute to the senior center. This is the third year they have been receiving the form. This data is extremely important to determine what amount they will receive. They do not get it and he thinks it is the Panel's responsibility to enforce what is expected and if they do not get it then there should be a penalty. The only thing left is to do is to personally explain what is being asked in the form during a Council Meeting where the finance director is present. His efforts have been fruitless up to this point.

Mr. Gauntner stated that the Panel keeps telling the centers what is expected and then nothing happens. There are no repercussions. The in-kind services area is always left blank for some municipalities.

Ms. Cantor stated that she has never seen government money being doled out without any accountability and reporting. She believes there needs to be structure. There needs to be someone responsible.

Mr. Dreher stated that at this point, they are simply a recommendatory board that goes to the Commissioners through the Administration.

Mr. Gauntner stated that the Commissioners can modify any recommendations.

Election of 2015 Officers

Mr. Boyd stated that the bylaws read that nominations be taken at the last meeting of the year, which it was and it was determined that Mr. Gauntner would be Chair and Mr. Doberdruk would be Vice Chair. The bylaws also stated that at the first quarterly meeting of the year this would be voted upon in the following year.

Mr. Dreher nominated and moved Mr. Gauntner to be Chair and Mr. Doberdruk to be Vice Chair of the Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel, and Mr. Kline seconded the nomination.

All voted "Aye".
Motion carried.

Senior Study: Timeline

Mr. Boyd explained that throughout the winter the Administration shared the RFP process for the study with the Panel and received nine applicants that were reviewed. Reference calls were conducted and it was decided to hire MCS Consulting out of Chagrin Falls, which was approved by the Commissioners. They began work last week and their approach is well-served. There are no built-in preconceived notions. They requested individual membership addresses from the senior citizen centers for mapping purposes. They will speak to the directors of the 12 senior levy recipient agencies, funders or other service resources that do not receive any levy funding such as United Way, Lifeline and Veteran's Services. Local leaders and administrators from the 23 Lake County municipalities will be emailed and responses have been positive. There will be focus groups created to discuss topics such as housing, transit, physical and mental health, legal aid, hospice, social engagement, job training and volunteerism. Home care and Adult Day Care will be discussed. This is a deeply penetrating study and the Panel agreed that the data collection is going in the correct direction. It was mentioned to include the Lake County Community Church Network, run by Director Melina Bennett, which is a group of approximately 60 churches. Mr. Boyd stated that he is aware of her and this group and thought she was included in the survey. Another part of the data mining is conducting a random sampling of 5,000 households in Lake County of residents over 60 years of age. Focus Groups have been created and they include the Basic Needs Group, Physical and Mental Health Group, Social Engagement Group, Services to the Frail and Homebound Group and Senior Members uses. It is very similar to a community comprehensive plan indicating where you want to go, what is and is not working, and what trends we need to be ready for. A GIS professional will map the seniors and a statistician is on board. The goal is to have a presentation for the Panel with the data in late summer or September of this year. Dr. Marlene Stoiber Burroughs, of MCS Consulting Service, is leading this study.

Mr. Boyd stated that there is a question on the survey directly asking if they use their local senior center. Mr. Boyd then asked the Panel members if they individually wanted to be interviewed by MCS Consulting?

Mr. Gauntner asked if that would be appropriate for the Panel members?

Mr. Dreher thought that the results would be suspect.

Mr. Boyd stated that over the next 3-5 years, there will approximately \$12 million in levy funds to disperse and there needs to be a guide to investment wisely in senior citizen services.

Mr. Gauntner stated if the Panel did not conduct a study then it would be criticized for not doing it and having the foresight, and when a study is conducted then the Panel is criticized for spending the money.

Ms. Cantor stated that it is important to have an outside consultant come in and analyze the situation.

Mr. Boyd replied that the study is about getting ahead of the curve. He has heard nothing but positive comments about the study and he has not received any negative comments from the *News-Herald* article.

Mr. Dreher asked that they make a point to mention that this is an unbiased report to keep it as clean as possible.

Ms. Cantor said there is capacity for the Panel to make recommendations. The Panel is relying on what the agencies tell it. The study is a good start and the Panel could be a voice for the Commissioners.

Mr. Dreher stated when the survey is completed and the results are reported he feels that there will probably be funding changes.

Ms. Cantor stated that the levy is coming up and some people do not do anything for the levy. Some centers are extremely engaged while others are not and they all still expect their checks.

Mr. Boyd mentioned that he was thinking about the CDBG application review process and if that could be used as a model for levy funds. The difference is the Commissioners are distributing money. They have the oversight. Ms. Canter stated that many programs are already in place by JFS and these services are being duplicated. It is less governmental and a better way to do business to streamline services.

Discussion turned back to the funding request form. Mr. Dreher stated that when the form was first launched the Administration spent a lot of time explaining the form to the agencies and they did not listen.

Mr. Gauntner suggested that maybe a special meeting can be called to go over the form for all those who are interested in receiving funding similar to the CDBG process.

Mr. DiMare thought that the senior levy funding could be modeled after CDBG funding process.

Mr. Boyd replied that the difference is that there is a levy.

Ms. Tyson stated that the senior levy money does not have to be used for something specific. There are not any parameters. The Panel is saying this is your money show us what you are using it for.

Mr. Dimare stated that if there is a priority list of projects you fund items down the list similar to CDBG.

Mr. Dreher stated that it is a basic courtesy. How can you accept hundreds of thousands of dollars and not cooperate with the source of that funding.

Mr. Cantor believes that it is past history and they have people who will cause an uproar. The study is absolutely necessary.

Ms. Cantor thought that there needs to be an age because 55 years old is too young. She also mentioned that Mentor receives more money because they have the most traffic.

Ms. Tyson asked if they should use the same forms for 2016 requests.

The Panel thought that the current form is good. Mr. Gauntner thought that a special meeting should be scheduled to go over the expectations and instruct the agencies on how to fill out the form.

Copy of Lake County Senior Services Coalition Meetings Minutes, October 3, 2014

Ms. Tyson reported that their meeting in January was cancelled so October 3, 2014 was their last meeting.

Old Business - none

New Business

At the May meeting Mr. Boyd will try to have Dr. Marlene Stoiber Burroughs present an update on the study to the Panel.

Adjournment

Mr. Dreher 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 May 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.