

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting  
Minutes  
February 18, 2015

Board Present: Mary Maisto, Gloria Padilla-Carlson, Ruth Ann Meyer, Trudy Riker, Art Roberts, Bill Wieringa

Absent Excused: Pat Berninger, Monifa A. Jumanne, Michael E. Martin, Ann Perkins, Mary Lou Petrulio

Absent with Notice: Simran Singh

Staff: Kimberly Phillips, Senior Services Manager

Guests: Gail Ahleman

**Call to order:** Vice Chair Mary Maisto called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Art moved and Trudy seconded to approve the January 21 minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Items for Information**

- Manager's Report- January (Kim)

Total event sign ins: 1,778.

A slight reduction this month probably due to "snowbirds."

Active memberships: 1,257 with 13 new members and 52 membership renewals.

Volunteer hours; Total of 1,875 representing the work of 145 volunteers valued at over \$40,850.

**JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS**

The scheduling of appointments for the AARP tax assistance program was filled quickly.

The staff has been referring persons to other assistance sites in Kalamazoo County.

The PSC has partnered with the Portage Public Schools offering daytime indoor walking on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. at the Stable (the multi-purpose center behind Central Middle School.)

- **Wellness Initiative** (Gloria)

PSC will sponsor a tour of Sawall Health Foods in Portage, Wednesday, March 18, 3 PM. The tour is open to non-members.

Gloria asked about a membership survey as it relates to what activities are desired by members. Kim explained that in a few months a survey would be distributed to members regarding all programs that are provided by the Center.

- **Trip Committee** (Art and Trudy)

The "I love Lucy" trip on February 14 was well received.

- **Friends of the PSC** (Trudy)

An in depth analysis report of the fund raising process was given. Also discussed that another mailing to follow up on reaching the fundraising goal. Reminder of the May 18 Golf outing at Angel's Crossing. This is one of the main fund raising projects for the Friends.

- **Legislative Updates** (Ruth Ann)

Ruth Ann, Art and Gloria attended the KCASI meeting on Feb. 16 to hear Representative Fred Upton speak. He expressed his concern regarding budget and Social Security disability coverage. Highlighted committee action: the efforts to curb human trafficking, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures (cutting edge medical research) and “energy policy vision.” State representative Jon Hoadley (Kalamazoo) briefly responded to the list of concerns regarding state issues.

**Old Business**

- Progress on 2014/2015 goals (Mary)

Mary asked for Board member input as to how the goals have been met since the September report to the City Council. Kim distributed the “goals and objectives” list. The Board discussed each goal and made comments. Any additional ideas should be emailed to Ann prior to our March meeting. A report is due to City Council in April. Also in April a proposed list of 2015-2016 goals and objectives should be submitted to Council.

**New Business**

- Grant received via Friends for Technology Education

The PSC received notification of a \$10,000 award from Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The purpose is to purchase equipment to provide expanded technology education to members. There are several other outstanding grant applications pending that, if received, will support this project. The Friends of the PSC will act as the fiduciary when funds are received.

- Public Media Network produced a video about the PSC

Board members were asked if they had viewed the video and what their views were about the tape. Kim explained why and how it was developed, filmed, etc. and the responses she has heard about it. The video provides an awareness of what the PSC does for members and the community. It can be viewed on Public Media Network’s website. A link is also available on the PSC’s Facebook page.

- Kim – With Bill Deming’s retirement, his position was split into a) parks/recreation/senior services and b) Public Works. Rod Russell has been appointed to the Public Works position. The search is currently being conducted by the city to find a Director of Parks, Recreation & Senior Services.

**Activities Reminder**

- Accessing 911 Presentation – Friday, March 13, 1:00PM
- Casino trip – Tuesday, March 17
- Purse sale – Saturday, April 18, 9:00AM-1:00PM
- Golf outing – Monday, May 18

### Advisory Board Comments

Art – Remarked that he liked the trip reminder postcards that were recently mailed to prompt people to sign up for available PSC trips.

Ruth Ann-Several members attended Bill Deming's retirement celebration. The card from the board was taken to the event.

Kim – Monifa submitted a request to Kim that the Advisory Board discuss how the PSC observed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 19, as well as Black History Month. Kim noted although programming was not planned, we will look for program opportunities moving forward. A discussion followed with support for ideas that broaden programming for cultural events. Kim explained that she has been in contact with WMU's Division of Multi-Cultural Affairs to explore resources for multicultural programming. Kim will be working with the director to connect with various groups who can assist in providing resources and programming opportunities for the PSC.

### Citizen Comments

Gayle commented that she has enjoyed attending the Advisory Board meetings. The meeting was adjourned a 3:30 PM.

The next Advisory Board meeting will be March 18 at 2:30 PM at the Senior Center.

Submitted by Substitute secretary, Ruth Ann Meyer