

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2016

Present: Bill Wieringa, Art Roberts, Monifa A. Jumanne, Ruth Ann Meyer, Gloria Padilla-Carlson, Ann Perkins, Kathy Mishler, Trudy Riker, Sharon White, Jean Wenz, Sonya Evans, Mary Lou Petrulio

Absent Excused: Ali Arif

Guest: N/A

Staff: Kim Phillips, PSC Manager

Chair Bill Wieringa called the meeting to order at 2:30p.m. The chair asked for approval of the December minutes. Ruth Ann moved and Art seconded the motion that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved with the following amendments – Gloria is listed in both absent and attending (was absent), Art Roberts & Ruth Ann Meyer names to be corrected.

Management (Kim):

- Introduced the new Trip/Program coordinator Sonya Evans. Sonya may fill in at Advisory Board meetings if Kim is ever not available.
- Numbers are strong given winter weather - Total active membership for December is 1,911.
- The membership is down slightly but typical for this time of year, tends to increase later in the spring.
- Kim stated that Grandparents and Santa program was well received by everyone.
- Reminder that the special holiday lunches will still go on with the help of Medilodge across the street (details still being worked out).
- Eight people attended the Kwanzaa program.
- Kim stated PSC adopted a family from PCC during the Holiday.

Trudy asked if a daily luncheon will come back. Kim stated they are still researching that option with Medilodge to see if they could provide one meal per week. Trudy was curious if people were looking to participate in a daily lunch event.

Art asked about an upcoming cooking demonstration. Chef Roger from Medilodge will be offering a “Mystery” Cooking Demonstration.

Program and Service: Since she’s been out, Gloria had nothing to report.

Travel Program (Art & Trudy): Recent trips:

- 12/4 Texas tenors (32) was in attendance

- 12/20 Beautiful: Carol King (well received)
- New Year's Eve on the River – positive feedback from those that attended

Upcoming trips:

- Working on June trip to Baseball & Bingo at the White Caps in Grand Rapids
- Texas Tenors is being offered again due to popularity of original trip
- Tigers Games are being planned – June 8 and September 25
- Cubs vs. Brewers – overnight trip

Please note: The next newsletter will cover information regarding payments for trips. The overnight trip money can be paid in installments and day trips have to be paid in full at the time of registration. Early registration is important to fulfil ticket commitments.

Jean asked if there was flexibility in bus sizes. Trudy indicated there was. Discussion followed regarding purchasing tickets and what happens when trips need to be cancelled.

Friends of PSC Board Update: Trudy had nothing to report as Friends had their annual strategic planning session. As board chair, Bill Wieringa went to the meeting and gave a presentation. He didn't stay for the full meeting, but there was a presentation from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. Kim noted that she would normally attend, but did not attend this year due to an unscheduled trip. Friends is working hard to be dialed in on their goals to financially support the PSC. Trudy reminded the board that it is important to support the Friends activities.

Legislative Update (Ruth Ann): Ruth Ann didn't have anything to report as there hadn't been many legislative movements on aging and stated she was disappointed about that, because of the fact she was concerned about the health issue for the elderly. Kim mentioned that she will be attending a Professionals Focused on Aging meeting and they anticipated an announcement from the Area Agency on Aging. Trudy mentioned she had recently seen Fred Upton, and to be willing to communicate your concerns to him. Brandt Iden will be hosting public coffee events: 2/5 Rykses on Stadium Dr. (9:00-10:30a.m.) and 2/19 Biggby Coffee in Schoolcraft (9:30-11:00). Information will be sent to the board via e-mail.

Monifa mentioned that Daisy Elliott, a civil rights pioneer in the State of Michigan, had passed away recently.

Old Business:

- Bill passed out a signup sheet for new members and to anyone who didn't sign and turn the sheet in for the duties of the advisory board.

- Kwanzaa 2015 – Monifa stated that the program was wonderful. Mayor Pro-Tem Ansari attended as well as several members of the Advisory Board. Everyone had a great time.

New Business:

- Kim - New Member Breakfast for new members will be offered quarterly. Allow new folks to socialize with other members. Has a sponsor that will be providing breakfast. Bill asked what defines a “new member.” Kim indicated anyone could self-select as a new member but invites had been mailed to anyone who had joined in the previous six months.
- Kim – asked about feelings regarding introducing a new ‘free fragrance’ policy in the building, due to the possible health impacts for members. She distributed a draft policy and is asking for board input. Discussion followed. Kim asked that members bring feedback and suggestions to next meeting. Trudy indicated a concern for the ability to enforce a policy. Jean indicated that how it is presented might have an impact.
- Jean Wenz brought up a concern for crossing the street safely for the elderly and the handicapped people. Lights change before slower paced individuals can fully cross the street. Wondered if there was anything the Advisory Board could do and who could we bring in to talk about this issue. A member of the Transportation & Utilities will be invited to another meeting. Discussion supported bringing in someone to discuss this topic. She also mentioned that due to the Rotary meetings (Wednesdays), parking is sometimes a concern and wondered some people had the ability to park further away from the building. Kim mentioned that parking is top member complaint and they are aware it is a problem.
- Monifa asked about the protocol for putting an item on the Advisory Board agenda. Kim mentioned that agenda has to go out seven days ahead, so Bill asked for items to be submitted nine days ahead in order to get the agenda written. It was also mentioned that approved minutes need to be posted to the website.
- Monifa also wanted to announce that the City of Portage was bringing in the Central State University Choir. She will email information to the Advisory Board. Concert will be at Portage Northern High School. Concert will be free and open to the public. Monifa asked if anyone was interested in assisting to let her know.
- Monifa also distributed MLK bookmarks to the Advisory Board created by her granddaughter.

ACTIVITES REMINDER:

- 2/4 Mystery cooking @ 1p.m.
- 2/4 Methamphetamine Information Session with Portage Public Safety @ 1p.m.
- 2/8 Big Screen Movie @ 1:15p.m.
- 2/9 Teen Tech @ 3:30p.m.
- 2/16 Black History Month Dinner & Celebration @ 5:00p.m.

- 2/18 Valentine's Day Lunch @ 11:30a.m.
- 2/23 Travelling with Mr. Lincoln @ 6:30p.m.
- 2/26 Central State University Chorus @ 6:30p.m. (Free admission)

Ann asked if the Purse Sale was coming back. Kim said the 2nd annual sale will be on April 16. Donations are currently being collected.

Advisory Board Comments:

- Art Roberts stated that Metro County Connect is now running seven days a week starting Feb 7th.
- Monifa commented regarding Advisory Board discussions on how we were honoring Dr. King and Black History Month. A number of changes have been made in the past year. She felt negative attitudes after bringing the topic up. She thanked the board for helping to make changes.

Citizen comment: None

Next meeting is February 16, 2016 at 2:30PM.