

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
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, Spence Kline, and Frank Doberdruk.

Staff: Jason Boyd, Alyea Barajas and Kathy Russo

Absent: Ms. Cantor, Mrs. Tyson

From the Public: Mr. Joey Tomsick from Council on Aging and Ms. Kathleen Smith

Public Comments -none.

Approval of October 18, 2016 minutes:

Mr. Dreher moved to approve the October 18, 2016 minutes as submitted and Mr. Kline seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: All Ayes
Motion carried.

Correspondence –none.

Mr. Joseph Tomsick of Council on Aging

Mr. Tomsick thanked the Commissioners and the Panel for being chosen as one of the two recipients for the Senior Citizen Collaborative Initiative projects.

Mr. Tomsick provided a copy of, and presented a detailed PowerPoint to the Panel of the Lake County Council on Aging Strategic Plan, Vision 2020. He stated that Lake County's demographics are rapidly changing and by the year 2030, one in three people will be 60 years and older. One of the goals of Council on Aging is for residents to achieve healthy aging and to continue to provide direct supportive services to seniors. He explained that based on the Lake County Commissioners Senior Report, the Board of Directors met for discussions on the Council on Aging's strategic plan, to evaluate their accomplishments, current delivery of services, and shape a vision for the future. Mr. Tomsick reviewed in detail the ten significant goals of the Council on Aging and the actions necessary to meet those goals.

Mr. Boyd asked if Council on Aging has had the opportunity to meet with the Senior Center Directors and if so, what their opinions are regarding the vision. Mr. Tomsick responded that one

topic discussed was the proposal of a mobile social worker that would travel to the centers and stated that the centers are open to this idea. He added that the Perry Senior Center has offered some office space should this be implemented.

Mr. Gauntner asked what program utilizes the largest group of volunteers. Mr. Tomsick stated that the Meals on Wheels has the most volunteers and at this time, the average age of the Meals on Wheels driver is 72 years old.

Guest, Ms. Kathleen Smith, asked for a copy of the Vision 2020 report; Mr. Tomsick provided her with a copy.

Senior Services Levy Update/Information:

Mrs. Barajas reviewed several topics:

- 2017 levy contracts were sent out and most have been returned.
- A Lake County Ohio Senior Services Facebook Page has been created and Mrs. Barajas will be posting community news and events for seniors taking place throughout the County.
- RSVP and Fairhill Partners have teamed up to offer self-management workshops for seniors free of charge. RSVP is currently working to recruit volunteers interested in being trained to be workshop leaders.
- Is exploring options with Laketrans and the Council on Aging in hopes of providing additional transportation services for seniors.
- Discussion on allocations and their request responses have been received from the centers
- Stated that the senior centers self-report their attendance numbers each month and many do not have a method of accurately tracking program/ activities attendance.

Mr. Dreher asked what percentage of the levy money is used for programming. Mrs. Barajas responded there are currently no restrictions placed on the Centers concerning where they choose to spend their monies. Mr. Boyd stated that placing scanners in the centers for tracking activities and program attendance would be beneficial.

Guest, Mrs. Smith stated she belongs to four Senior Centers and in her opinion, the Centers do need a better way to track their attendance.

Mr. Boyd and the Panel discussed the Senior Levy renewal and the possibility of asking for an increase. Mr. Doberdruk asked how many other levies were up for renewal. Mr. Boyd responded that Job and Family Services and possibly the Crime Lab would most likely be on the ballot along with the Senior Levy.

Contingency Policy:

Mr. Doberdruk moved to approve the Contingency Policy and Mr. Kline seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Boyd and Mrs. Barajas reviewed the proposed changes to the Contingency Fund Guidelines and pointed out that the 50/50 match has been adjusted to 75/25 match and a simplified application process.

Vote: "All Ayes"
Motion carried.

Old Business –

Senior Citizen Collaborative Initiative:

Mrs. Barajas briefly updated the Panel on the collaborative initiative projects:

- Four collaborative initiative applications were received and the two chosen were Council on Aging partnering with Beacon Health and RSVP partnering with the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI)
- Council on Aging and Beacon Health will be partnering to provide in home mental health and substance abuse treatment for seniors.
- RSVP and the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) will be partnering on a dementia program titled “Music and Memory”. They intend to launch this program in April, 2017 with the viewing of the movie “Alive Inside” which explains the benefits music provides to dementia patients.
- Contracts for both projects have been completed and returned

Mr. Gauntner complimented Mrs. Barajas and Mr. Boyd on the Collaborative Initiative and stated that he thinks it will be a great project. Mr. Boyd stated he has received a lot of positive feedback.

New Business –

Guest, Ms. Kathleen Smith, asked who makes the decisions to cut back funding to some Senior Centers while others will be receiving an increase. Mr. Boyd responded that the staff reviewed the applications in detail individually and collectively and reviewed the recommendations with the Panel. Final appropriations are authorized by the Board of Commissioners

He stated that he and Mrs. Barajas met with the Senior Center Directors and their Fiscal Officers to discuss their requests.

Mrs. Smith commended the Panel for the dedication to the Seniors of Lake County.

Mr. Doberdruk thanked Mrs. Smith for attending the meeting and for her opinions.

General Discussion:-

Mr. Tomsick stated the May 16th, 2017 Council on Aging will host a Senior Day at the Great Lakes Mall.

Mr. Dreher thanked Mrs. Barajas for her work in providing the packets. Mr. Gauntner asked if letters regarding the contingency fund would be sent to the Centers. Mrs. Barajas stated she would be sending letters to the Senior Directors and their Fiscal Officers.

Adjournment

Mr. Dreher moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m. and Mr. Doberdruk seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: “All Ayes”

*The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18th, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.