

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2016

Present: Bill Wieringa, Art Roberts, Ruth Ann Meyer, Gloria Padilla-Carlson, Ann Perkins, Kathy Mishler, Sharon White, Mary Lou Petrulio.

Absent Excused: Ali Arif, Trudy Riker, Jean Wentz

Absent Unexcused: Monifa A. Jumanne

Guest: Chris Barnes, Director of Transportation & Utilities and Muhammad Arif, Traffic Engineer

Staff: Kim Phillips, Senior Citizen Services Manager & Sonya Evans, Program & Trip Coordinator

Chair Bill Wieringa called the meeting to order at 2:30p.m. The chairperson changed the order of the agenda due to the guests in attendance from the City of Portage Department of Transportation & Utilities

Presentation by T&U Staff:

Muhammad Arif and Chris Barnes were in attendance to address concerns regarding the how pedestrian crossings work, the timing of crosswalks and the impact on pedestrians. Muhammad explained how the crosswalks worked, including how many seconds an individual has to cross once the light has changed. When the signal changes to “walk,” individuals at the edge of the walk can begin to cross. If the “do not walk” begins to blink, an individual should still have time to complete their walk. However an individual should not begin to cross when the signal is blinking. The signal depends on the width of the street and the traffic light time, as well as assuming that an individual can walk 4 feet per second. (A 60 foot road crossing should be completed in 15 seconds.) Chris and Muhammad also explained traffic light cycles, and addressed what you can do if the light changes when you are in the middle of the street, including making eye contact with drivers and waving so that they are aware that you are walking. If there are any specific concerns regarding the set timing of specific crosswalks, citizens can contact the Transportation & Utilities Department.

The cameras that are mounted at intersections do not record or photograph traffic infractions. Michigan law requires an officer to visually observe an infraction in order to ticket an offense. Any concerns regarding this law should be addressed with a state representative as this is a state issue. Concerns about vehicles not observing traffic laws should be addressed with the Department of Public Safety, possibly at upcoming “Coffee with a Cop” programs. Muhammad also indicated he is willing to make personal appointments to discuss traffic concerns.

Minutes Approval:

The chair asked for approval of the February minutes. Mary Lou Petruccio requested that, going forward, pages of minutes be numbered. Kim indicated that she will format them to meet that request. Ann Perkins moved and Art Roberts seconded the motion that the minutes be approved.

Management (Kim):

January is a very quiet month, nothing really major to report. Taking appt. for taxes – appointments taking place at the Portage District Library. There was a cooking demonstration with WMU Dietetics students. Recently, there was also a “Mystery” cooking demonstration with Chef Roger from MediLodge.

Program and Service (Gloria and Sonya):

Gloria met with Sonya to brainstorm new monthly events. She encouraged members to check out the craft display in the lobby for Easter and St. Patrick’s Day crafts. The event is scheduled for March 2, for both crafts in a single session. They will continue to brainstorm new ideas for programs. Gloria stated that the center does such a great job with actively programming that it can be a challenge to find new opportunities. She would like to expand her program focus and not be pigeon-holed on wellness. Wellness programs are already doing well at the PSC.

Travel Program (Art):

January was a light month for travel. However, the Trip Committee had a great January meeting and is working to plan out trip opportunities for the year. Be sure to mark April 18 on your calendar for the Spring Trip Preview. Art said to be sure to check out the new master list of trips available at the Reception Desk. Sonya is updating with trip status items.

Upcoming trips:

- 3/24 Thirsty Village Tour – almost full, 3 or 4 seats left
- 3/31 Local Treasures
- 4/8 Magic of Neil Diamond
- 4/15 The Home Game
- 7/24 Cubs vs Brewers

Friends of PSC Board update:

Due to Trudy's absence, Kim briefly reported on Friends. Kim stated that on Monday, May 23, the Friends Annual Golf Outing will take place at Gull Lake Country Club. Plans for the purse sale are moving forward. She also stated that Friends will be granting up to 6,000.00 to remodel the restrooms and possibly the kitchen area.

Legislative update (Ruth Ann):

Ruth Ann attended the KCASI legislative meeting. KCASI distributed a list of legislative issues being pursued in the upcoming year. She also encouraged everyone to vote in the Presidential Primary Election on March 8. Art distributed a flyer from Brandt Iden with additional dates for public coffee meetings. Kim said a date had been requested for Brandt Iden to meet at the PSC and they were working on setting something up. Ruth Ann encouraged everyone to continue to stay in touch and communicate with representatives.

Old Business:

Fragrance free policy – Kim reinforced that she would still like suggestions and feedback from members. Art referred to the Fragrance language in the trip brochure. Kim said that similar language could be included in the membership manual. Ann said she liked the wording listed in the trip brochure. Kim will draft something up and send it out to the board for review. Ruth Ann likes the wording, suggesting people limit fragrances rather than outright banning it. She said education on the impact of fragrance on people's health would be appropriate. Bill reminded the group that the board does not set policy but can make recommendations to the staff.

New Business: No new business covered.

Activities Reminder:

- New Member "Meet & Eat," Thursday, Feb 25 at 9:00 AM – Kim encouraged Advisory Board members to attend if possible; please RSVP if you can make it
- Travels with Mr. Lincoln, Feb 23 at 6:30 PM – registration is going very well, already over 30 people signed up
- Garden Talk (weekly series) by Schram's starts March 8, 6:30 PM
- Valentine's Day Lunch (Feb 18, sold out) & St Patrick's Day Lunch (March 17) – food prepared by Chef Roger at MediLodge
- Casino Trip to Four Winds on March 22 – trip is sold out but Kim is taking a waiting list with the possibility of taking a second bus.

Advisory Board Comments:

Ruth Ann asked Kim to speak about the Black History Month dinner. Kim said that Sharon White did an excellent job with food. It was good and plentiful. One attendee gave it high praise saying it was “almost as good” as his grandmother’s. Unfortunately due to a scheduling conflict, the program did not happen. However there was good fellowship. The City Manager and the Deputy City Manager were both in attendance.

Art commended Kim and the rest of the staff on all the work that they do. They work hard and their efforts are appreciated, as well as the work of the volunteers. Art also mentioned that he will not be at the March meeting as he will be traveling in Vietnam.

Citizen Comments: NONE

The next PSC Advisory Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 2:30 PM

Reminder: If you are unable to attend an Advisory Board meeting. Please call or e-mail the chairperson.