

GNRC

Greater Nashville Regional Council
220 Athens Way, Suite 200
Nashville, Tennessee 37228

GNRC Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 10:15 a.m.
At TN State Library & Archives
1001 Rep. John Lewis Way, Nashville, TN

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Diana Alarcon	Metro Nashville-Davidson County
Rogers Anderson	Williamson County
Andy Barlow	Mt. Juliet
Rick Bell	Lebanon
Robin Brandon	Stewart County
Paige Brown	Gallatin
Mike Callis	Portland
Stephen Chambers	Trousdale County
Jim Durrett	Montgomery County
Keith Free	Hendersonville
Gerald Herman	White House
Anthony Holt	Sumner County
Bill Ketron	Rutherford County
Ken McLawhon	Thompson's Station
Ken Moore	Franklin
Andrew Pieri	Millersville
Joe Pitts	Clarksville
Michael Skipper	GNRC
James Smalling	Westmoreland
Billy Vogle	Robertson County
Becca Werner	Coopertown
Mae Wright	Social Equity Rep. Trousdale County

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mayor Paige Brown called the GNRC Executive Board to order at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Brown asked for any questions or changes for the minutes. There were none.

Mayor Ken Moore moved to approve the January 19, 2022 meeting minutes. Mayor Joe Pitts seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Megan Nelson, Finance Director, presented the monthly financial report. She went over the six key metrics used to monitor GNRC's financial health. These are: 1) member dues, 2) annual budget of which 43% has been expended through January 21, 2022, 3) cash on hand which is 56 days of available funding, 4) cash savings (Capital fund, dedicated match, and cash reserves) totally \$1.53M, 5) programs within budget – currently 35 of 35 programs, and 6) outstanding invoices, currently totaling \$2.30M with 77% received.

Through January 31, 2022, the GNRC had \$2.9M in cash, \$5.7M in revenues from invoices, \$2.3M amount due from invoices, and \$8.9M in total revenue.

Mayor Pitts moved to approve the monthly financial report with Mayor Anderson seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution GNRC 2022-07 Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Office Lease Agreements or Extensions

Ms. Candi Henry, Chief Legal Counsel, said that the lease at the Butler's Run office is on a month-to-month basis. The lease at the Metro Center office will end in December 2022 with a possibility of renewing. She reminded the board that budgetary funds had been approved to enable the hiring of a consultant to provide assistance with space need planning for the organization, especially in light of workplace changes brought on by the pandemic.

She said that this resolution authorizes Mr. Michael Skipper, GNRC Executive Director, to take steps to find office space for all employees in consultation with the Finance & Personnel Committee. Mr. Skipper said that an RFP will go out this week for a consultant to assist in looking at the options for workspace.

Mayor Anthony Holt moved to adopt the Resolution GNRC 2022-07.
Mayor Ken Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

a. Resolution GNRC 2022-08 Adopting the Area Plan for Aging and Disability Services for Northern Middle Tennessee

Ms. Sara Fowler, Director of Aging and Disability Services, presented the FYs 2023-26 Area Plan. She said that the Federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD) have designated GNRC as the region's area agency on aging and disability. In this role, the agency is responsible for various part of the Older Americans Act.

The Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965 was the first federal level initiative aimed at providing comprehensive services for older adults. It created the National Aging Network comprising the Administration on Aging on the federal level, State Units on Aging at the state level, and Area Agencies on Aging at the local level.

The OAA program areas are 1) supportive services, 2) nutrition services, 3) disease prevention, 4) family caregiver support, and 5) ombudsman and elder abuse.

The funding levels that GNRC receives for the OAA programs are: 1) \$1.6M for supportive services, 2) \$2.7M for nutrition services, 3) \$100K for disease prevention, 4) \$690K for family caregiver support, and 5) \$89K for ombudsman & elder abuse.

Ms. Fowler said that a State Plan on Aging is required by OAA and provides the framework for the state and its partners to provide comprehensive and coordinated system. Tennessee's Plan is developed by TCAD. The Area Plan developed by GNRC works in concert with the Tennessee State Area Plan to support its goals.

For more information: www.tn.gov/aging/administration/state-plan-on-aging

Ms. Fowler said that GNRC's role in the Area Plan are

- 1) establish goals, objectives, and priorities
- 2) procure and coordinate the provider network
- 3) serve as the gateway to information and assistance
- 4) screen individuals for eligibility
- 5) connect individuals to services

6) track service delivery and monitor quality

Mr. Skipper noted that outreach efforts included having a sign language interpreter. Additionally, he said that GNRC used creative engagement during the updating process. He said that at the March 8th public hearing there were interactive activities and educational booths. Outreach efforts included public efforts included

- 1: public noticing
- 2: press release to area media
- 3: email invitation to 400+ partners, clients, providers, council members and elected official
- 4: social media
- 5: senior center and partner newsletters

Ongoing stakeholders' engagement includes

- 1: informational presentations
- 2: stakeholder surveys
- 3: social media
- 4: expanding our partner network

For more information go to: www.gnrc.org/survey/aging

GNRC is requesting the following waivers to provide services directly rather than through contracts with area service providers

- a. Case Management (also known as Service Coordination): GNRC provides case management services for the OPTIONS for Community Living and Older Americans Act In-Home Services
- b. National Family Caregiver Support Program: GNRC provides case management services for the National Family Caregiver Support Program

Ms. Diana Alarcon said that Metro Nashville has programs that can partner with GNRC. She said that it might be helpful to break out the costs in detail.

Mr. Skipper said that Metro Social Services and Mid-Cumberland Human Resources are partners and are our two largest providers.

Mayor Anderson said that it would be helpful to know the percentage of aging population by counties and the services they receive. He also asked how much money for aging is received from Washington. Ms. Fowler said that the funding for the last 2 years has been different. She said that we have the normal recurring funding through the Older American's Act. GNRC get about 20% of the statewide funds. She said that in the last two years, GNRC has received Family First funding (which provides meals to

older adults. The CARES Act, which is similar to the Older Americans Act but for in-home services, legal assistance, nutrition, etc. GNRC has also received COVID-3 funding which is specifically for meals. These funds went mainly to Mid-Cumberland Human Resource Agency and Metro Social Services. Ms. Fowler said that these two agencies have been doing an amazing job at providing services over the last two years.

She said that recently we have received Vaccine-5 funding to aid in providing transportation for those older adults who need to get the vaccine or booster shot. This money is still being sent out to local transportation providers.

We are also receiving AARP funds but have not begun using these funds yet.

Mayor Anderson asked about how many senior veterans are being assisted. Ms. Fowler said that we work through the VA to provide the veteran self-directive program. These all go through the VA. She said that any veteran calls for assistance, we will do that.

Mr. Skipper said that every transaction is in detail in a spreadsheet. He said that we are looking at doing a more detailed publicly accessible edition.

Mayor Brown opened the public hearing.

Ms. Grace Smith, Director of Age Well Middle Tennessee, said that she supported the area plan. She said that as a non-profit, they get calls daily from those needing services (food, affordable housing, transportation). She said that we must bring in the private sector and philanthropy. She said that 10,000 baby boomers are turning 65 every day in the U.S. She said that in the next 20 years the over-65 population will grow 60% from 500,000 to 835,000. She said that the infrastructure to support that type of growth is not now in place. She said that the median income in our region is \$45,000/year for seniors, which makes it very difficult to live on a fixed income with the costs going up. She said that 22-25% of older homeowners are cost-burdened, with 50% of renters cost-burdened.

She said that we need help to prioritize issues such as affordable housing, transportation, family support, caregiver needs, and food. It will take all of us working together to address the needs of the seniors. This is a call to action.

Ms. Rita Martell, Director of Volunteers for AARP, voiced her agreement. She said that that AARP has target populations which they serve which includes veterans and grandparents as caregivers. She said that another program is making sure that seniors can age in place. She said that the AARP has a program to help local communities to become age-friendly communities.

With no further comments, Mayor Brown closed the public hearing,

Mayor Moore moved to adopt the Resolution GNRC 2022-08. The motion passed unanimously on the second by Mayor Pitts.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Nashville Region's Vital Signs Report

Mr. Skipper introduced Mr. Ralph Shultz, President & CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Skipper said that the issues for seniors are the same for everyone.

Mr. Shultz thanked the GNRC for the information provided on aging. He said that every 5 years since 1990 the Vital Signs report has been done. He said that we expect an increase of 200,000+ in population over the next 5 years with 150,000 jobs created.

Mr. Shultz said that managing growth is important and creating a world-class workforce is needed. The expansion of jobs is also an expansion of opportunities.

Mr. Matt Bailey, Vice-President of Regional Policy at the Chamber, said our region includes both the Nashville and Clarksville Metropolitan Statistical Areas. He said that resident's feedback is important. Middle Tennessee must meet the challenge of aiding current residents in getting the training and education they need to fill the jobs of the future and fully share in the region's growth and prosperity. The Vital Signs survey reveals that many Middle Tennessee workers understand they need additional skills training to succeed in the current and future work environment. He said that barriers for residents are 1) developing workforce, 2) childcare, 3) affordable housing, and 4) transportation. The solutions must come from a regional perspective.

He said that the birth rates are not keeping pace with the Boomers leaving the workplace. He also discussed the change in work – office vs. remotely. He said that the 45% of the work force worked remotely during the pandemic and 53% still have the opportunity to work remotely. Many Boomers who retired are now re-entering the work force.

Mr. Shultz said that the opportunities in Middle Tennessee are 1) livability, 2) lifestyle, and 3) quality of life.

Mayor Mike Callis asked what the total population is. Mr. Shultz said 2.3M. He said the number of respondents to the survey was 3,500.

Mayor Anthony Holt said that the perception of the general population is that the governments are working with developers promoting growth rather than quality of life

where housing is available to residents. He asked how the mayors can combat this perception to let the population know that it is not promoting growth but trying to accommodate the growth that is occurring. Mr. Shultz said it starts with the message that jobs represent opportunity for growth by attracting developers and driving supply which will eventually drive supply which will affect the cost curve of housing. Transportation and housing cannot really be separated. Mayor Brown said that there is a real need to build affordable homes. Mr. Skipper said that there is a gap between perception and reality when it comes to the supply/demand for housing. Mayor Holt said that public has a different perspective.

Mayor Moore said that the Mayors Caucus met recently with state elected officials promoting transportation/solid waste/housing. He said that the Legislature took local's tools away. He said that this needs to be addressed. He said that the childcare is also a very important issue. The mayors need to turn on the heat on the Legislature to get these issues addressed. Mayor Callis asked for a breakdown of respondents per county. Mr. Shultz said they can get him that information.

Mayor Brown said that economic education is needed in the local communities.

Mayor Anderson said that in building roads there is an enormous amount of time dealing with the utility companies which is causing delays.

Mayor Vogle said that recycling is also an issue.

REGULAR REPORTS

a) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was none.

b) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Skipper said that GNRC has announced a new grant opportunity in partnership with the TN Dept of Economic and Community Development to help expand Child Care capacity across the region. He said that the staff is assisting local jurisdictions that have opted into the Child Care Creation Grant Program with daycare outreach and application development. Additional information is available online at: <http://www.gnrc.org/grants/childcare>.

Mr. Skipper shared information about the Good Jobs Challenge Grant application submitted to the U.S. EDA in partnership with the Northern Middle Tennessee Workforce Board. He said the application requested approximately \$20M to help target low-income households across Middle TN with job training aligned with regional workforce needs. Mr. Skipper said that the staff will keep the members posted on the highly competitive program.

Mr. Skipper said the membership dues estimates were sent out.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Edwards
Recording Secretary