

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, October 17, 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. 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 Mr. Joel Guthleben from the Fairport Harbor Senior Center

Public Comments -none.

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

Mr. Gauntner 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.

Vote: Ayes: All ayes

Motion carried.

Correspondence –none.

Senior Services Levy Update/Information:

Mrs. Barajas reviewed several topics:

Aging in Lake County Conference Wrap-up

- Mrs. Barajas stated that the Aging in Lake County conference had approximately 126 attendees and was a great success. She received 62 completed surveys. The results of the survey and a summary were provided to the Panel.

Senior Services Levy

- Mrs. Barajas explained that the levy coalition continues to meet on a weekly basis regarding the levy campaign. The campaign outreach has included speaking engagements at city council/trustee meetings, candidate forums, sign distribution, targeted mailers, and direct phone calls. Last Saturday, October 14th, the campaign held a rally in Downtown Willoughby. She stated that most of the coalition members have been very good about recruiting volunteers and taking on volunteer duties to help with the campaign.

Mr. Dreher complimented all those involved in the Senior Levy campaign. He stated the volume, quality, and information included in the literature is very helpful.

Contingency Request

- Mrs. Barajas stated that she has received a request from the City of Willowick the amount of \$10,196.25 to upgrade their fire alarm system to bring it up to code. Their share of the cost will be \$3,398.75. Information regarding this request was included in the Panel's packet. To date, this is the only completed contingency fund request we have received. Mr. Dreher asked if the contingency match is still a 50/50 match. Mrs. Barajas stated that the match was lowered to 75/25 in 2017 to encourage use of the fund.

Mr. Doberdruck moved to approve the request from the City of Willowick for a fire alarm upgrade in the amount of \$10,196.25. Mr. Kline seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: All Ayes
Motion carried.

Collaborative Request

- Mrs. Barajas stated that she has received 6-month program reports for both of the grant awardees. The programs are currently about 8 months into the project. RSVP and Benjamin Rose's project is currently on hold due to low recruitment of participants. They intend to go back to the drawing board to determine their next steps. There were two successful Music and Memory Classes sessions, one in Mentor and one in Willowick. Mr. Tomsick, from Lake County Council on Aging, explained that they have promoted the Music and Memory Program through the Bridge Senior paper as well as on the radio. Mrs. Barajas stated that advertising is very important but that there needs to be further partnerships developed. Mr. Tomsick stated that Ms. Kane, from RSVP, met with Ms. Adrienne Green, also from Council on Aging, to discuss possible opportunities.
- She reported that the collaboration between Beacon Health and Council on Aging seems to be doing well. Council on Aging has identified 16 seniors that may benefit from mental health services, 11 have agreed to an assessment by Beacon Health, and 10 have had an assessment completed to date. Mr. Tomsick updated the panel on their progress. He feels that they are providing a very good service. He and Mr. Kline stated that they have both learned a lot working together on this collaboration. Mr. Kline added that there have been a few people that have chosen to utilize the services offered. Mr. Dreher and the Panel discussed the possibility of using the contingency fund to help with promoting these two programs.
- Mrs. Barajas stated that she would like to have both of the collaborative groups present their projects and results to the Panel at the August 2018 meeting.

2018 Levy Funding Allocations:

Mrs. Barajas stated that the Board of Commissioners approved the 2018 funding allocations. Award letters will be going out to the recipients this week. Mrs. Barajas explained that \$2.9 million was allocated for 2018 and that \$3.3 million was requested. Mr. Doberdruck stated that the requests

were larger than previous years and yet they are not utilizing the contingency fund. Mrs. Barajas added that there are two entities that did not request any funding for 2018, the deadline for requests is the end of this year (2017). Mr. Kline suggested incorporating information about the contingency fund in the award letters.

2018 Meeting Dates:

Mrs. Barajas reviewed the 2018 Meeting dates: February 13th, May 1st, August 14th, and October 16th and stated that the meetings will remain on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.

Old Business –

Mr. Dreher stated that he and the Panel have feel that there needs to be a more accurate way to track membership of the senior centers. In previous discussions, it was suggested providing the senior centers with an electronic system to track membership and attendance. Mr. Gauntner asked the two senior center directors present their feelings on an electronic attendance system. Ms. Billetter, from the Madison Senior Center, stated that they seem to be doing quite well having those attending functions at the center to sign in once a day. She is not sure how an electronic system would work for her center and that there are some offended when asking their age. Mr. Doberdruck asked if they supply an annual membership card. Ms. Billetter stated they do not but Mr. Guthleben, from the Fairport Harbor Senior Center, stated that they do issue new cards annually. The Panel continued to discuss possible solutions to a better accounting method as financial awards are based on membership and attendance. Ms. Billetter stated that while the Panel has expressed some great ideas for tracking, there are community members attending programs at the senior centers that are not members.

Mr. Gauntner suggested the senior staff get several quotes for electronic scanning systems.

Mrs. Tyson stated she had looked into it in the past and at that time was less than \$5,000. Mr. Kline suggested making that a 2018 initiative. Conversation continued pertaining to accurate accountability and funding.

Mrs. Barajas suggested scheduling a work session to further discuss the Panels thoughts and ideas regarding reporting requirements. Mr. Gauntner stated scheduling a work session for November or December would be a great idea. Mrs. Barajas stated she will set up the work session and update the Panel on potential dates.

New Business – none.

General Discussion:-

Mr. Gauntner is very hopeful that the Levy will pass however, should it fail the next step would be going back to the ballot. Mrs. Barajas stated it they would go back to the ballot. Mr. Tomsick reported that the levy passed at slightly over 58% in 2012. He added that there are many other local issues on the ballot for this election. He explained if the levy should fail, Council on Aging would immediately have to begin cutting crucial services to the seniors of Lake County.

Adjournment: Mr. Dreher moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 p.m. and Mr. Doberdruk seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

Vote: "All Ayes"

*The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.