

Northwest Focal Point Senior Center District Board

Special Meeting

Commission Chambers, 1st Floor
City Hall, 5790 Margate Boulevard
Margate, FL 33063
November 18, 2020
4:39 PM

Board Members Present:

Tommy Ruzzano, Chair
Arlene Schwartz, Vice Chair
Joanne Simone
Antonio Arserio
Anthony Caggiano

Also Present:

Karin Diaz, Project Director
Janette M. Smith City Attorney

The virtual statement was read into the record.

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – August 26, 2020

The following motion was made by Board Member Schwartz, seconded by Board Member Caggiano.

MOTION: SO MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 26 MEETING.

ROLL CALL: Board Member Caggiano, Yes; Board Member Simone, Yes; Board Member Arserio, Yes;
Board Member Schwartz, Yes; Board Member Ruzzano, Yes. The motion passed 5-0.

2. RESOLUTIONS

A. RESOLUTION 150: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER DISTRICT, APPROVING AGREEMENT JPC20-08-2021 BETWEEN THE AREA WIDE COUNCIL ON AGING OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC. AND THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER DISTRICT FOR EMERGENCY HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE FOR THE ELDERLY CORONAVIRUS PROGRAM AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT; AUTHORIZING THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND THE PROJECT DIRECTOR TO RENEW THIS AGREEMENT UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THIS AGREEMENT, AND RENEWALS, WHICH PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN FUNDING OR TO MEET STATE OR FEDERAL GUIDELINES, WITHOUT FURTHER BOARD ACTION; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Board Member Schwartz, seconded by Board Member Caggiano for discussion.

MOTION: SO MOVE TO APPROVE.

ROLL CALL: Board Member Caggiano, Yes; Board Member Simone, Yes; Board Member Arserio, Yes;
Board Member Schwartz, Yes; Board Member Ruzzano, Yes. The motion passed 5-0.

B. RESOLUTION 151: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER DISTRICT, APPROVING AGREEMENT JP219-08-2021 BETWEEN THE AREAWIDE COUNCIL ON AGING OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC AND THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER DISTRICT FOR EMERGENCY HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EHEAP); AUTHORIZING THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND PROJECT DIRECTOR TO RENEW THIS AGREEMENT UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THIS AGREEMENT, AND RENEWALS WHICH PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN FUNDING OR TO MEET STATE OR FEDERAL GUIDELINES WITHOUT FURTHER BOARD ACTION; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Board Member Schwartz seconded by Board Member Arserio.

MOTION: SO MOVE TO APPROVE.

ROLL CALL: Board Member Caggiano, Yes; Board Member Simone, Yes; Board Member Arserio, Yes; Board Member Schwartz, Yes; Board Member Ruzzano, Yes. The motion passed 5-0.

C. RESOLUTION 152: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER DISTRICT, PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT JA121-082021 BETWEEN THE AREAWIDE COUNCIL ON AGING OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC. AND THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER DISTRICT TO ACCEPT FUNDING TO PROVIDE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021; AUTHORIZING BOARD PRESIDENT AND PROJECT DIRECTOR TO RENEW THIS ANNUAL AGREEMENT UNDER THE SAME TERMS OR TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN FUNDING OR TO MEET STATE OR FEDERAL GUIDELINES WITHOUT FURTHER BOARD ACTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Board Member Schwartz seconded by Board Member Caggiano.

MOTION: SO MOVE TO APPROVE.

ROLL CALL: Board Member Caggiano, Yes; Board Member Simone, Yes; Board Member Arserio, Yes; Board Member Schwartz, Yes; Board Member Ruzzano, Yes. The motion passed 5-0.

D. RESOLUTION 153: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER DISTRICT, APPROVING AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT JP219-08-2021 BETWEEN THE AREAWIDE COUNCIL ON AGING OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC. AND THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER DISTRICT FOR EMERGENCY HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EHEAP); PROVIDING FOR REDUCTION IN ALLOCATION; AUTHORIZING THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND THE PROJECT DIRECTOR TO RENEW THIS AGREEMENT UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THIS AGREEMENT, AND RENEWALS, WHICH PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN FUNDING OR TO MEET STATE OR FEDERAL GUIDELINES, WITHOUT FURTHER BOARD ACTION; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Board Member Schwartz seconded by Board Member Caggiano.

MOTION: SO MOVE TO APPROVE.

ROLL CALL: Board Member Caggiano, Yes; Board Member Simone, Yes; Board Member Arserio, Yes; Board Member Schwartz, Yes; Board Member Ruzzano, Yes. The motion passed 5-0.

3. PROJECT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Karin Diaz, Project Director of the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center District (NWFPSCD) thanked the Board for approving the agreements. Three of the agreements provide funding for EHEAP (Emergency Home Energy Assistance). The NWFP Senior Center staff provides assistance for home energy crisis to low income households with at least one person age 60 years of age or older living in the household. The scope of services varies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the contracts is funded through CARES act funds. The fourth contract is the annual OAA (Older Americans ACT) contract that funds all services provided to the Senior Center clients.

The Adult Day Care re-opened on October 5 and currently has 10 clients attending. We have received feedback from caregivers saying that they have noticed an improvement in their loved one's behavior since they have returned to the Adult Day Care.

The Center is far from receiving the revenue that we normally earn by providing in person services to adults age 60 and older, but we have added services since our last meeting in August and this has slowly increased our revenue from different sources/grants.

The projected date to open the Senior Center area is the early spring depending on how controlled the COVID pandemic is at that point.

New project: Creating a donation link to raise funds for the Center. Ms. Diaz has been working with the City's public relations department and the City Manager on this project. The Older Americans Act contract requires the center to do fundraising. Qgiv is the name of the company that we would like to work with since they work with large and small organizations nationwide.

<https://www.qgiv.com/blog/customers> is a link where testimonials can be found. Ms. Diaz asked for the Board's consent to turn this fundraising project into a reality.

As part of the Government Relations/Broward Days Committee, we advocate for senior services program funding. We kindly ask the Board to always include senior service program funding on your agenda when initiating advocacy efforts.

Friday November 20: The Center will be raffling off seven baskets with turkey breasts donated by the Margate Police Department. We also received a donation of six baskets with turkeys donated by ValueStore it. Thank you VERY much for these donations!!

Friday December 11: We will be assembling 100 bags with items that were donated to the Center. Members can drive by to pick up the bags and the Center drivers will also be delivering the bags throughout the week.

NWFP staff continues to do reassurance calls estimated at 450 to 500 per week, 250 meal deliveries, and over 15 recreational activities via conference call. Bingo now has up to 40 people per session. We welcome donations for bingo prizes.

Pilot programs funded by the Department of Elder Affairs:

IN2L (It's never 2 Late) technology program: Each client will get an iPad and it is all paid for. We submitted a group of 10 seniors ranging in age from 74 to 89.

UNIPER: Technology program that is installed on the TV and programs are selected by the user with the remote control. We submitted a group of 10 seniors ranging in age from 64 to 84.

4. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Joanne Simone said thank you for keeping our seniors engaged and everything that you are doing to help everyone during these hard times. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Antonio Arserio said thank you for everything that you do during these hard times.

Arlene Schwartz asked if there was a charge for using Qgiv. Ms. Diaz reported that the company receives a percentage when someone donates. Board member Schwartz asked if we are still receiving produce from Chabad. She stated that they are still doing this program. Board member Schwartz wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said to stay home and stay safe.

Anthony Caggiano said as always, Karin is a gem. She works so hard to make sure that the seniors are looked after. It is important for people to not feel alone. Thank you to the Margate Police Department and to ValueStore It for their donations. Happy Thanksgiving. Thanks to the staff. Wonderful job.

Tommy Ruzzano Received a letter from a Margate resident praising the Senior Center staff and read it out loud. He said that letters like these make him happy and make it all worthwhile.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Terry Lieberman

Tommy Ruzzano, Chair