

# Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

## Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2014 – 2:30PM

Board Present: Pat Berninger, Jim Hoppe, Monifa A. Jumanne, Mary Maisto, Ruth Ann Meyer, Ann Perkins, Mary Lou Petruccio, Trudy Riker, Helen Tubbs, and Karen Warner

Absent Excused: Art Roberts

Kyle Huitt, Youth Participant, has completed his assignment as WMU representative at PSC.

Staff: Kimberly Phillips, Senior Citizens Services Manager

Guests: None

Chairperson Ann Perkins called the meeting to order at 2:30PM. Ann introduced Karen Warner, new alternate member. We learned some of Karen's healthcare background and welcomed her to the Board.

No changes were suggested to the April minutes. Ruth Ann moved to approve the minutes. Trudy seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### Items for Information

- **Management Report for April** (Kim)

Total event sign-ins: 2503

Active memberships: 1214, with 24 new members and 82 renewals

Volunteer hours: 2211, representing the work of 155 volunteers

Program Highlights: April featured collaborations with Schram's Greenhouses, Portage District Library (Poetry Festival), and Bronson Healthcare, as well as the Crafters' Garage Sale, Easter Lunch, and Grocery Bingo.

With two months on the job, Kim reports that she is getting accustomed to her position. She's learning, among other things, how to manage MySeniorCenter®. Kim reported a “huge surge” in membership renewals (from 51 to 84), and said we can expect a “big jump” in participation. Kim also announced the PSC 2014 Volunteer Recognition at Michelle's, Portage, 9am, June 10. Two trips, Thunder over Louisville and Magnificent M&M's, went out in April.

- **Wellness** (Helen) – Helen reported on the May 19<sup>th</sup> PSC-sponsored Senior Brigade, with the theme, “Protect Yourself, Protect Your Future.” Helen expressed to the Board her concern that wellness information seems to end in this meeting, i.e., the information she brings to the meeting is not being effectively disseminated to seniors. She expressed frustration at being unable to post information for the Brigade, but said signs were visible for the Golf Outing.

Kim explained how the public was informed. The next time, we will coordinate with other agencies in an effort to increase attendance or at least, to ensure that people are better informed. Ann listed various publicity outlets used for reaching seniors, including collaborating with partner organizations, and reminded us that there will always be some activities that attract more people than others. Ann suggested that Helen and Karen could begin to explore alternate or additional ways to reach the senior population. Kim said that if we come across news of relevant events, we should pass that information to her for possible dissemination.

Helen attended “The Court and the Clergy” Conference at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home on Gull Road, and received much helpful information. Helen explained that “elder abuse” is not the preferred term for publicizing events regarding elder care. People who might not attend an event described by the narrow term “elder abuse,” might attend an event described by the more general term “elder care.”

- Trip Committee (Trudy) – Trudy reported on two trips: Grand Rapids on April 28 for “Magnificent M&Ms” and Niles on May 13 for “Birds & Bees” (birdwatching and beekeeping) at Fernwood Botanical Garden. The May 29 trip to Saugatuck, “A Delicious Drive...,” is at capacity with a waiting list. The June 8 Detroit Tigers trip was canceled. Upcoming trips: June 13, Shipshewana, IN: Oak Ridge Boys, and June 18, Jackson: “The Last Romance.”
- Friends of PSC (Trudy) – With its upgraded Web site, [www.friendspsc.org](http://www.friendspsc.org), *Friends* will soon launch an eNewsletter. There is some discussion regarding sponsorship or co-sponsorship of the Annual Holiday Bazaar. The Golf Outing fundraiser went well.
- Current Legislation Regarding Seniors (Ruth Ann) – Ruth Ann reported that current legislative issues for seniors include: 1) the Legislative Budget for FY2015, 2) Care Management, and 3) Social Security and Medicare. The June 16 meeting of Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues (KCASI) will feature a presentation by the League of Women Voters.

#### **Old Business** - None

#### **New Business**

- Older Michigianians Day, Tuesday, June 3, is being observed in Lansing and across the State with the theme, “Healthy Aging, Healthy Michigan: A Platform for Legislative Action.” KCASI is sponsoring a bus to Lansing, departing at 8:30AM and returning at 3:00PM. Persons interested in going can call KCASI at (269) 373-5147, to reserve a seat and a box lunch.
- Accreditation (Jim) – Jim reported that the Accreditation Committee met today, May 21, to confirm the timeline, review job descriptions, and clarify aspects of the process.
- Kim invited Board members to serve, or suggest someone else to serve, on an accreditation committee during the self-assessment phase and beyond.
- The Board discussed progress toward Goal #3 (Identify innovative programming) and Goal #4 (Advise City Council and PSC management on senior issues). Ruth Ann asked about discussion of the remaining goals. The Board agreed to review progress toward goal achievement meeting by meeting.

#### **Advisory Board Comments:**

- Jim asked about the number of PSC lifetime members. Answer TBA...
- Helen informed us of a free Probate Clinic, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 9AM – 12N, at the Kalamazoo County Courthouse. Attorneys will be on hand to answer questions regarding probate matters. No appointment is necessary.

#### **Citizen Comments:** None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM. The next Advisory Board meeting will be June 18, 2:30PM, at the Senior Center.