

Minutes of the  
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel  
Tuesday, September 6, 2022  
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. Shull, opened the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Present:

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

Staff: Alyea Barajas, Cristen Kane

Absent: Lisa Manning

Public: None

Public Comments: None.

Approval of the May 24, 2022 minutes:

Ms. Foley Kessler moved to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022; Mr. Dreher seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

Correspondence: None.

Volunteer Services Coordinator Updates:

Ms. Kane provided an update on the AmeriCorps Seniors grant. The grant officially began July 1, 2022, but has a six-month planning period. During this time, policy and procedure requirements are being created and/or updated to reflect grant requirements. Progress has been made finalizing the Mon Ami software features for the Phone Pal program. Additionally, a training schedule for volunteers and volunteer stations is currently being developed and will include four Safe Space trainings provided by Betty Jacobs from LGBTQ+ Lake County, as well as additional trainings such as DEI, mental health 101, and elder abuse. Ms. Kane also informed the Panel that the establishment of Advisory Council is required as part of the grant. Ms. Kane asked the Panel if they would be willing to serve this role. Mr. Gauntner asked if Ms. Kane would just add this as a regular item on the agenda. She indicated she would. Panel agreed to serve in this role.

Ms. Kane provided a re-cap of the SUNsational Volunteer Recognition event that was held on July 13, 2022, at the Mentor Rocks Amphitheater in collaboration with the Council on Aging. Attendance at the event was low compared to previous years but those that attended seemed to enjoy themselves. Each volunteer received a swag bag that included yellow sunglasses and a few other items. Six partner agencies were present and set up tables to thank the volunteers for all they do. There were five sponsors donating a total of ~\$800. Six volunteers were recognized for their efforts over the past year. Elected officials in attendance included Senator Kenny Yuko, Commissioner John Plecnik, Commissioner Mark Tyler and a representative from Congressman David Joyce's Office. Planning has already begun of the 2023 volunteer recognition event.

Senior Services Coordinator Updates:

Ms. Barajas provided an update on the senior center software that is currently being utilized by Eastlake, Fairport, Madison, and Perry. All seem to enjoy the new software and have expressed how much it is helping them with their daily operations and relieving the burden of tracking units. Recently, Ms. Barajas met with three of the four directors to discuss some additional questions and make sure we are all on the same page with utilizing the software. Ms. Barajas will have a follow-up training with MySeniorCenter in the upcoming days to have these questions addressed.

Ms. Barajas informed the Panel that the Non-Medical In-Home Care Program went out for competitive bid on July 28, 2022. The deadline for submittal is Wednesday, September 7 at 11AM. There is an option to renew for three additional years in this RFP.

Ms. Barajas and Ms. Kane are planning a Caregiver Forum for October 12, 2022, at the Fairgrounds Youth and Community Center. WRAAA and Laketrans are the event sponsors. There are 26 vendors currently scheduled to attend. Ms. Barajas asked the Panel to help share this information. Additionally, LGBTQ+ Safe Space training is scheduled to be held on Friday, October 14, 2022, from 8:30-10:30AM at the Mentor Senior Center. The 2-hour workshop will be conducted by Betty Jacobs, Founder and Executive Director of LGBTQ+ Allies Lake County, a non-profit whose mission is to foster a safe place for the LGBTQ+ community through advocacy, compassion, education, and services. Ms. Barajas invited the Panel to attend the workshop if interested.

Ms. Barajas updated the Panel that the Senior Services Levy is Issue 5 on the November 8 ballot.

Ms. Barajas presented the 2023 application for senior levy funding. The Panel provided some initial feedback. Ms. Barajas asked the Panel to review and get back to her by the end of the day Thursday, September 8, with any additional thoughts or suggestions. Ms. Barajas will send 2023 applications to current levy recipients no later than Friday, September 9, 2022. Ms. Barajas expressed that sometimes the levy applicants do not fully complete the application for levy funds. The Panel felt it was crucial from a public accountability and transparency perspective that all required applications and associated documentation be completed in full as requested. Ms. Foley Kessler asked if a workshop on how to complete the application for levy funds has ever been offered. Ms. Barajas indicated it has not but there are instructions included in the application packet. Additionally, Ms. Barajas indicated there are always open lines of communication between herself and the providers and she is always available to answer questions. The Panel discussed logistics of reviewing the applications for 2023 funds prior to the November 15 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Gauntner, seconded by Mr. Dreher, a special meeting was set for Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. to receive and briefly review the 2023 applications for levy funding.

Vote: "All Ayes"  
Motion carried.

The Panel will hear from 2023 senior levy applications at the November 15, 2022, meeting beginning at 11:00 a.m. Appointment times will be set by Ms. Barajas upon submittal of the application and budget request.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Panel made a formal recognition and congratulations to Mr. Dreher for this recent award of Outstanding Senior Citizen for his work on the Senior Advisory Panel and volunteer work with the Lake County Volunteer Network, formally RSVP.

Ms. Kane informed the Panel that Ms. Barajas will be learning the Public Inquiry role for the Emergency Management Agency. She also participated in the dry run drill that held on August 24, 2022, at the Emergency Operations Center.

General Discussion: None.

Adjournment:

Mr. Dreher moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:05p.m. and Mr. Gauntner seconded the motion.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

\*The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 9 at 2:00 p.m.\*