

Minutes of the
Lake County Senior Citizens Advisory Panel
Tuesday, May 23, 2023
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 2:10 p.m.

Present:

Members: Ken Gauntner, Lisa Manning, and Lyle Shull

Staff: Alyea Barajas, Cristen Kane

Absent: Ellen Foley Kessler, Tom Dreher

Public: None

Public Comments: None.

Approval of the March 7, 2023 minutes:

Mr. Gauntner moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023; Ms. Manning seconded the motion to approve.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

Correspondence: None.

Approval of By-Laws:

Ms. Manning moved to approve the change to the by-laws to include the AmeriCorps Seniors Advisory Council; Mr. Gauntner seconded the approval.

Vote: "Ayes"

Motion carried.

Senior Services Manager Updates:

Ms. Barajas provided an update on Senior Day at the Great Lakes Mall. More than 325 seniors attended the event and 18 outstanding senior volunteers were honored for their contribution to the community. The event was spearheaded by the Council on Aging and was a fundraiser for Support Our Seniors.

Ms. Barajas continued with updates on upcoming events including the Pancake Breakfast on September 12 at the Kirtland Senior Center, the volunteer recognition on September 27 at Painesville Township Park, and the Caregiver Forum at University Hospitals TriPoint on October 5.

Ms. Barajas provided an update on the Cleveland Federal Community Leadership Institute Class of 2023 project, *Are You OK*. The program was approved by the Board of Commissioners and is scheduled to launch early July 2023. It will be administered by Lifeline, Inc. through their 211 hotline. Ms. Barajas and Carrie Dotson, Executive Director of Lifeline, presented the program recently to both the Police Chiefs Association and the Mayors & Managers meeting. The program was well received at both meetings. Lifeline is currently in the process of ordering the necessary hardware and software. A program flyer will be shared when it becomes available.

Ms. Barajas finished with an update on the Helping Hands for Seniors program. The program has a good start and has served about 50 clients. There has been an overwhelming response from seniors in need of services. Ms. Barajas indicated they are working to recruit volunteers aged 55 and older but in order to ensure long-term success, the program will need volunteers under 55. Carrie Dotson applied for CDBG funds to help with this piece. Mr. Guantner asked if volunteers for the Helping Hands program also need to be volunteers of the Lake County Volunteer Network. Ms. Kane confirmed that was the case and explained the volunteer onboarding process.

Ms. Barajas informed Ms. Manning that her term on the Panel is scheduled to expire September 30, 2023. In order to be considered for a re-appointment, Ms. Manning will need to submit a resume, letter of interest and board application by the end of August. Ms. Barajas indicated she would call to inform Mr. Dreher, whose term is also ending, and then follow-up with an email reminder to both.

AmeriCorps Seniors Advisory Council Update:

Ms. Kane provided an update on the status of the AmeriCorps Seniors grant. The grant has been with the Board of Commissioners for almost 11 months and work will start on some outcome measurements for each work plan. Ms. Kane provided information on the DEI and LGBTQ+ Safe Space trainings that are scheduled through the first quarter of 2024. The first DEI session was held April 20 and included 12 individuals including volunteers and volunteer station staff. The learning session was very well received. Ms. Kane indicated there is still open slots at the sessions if anyone is interested in attending.

Ms. Kane provided a flyer and update on the Meals on Wheels gift card incentive. The incentive is a \$50 Giant Eagle gift card provided to new Meals on Wheels drivers after completing a three-month commitment. Ms. Kane reported recruitment for this has had a steady start and she continues to promote at outreach events.

A brief update and flyer was provided by Ms. Kane on the Phone Pal program. The program has 15 matches currently and the Lake County Volunteer Network is steadily onboarding new clients and volunteers for this program. Ms. Barajas noted that about 90% of the referrals to the program are self-referrals. Ms. Kane touched on the UCLA loneliness survey that is required by each participant at intake and that the questions are asked again after the individual has been on the program for three months. Mr. Guantner commented how tough it is to find volunteers right now and commended Ms. Kane for her efforts with recruitment.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

General Discussion: None.

Adjournment:

Mr. Guantner moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. and Ms. Manning seconded the motion.

Vote: "All Ayes"

Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.