

## **Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board**

### **Meeting Minutes - December 15, 2015**

Present: Bill Wieringa, Art Roberts, Ruth Ann Meyer, Ann Perkins, Kathy Mishler, Trudy (Riker), Ali Arif (youth participant)

Absent Excused: Sharon White, Gloria Padilla-Carlson, Monifa Jumanne

Absent Unexcused: None

Guest: None

Staff: -Kim Phillips, PSC Manager

Chair Bill Wieringa called the meeting to order at 2:30p.m. Bill informed the Board that the meetings were being recorded to make it easier to record the minutes. Intent for this date is to have a shorter meeting than normal, followed by a holiday gathering.

The chair asked for approval of the November minutes. The minutes were approved with the following amendments: Correction of Art Roberts and Ruth Ann Meyers names in attendance, change wording to "seconded" under approval of meeting minutes. Trudy moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Art Roberts.

Kim informed group that she was taking minutes due to Sharon's absence.

---

#### ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

##### **Management (Kim)**

- Kim referred Board to the printed manager's report.
- Kim made the announcement that the new Program Coordinator position has been filled by Sonya Evans, to start at the PSC on January 4. Sonya has a diverse background and staff feels she will be a good fit with the position. Ann Perkins asked if Sonya had any travel experience, the concern echoed by Trudy. Kim stated that none of the candidates had group travel experience but she was confident in Sonya's ability to learn the role.
- Total active membership for November is 1,280

##### Program Highlights:

- "Day of the Dead" program was well-received
- November Thanksgiving lunch had an attendance of 76 members
- November evening meal featured musical entertainment and 40 people participated

**Programs and Services:** Gloria was absent, no report made for this area.

**Travel Program:** Trudy reported on three trips that went out – Pippin, Callaway Gardens, Texas Tenors and Beautiful: The Musical. Trudy noted that there was a large number of non-members who were participating in the travel program. Ann Perkins mentioned that she participated in Beautiful, and it was a good trip. Bill Wieringa was on the Texas Tenors trip, and had a good experience as well. Ann and Bill were both complimentary of their trip escorts.

Upcoming trips - New Year's Eve on the River. No other pending trips as there are not many trips during winter because of potential weather challenges. Art mentioned that the spring trip preview was coming up.

**Friends of PSC Board Update:** (Trudy)

- Friends have been focusing on audits and financial controls and put new procedures in place
- A discussion occurred regarding changing the by-laws, updates to come
- The cost of the fall appeal was discussed, almost \$6,000 had been raised to-date
- The Friends will repeat the "It's in the Bag" purse sale. Donations are welcome. Sale will be expanded to include scarves, jewelry and men's ties. Event will be April 16.
- Trudy mentioned that Friends had not requested specific help from the Advisory Board, but she encouraged members to consider volunteering to support their activities.
- Friends will be holding their annual retreat in January to set goals for the coming year. Trudy will not be attending. Tom Vance will be facilitating their retreat. They are trying to work to make sure goals are more specific and measurable.
- Kim told the Friends that the Accreditation materials had been mailed.
- Ruth Ann asked about the golf outing. Kim said she would send the information out to the Board as she couldn't remember when it was. Trudy reminded them it will be an 18 hole outing at Gull Lake Country Club.

**Legislative Update (Ruth Ann):**

- Ruth Ann didn't have any to report as there hadn't been many legislative movement. Trudy mentioned that she'd heard about tax relief for a new tech company trying to move into Grand Rapids. Ruth Ann did remind members to contact their legislators if they had any concerns; not to be afraid to get in touch with them. Art mentioned he had received a response from Brandt Iden to a letter he had sent.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Kathy Mishler asked about having an anti-filibuster rule to reduce allowing any one person only ten minutes to speak to prevent a person from talking for a majority of the meeting. Since it was only a

one-hour meeting, she wondered about the possibility of having a “sergeant at arms” to track times. Bill asked the board for discussion. Ann stated that when it does happen, she thinks it is the chair’s responsibility to intervene. Art said that before the agenda had listed times allotted for discussion. Kim noted that is the format the Friends use and wondered if the board wanted that. Ann said the board had utilized that format before and it didn’t really work. She felt the important factor was the board be respectful of time. Bill said that while the meeting would usually run for an hour, we should plan on having occasionally going until four if more in-depth discussions need to take place. Jean stated that she liked to opportunity for the meeting to be flexible, to adapt to discussion topics if needed. Trudy asked Kathy if she felt there had been issues. Kathy explained that she had experienced one person taking a majority of the time for their personal concerns. Bill stated he would work to monitor that.

Kim mentioned that Senior Services of Southwest Michigan would be discontinuing lunch service at the PSC as of the end of January. The December Holiday lunch would be their last special event. PSC staff is working to look at alternative meal options. Kim stated this was not a surprise decision as attendance at the current lunches had been steadily declining. This is an opportunity to look at alternatives that might have wider appeal.

**ACTIVITIES REMINDER:**

Art reminded the board about the Indoor Farmers Market taking place at the PSC on December 20. Kim confirmed that information, and stated this was a test market. The outdoor market, starting in May, was almost confirmed.

- Holiday Lunch – December 17, 11:30AM
- Countdown to Kwanzaa – December 17, 1:15PM
- Diversity 101: What’s your GPA? – January 7, 1:30PM

**Advisory Board Comments:**

Jean asked if any thought had been given to vending machines as a meal alternative. Kim said all alternatives were being researched. Art stated that it has been a great year working with the board and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Citizen Comments:** None.

With no more discussion, a motion to adjourn was made so that the group could enjoy Holiday festivities. Meeting Adjourned, 2:30PM

**The next PSC Advisory Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 2:30p.m. Reminder: If you are unable to attend an Advisory Board meeting. Please call or e-mail the Chairperson.**

Submitted by Kim Phillips