

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2014

Board Present: Pat Berninger, Jim Hoppe, Kyle Huitt, Youth Participant, Mary Maisto, Ruth Ann Meyer, Ann Perkins, Mary Lou Petruccio, Trudy Riker, Art Roberts, and Helen Tubbs

Absent Excused: Monifa Jumanne

Staff: Kimberly Phillips, Senior Citizen Services Manager, and Bill Deming, Director of Parks and Recreation

Guests: None

Chairperson Ann Perkins called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Bill Deming introduced Kim Phillips as the new manager at the Portage Senior Center (PSC). Kim provided some of her background. We welcomed her to PSC.

There were no suggested changes to the March minutes. Ruth Ann moved to approve them as written. Pat seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Items for Information

- Management Report for March (Kim)
Total event sign-ins: 1957
Active memberships: 1167, with 16 new members and 51 renewals
Volunteer hours: 1992, representing the work of 147 volunteers
Three programs for March were highlighted and two PSC trips occurred in March.

Pat mentioned that the PSC choir performed recently at Bickford and they were well received. Mary Lou inquired whether those whose memberships have lapsed are being given a call. Jim agreed that personal contact is helpful.

- Wellness (Helen) –Helen reported on planning for the May 19 seminar at PSC sponsored by the Senior Brigade. She is working with Judith Huth to obtain a flyer to advertise the event titled “Protect Yourself, Protect Your Future”. Pat volunteered to help with setup for the seminar. Helen obtained information on an exercise class for those with Parkinson’s disease. This is provided through Bronson. There is also a possibility of a presentation on memory issues given by a representative of CentraCare.
- Trip Committee (Trudy and Art) – Trudy reported that 23 people enjoyed the “Local Treasures” trip to areas in Kalamazoo. Art was among 26 people who attended the “Ford-o-Rama” trip where they witnessed a Ford truck assembly from start to finish, and visited the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Mansion. We were reminded that a Spring Trip Preview will be held on April 21 at PSC.
- Friends of PSC (Trudy) – Jason Horan and Ryan Turtle were recently added as members of the Friends Board. A memorial donation will be applied to new lighting in the multi-purpose room and some upgrades to the computer/meeting room. Helen commented that overhead fans would be very beneficial in the multi-purpose room. Revisions to the Friends website include a new web address of www.friendspsc.org. For the May 19 Golf Outing Ruth Ann suggested that signup information be mailed to those who attended last year.
- Current Legislation Regarding Seniors (Ruth Ann) – Senate bill 636 which allows phone companies to eliminate landlines starting in 2017 was signed by the governor. There was discussion of the annual Older Michigianians meeting in Lansing with legislators on June 3.

Old Business - None

New Business

- Discussion of objectives for our first two proposed goals for 2014-2015:
 - ◆ Goal #1 – *“Help to increase new and renewal memberships to 2000”*
Ruth Ann would like to see a graph of membership numbers by month and Jim agreed. Mary would like to have data on how many memberships are due each month vs. how many are renewed. Ruth Ann would also like to see a breakdown by age groups. Helen suggested some newsletter articles reporting on activities at PSC that were enjoyed by members.
 - ◆ Goal #2 – *“Help to increase funding for operational support in cooperation with the Friends of the Portage Senior Center”*
Support by the Advisory Board is provided for the golf outing through attendance and volunteer efforts. Kim informed us that the Crafters Garage Sale generated about \$700 with these funds going to the Friends of PSC. There is also a Bits of Business event scheduled for September 11.
- Advertising for the May 19 program “Protect Yourself, Protect Your Future”:
Ruth Ann will advertise this event at the next Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues (KCASI) meeting on April 21. Bill Deming said the city can issue a news release to inform the public they are welcome to attend. Helen hopes to obtain a flyer from the sponsors of the program.

Advisory Board Comments: Ann and Mary Lou recently attended a session of Reader’s Theatre and greatly enjoyed it. Jim volunteered to attend the New Member Orientation on May 8 to represent the board. Art inquired about the date for the PSC Volunteer Recognition. Kim reported that it is still being planned. Art also mentioned a Senior Expo with legislators on May 12.

Citizen Comments: None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

The next Advisory Board meeting will be held May 21 at 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Submitted by Mary Maisto