

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
Friday, January 20, 2012

Attendance: Debbie Bock, Ann Gilmore Orin, Diane Pavan, Dave Britton, Nancy Girardot, Ellen Screwvala, Councilman Dwight Clark, Victoria Stavlas, Ellen Screwvala

Guests: None

Absent: Penny Dolski, Mary Munn, Georganne Vartorella

- I. **Minutes:** The minutes of the October 2011 meeting were approved as written.
- II. Announcements – Introduced Councilman Dwight Clark to the board, Georganne Vartorella was unable to make it but looks forward to joining the board at the April meeting. Debbie briefly described the “Distraction Scam” as depicted in a notification from the BVPD, and encouraged everyone to share this information with neighbors and friends living in this area.
- III. Audience Comments – none
- IV. Department updates:
 - a. **Community Services**
 - i. **Weekend Lunch Program-** Community Services Director Bock reported that she is collaborating with the Bay Family Services to look at possibly providing a weekend lunch program for children who receive free or reduced lunches during the week through school. This project is just at the discussion phase at this time.
 - ii. **Village Food Project Update-** Debbie stated that the Village Food Project has provided over 2,200 meals since it began in February 2011. The program has grown and will be working with Avon Lake to expand the program.
 - iii. **Holiday Caring and Sharing-** Debbie reported that 150 residents received assistance in some form- food, clothing, gifts, etc. While the needs have grown, so have the donations and nobody was refused assistance.
 - iv. **Department Restructuring-** Debbie explained that the Senior Center Manager position had been laid off effective the first of the year, however Susan had vacation time scheduled for a good portion of December after the lay-off notice was issued so the position really had been vacated mid-December. Coverage of the center was difficult since the position was reduced to part-time in May. It no longer made sense to have a Senior Center Manager that wasn't able to cover the center. With resources becoming more limited, and the department relying more heavily on volunteers and community partners to provide programming and staffing for the center, it makes more sense to have a part time “Resource/ Volunteer Coordinator” who would coordinate these resources and make sure that the center was adequately covered.

Debbie further explained that ideally 2 part-time people to cover the center but still save the expense of healthcare required for a full time employee, would be the perfect solution along with an increase in pay for the assistant position since she has had to take on additional work. However, resources are limited and council is still evaluating the budget for 2012. Dwight stated that the budget would be finalized in March, so we will have a clearer picture at that time.

b. Senior Center

i. Soup Cook-Off- Debbie stated that 10 chefs are prepared to square off and compete for the “people’s choice” award on Friday Jan. 27th. This is a popular event and already 150 people are pre-registered.

ii. Rock-N-Bowl- Councilman Scott Pohlkamp and his family are putting on this fundraiser for its 2nd year Saturday Jan. 28th. Benefits will again be donated to The Village Food Project.

iii. Tri-C Intern- Madonna Vincent, an occupational therapy student at Tri-C will be working at the senior center on Tues. and Thurs from 12-4:30 as part of an unpaid internship. This will be a great help in light of staff hours being reduced.

iv. Art Professor- A new series studying art will begin in February.

V. Old Business

- **Ordinance Change** – The Advisory Board explained to Councilman Clark that it had been previously decided that the Community Services Advisory Board members prefer to have quarterly meetings with special meetings held as necessary as opposed to monthly meetings as indicated in the ordinance. Dwight stated that he would check with Joanie on the ordinance and initiate that change.

VI. New Business

VII. Council Update

- Councilman Dwight Clark stated that Brian stepped down as council president and Paul Koomar has taken over the presidency. The two new people on council are Clete Miller and Karen Lieske. Dwight explained that the city council is empowered to spend the city money with responsibility. The new council has to take into account a decrease in revenue as well as a legacy, history of the city spending money that it had available. He indicated that council will be working on the budget and looking for ways to reduce expenses. The city will lose a significant amount of money from the state which will impact overall revenue. Adjustments must be made to balance the budget. Council and the administration are working together to achieve a balanced budget. This new council is focusing on transparency and holding as many meetings in public as possible.
- Mr. Clark confirmed that the Bayway Cabin had mold issues and there is a possibility of the city renting it out, but only if it would be self-sustaining- that the rent would cover the cost of utilities etc.
- Mr. Clark indicated that financially the city is in good shape, however there is no money left in the reserves. Money has been allocated for

other purposes. While the state is giving the municipalities less money, council is taking a longer term view than it has previously- trying to make decisions that will still make sense 13-15 years from now.

- Mr. Clark went on to explain that the sewer rates have been raised for the 1st time in 16 years. And that the city is now making major repairs in the sewer system.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Remaining meeting dates for 2012 will be April 20, July 20, and Oct 19.