

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
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. Dreher, opened the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Present:

Members: Tom Dreher, Ken Gauntner, Lisa Manning, Ellen Foley Kessler, and Lyle Shull

Staff: Alyea Barajas and Cristen Kane

Absent: None

Public: Joseph Tomsick

Public Comments: Ms. Foley Kessler indicated she was looking forward to serving on the Panel and recognized Spence Kline for his prior service. Mr. Tomsick informed Panel of Council on Aging's 50th Anniversary events in 2022. Mr. Tomsick also informed Panel he was elected President of the Senior Citizens Levy Coalition and his term will begin January 2022. He looks forward to serving in this capacity as we enter a levy year.

Approval of the September 14, 2021 minutes:

Mr. Gauntner moved to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021, Ms. Manning seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

Correspondence: Mr. Dreher requested letter be sent to Mr. Spence Kline thanking him for his service on the Panel. Mr. Dreher drafted a letter for Ms. Barajas to send.

Nomination and Election of 2022 Officers:

Mr. Dreher stated that, according to the by-laws, every year a new chairperson and vice chairperson must be elected and can serve two, one-year terms. He stated he would accept nominations from the Board for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Gauntner nominated and moved for Mr. Lyle Shull as Chairperson, Mr. Dreher seconded the nomination.

Vote: "Ayes"

Motion carried.

Mr. Gauntner nominated and moved for Ms. Lisa Manning as Vice-Chair, Mr. Dreher seconded the nomination.

Vote "Ayes"

Motion carried.

Senior Services Coordinator Updates:

Ms. Barajas discussed the proposed 2022 meeting dates listed below.

Tuesday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24 at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29 at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Barajas informed that Panel it is was recently learned that RSVP is now on a 6-year grant cycle, which prevents the Board of Commissioners from applying for RSVP funds until 2025. Ms. Kane has been working on obtaining more information on the change and the impact to Lake County. However, the Board of Commissioners will be submitting an application for AmeriCorps funds for the American Rescue Plan Senior Demonstration Project. This is a federal grant that assists communities in COVID-19 recovery. The project must demonstrate how we will engage volunteers 55+ to address one or more of the American Rescue plan priorities. The deadline for this grant is February 3, 2022 and award notification will be in June 2022.

Ms. Barajas indicated that the Senior Services Levy Coalition was in the process of reviewing updated by-laws with final vote to approve expected January 2022. Additionally, Ms. Barajas informed the Panel on recent senior levy fundraiser success.

2022 Levy Requests:

Ms. Barajas reviewed the 2022 applications for senior levy funds with the Panel members. Discussion began with review of the senior center applications. Some concerns were expressed regarding the completeness of the application and budget. Ms. Foley Kessler requested adding questions related to other funding sources and others sources of income, for which the centers have applied. Ms. Foley Kessler also asked if applicants have ever presented to the Panel to discuss what each entity does and what they are looking for in terms of funding. Ms. Barajas responded that this is not something that has occurred in the past but could be discussed with Panel prior to 2023 funding application distribution. Additional discussion ensued regarding the application process and potential changes for the next funding process. Funding recommendations for 2022 included to keep senior center funding at 2021 levels, but to provide a one-time bump of \$50,000 to each senior center to be used at the discretion of the center for the direct benefit of seniors. The \$50,000 would not be eligible to be used on personnel costs, but could be used on capital.

Ms. Barajas continued with discussion on the Lake County Council on Aging's application. Funding recommendations included awarding current requested amount, with the exception of the homemaker program and social work program. After previous discussion with Mr. Tomsick, it was decided to put a hold on the hiring of a community outreach social worker. This will be reflected in the budget request for social work services. The homemaker program is not currently operating with a wait list. Therefore, recommendation is to keep at 2021 award level. However, should service needs change, Mr. Tomsick may re-visit funding in the future.

Ms. Barajas explained the modest increase in requests for the other applicants, including Job & Family Services, Lifeline, Project Hope, and Western Reserve Community Development Corporation. Staff recommended funding at 2022 request levels. Mr. Shull asked Mr. Tomsick on how relationship with Adult Protective Services was developing. Mr. Tomsick indicated he has met with the current director of Job & Family Services and has discussed the challenges over the years. He indicated the expansion of

Adult Protective Services has been a great addition to Lake County and he is looking forward to a continued partnership. Mr. Gauntner asked if the funds awarded to Project Hope was exclusively used for seniors. Ms. Barajas indicated it was, and further discussion continued on the operations and purpose of the Senior Hope House operated by Project Hope.

Discussion continued regarding potential uses of carry-over funds for 2022. Ms. Barajas indicated she was exploring options for senior center software to help track who is coming to the center and what they are doing while they are there. Ms. Manning asked if the software would have the capability to ask a few questions random on the screen when checking in to measure satisfaction and outcomes. Ms. Barajas indicated she would check into this. Ms. Manning mentioned a senior day event was held in the past with Auburn Career Center and what a great experience it was. She indicated this type of idea may be something to consider doing again at the Fairgrounds.

Mr. Shull moved to approve the 2022 senior levy award recommendations as presented, with the exception of Madison Senior Center, Mr. Gauntner seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

Ms. Manning moved to approve the 2022 senior levy award recommendation for Madison Senior Center as presented, Ms. Foley Kessler seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "Ayes": Mr. Shull, Ms. Manning, Ms. Foley-Kessler, and Mr. Dreher

Abstain: Mr. Gauntner

Motion carried.

Panel By-Laws:

Mr. Dreher reviewed edits to the Panel's operating procedures by Article. Minor additional changes to grammar made. Ms. Barajas will submit final draft to Prosecutor's office for review.

Mr. Gauntner moved to approve the revision to the operating procedures, Mr. Shull seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

Old Business: Mr. Shull inquired on status of Council on Aging's contingency request for office renovations which was approved by the Commissioners in March 2020. Ms. Barajas explained that Council on Aging has recently completed their renovations and the contingency request is still valid and will be honored.

New Business: None.

General Discussion: None.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gauntner moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:45p.m. and Ms. Manning seconded the motion.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.