

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

MINUTES: December 21, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Gloria Padilla-Carlson, Art Roberts, Mary Lou Petruccio, Ann Perkins, Larry Smith, Albert Steffens, Trudy Riker, Geana Goorhouse, Sharon White, Bill Wieringa

Absent Excused: Jean Wenz

Absent Un-excused: N/A

Guests: Catherine from Aetna Insurance

Staff: Kim Phillips

Call to order time: 2:30 PM

Corrections to previous minutes: None

Approved minutes- motion made by Albert, seconded by Gloria Padilla-Carlson

Programs, Gloria Padilla-Carlson:

None to report

Travel Program, Trudy Riker:

“Christmas with the in laws” in December was well attended. A trip will be coming up in January to the Civic Theater to see “Sylvia” with dinner at the Park club. Also, there are plans for a trip to Mackinaw Island, (drawn by raffle) in August. Previously the trip was scheduled in October, however, weather may be more enjoyable for some in August compared to October. There are travel plans for a flower show and a trip to see the Cubs in Chicago, the Tigers in Detroit and “The King and I”. The trips have been full thus far and several trips have had to be duplicated.

Kim- stated that Facebook is available to view the upcoming trips and to comment and share ideas on future trips. The Facebook page is: portageseniorcentermi.gov which will bring up the scheduled trips and give others an opportunity to share ideas and comments about the past and upcoming trips.

Friends of PSC Board Update, Kim Phillips:

The first class of “Ageing Mastery Program will be graduating tomorrow, (December 23) at 5:30 PM with a graduation ceremony and treats.

Friends are preparing for retreat in January, with the goal of being more intentional with the goal of being represented at the advisory board. Trudy has been the “go between” thus far. The Fall appeal went out which gathered 10,000 in donations.

There is a change in leadership to Bill McCarty from Kimberley Middleton as she is stepping down. However, she will remain on the Friends of PSC Board. Bill would like to have Friends of PSC be represented more at the Advisory meetings. Bill is wanting to put committees together to promote special events at the Senior Services Center; including donor recognition awards.

The liquor license registering process was completed and passed on to the State, so that during certain events there would be a cash bar available. There will be a lot more talk about the use of the liquor license in January after the retreat.

Also, Friends would like their calendars to mesh with the Senior Center Calendar so they do not conflict. Ideally the calendars will be set up to 18 months out. It was a short meeting, but enough to approve the liquor license.

Legislative Updates, Art:

Nothing until next month

Manager's Report, Kim Phillips:

Manager's Report was provided by Kim to be read at the convenience of the Advisory council. PSC received a grant for the Aging Mastery Program which includes: estate planning, balance, physical fitness, relationships, gratitude, community engagement, nutrition etc. We are aggressively trying to get sponsorship for this program along with the grants so these programs can continue. The first class will be graduating tomorrow, (December 23) at 5:00 PM with a graduation ceremony and treats.

\$2500 grant from Walmart was awarded to PSC, to support diversity, inclusiveness and an oral history project with our members in February. Donna Odom, Executive Director of "Share", (Society of history and Racial Equity) thought it would be a good program to honor Black History Month.

Be sure that Advisory Council member emails are submitted so that the bi-weekly emails can be sent out. The emails have been effective. Typically, within 15 to 20 minutes after the "send" button is pushed, the phones start ringing with people asking about trips or programs. The feedback has been positive as the emails are keeping people up to date with what is happening at the Senior Center.

Old Business, Kim Phillips:

Architecture update: Second meeting to do a master site plan nothing is guaranteed. A few people gave some input including "must haves", which resulted in a couple of designs. The next meeting will be to hold a public meeting with a concept design and a price tag. Then PSC will go to the City with the completed design. One design was an addition to the current building the other design is to build a separate building on the property. The concept must be transitional so we do not shut down.

Trudy – "What is your opinion on the two-story concept"? There is concern about those in wheel chairs or other ambulatory difficulties accessing this type of addition. There needs to be at least one elevator with a two-story addition which will increase the amount spent. The afore mentioned drawings were left out for those on the board to review.

New Business, Kim Phillips:

Old closing policy has been that if the Portage school system is closed, the Senior Center would also be closed. Kim would like to see what other senior centers closing policy's might be in the area as PSC is a place for Seniors to go when there is no other place to go.

Kim- "The Board may want to handle the closing differently as the staff must report no matter what. The building for public use may be closed, but if we, (the staff) still have to be here, why not keep the doors open"? Maybe we can delay instead of opening, as some agencies do this. If there will be a change then we need to update this by June or July of next year.

Trudy- "We might say that if the schools are closed we the Senior Center may not run the van. But the doors will be open for those who want to come in and play cards etc. As the driver of the van does not have to run the van in inclement weather.

Kim-The approach used to be that if the school buses are not running, then it wouldn't be safe for seniors to drive on the roads. Which may be offensive as it could be misunderstood that seniors are unable to handle difficult driving situations.

Trudy- "How would closing the senior center effect the scheduled trips"? Response from Kim, "This question is something altogether different than the question of closing for the day, and may be a question for the trip coordinator to answer".

Board members have volunteered to call other centers. Advisory board would make the recommendation then it would go to the city council for approval.

Kim- Geana and I met last week to discuss the need for incorporating health and wellness discussions and education back onto the agenda. PSC no longer offers foot care, as a licensed medical professional licensed in such care, is needed to begin these services. The proposal was motioned and approved by the Senior Advisory Council to incorporate health and wellness back into the Advisory Agenda.

ACTIVITIES REMINDERS:

Prof Talks is a free 4-part series which is opened to the public and will take place within the next few months. Prof Talks are sponsored by Weiser and Associates. Prof-talks are similar to Ted talks. The topics are varied and based on the expertise of the Professors giving the talks. The next one coming up on January 16, 2016 is "Protecting the Great Lakes". Another one is on the Underground Railroad and Saigon Japan Center.

The PSC Indoor Market will be opened on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The first one on January 8, 2017. Dawn will have the PSC trip office open during the Indoor Market hours. If someone has any questions relating to trips, memberships etc., they will be able to be answered at that time as a lot of inquiries are made during the Indoor Market.

Friends will be hosting a Mystery Dinner Theater in February

PCM will be closed on Monday December 26th and the following Monday.

ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS:

No comments noted other than the comments in this transcript

Youth Advisory Committee, Courtney

- Volunteered to help with the distribution of food and clothes for those in need during the holiday season.

- Working with the Portage Police department and the township attorney to draft a local ordinance in Portage which would prosecute those adults who are hosting under aged drinking in their home.

Citizen comment:

Catherine is a Case manager with Aetna Insurance. Catherine is new to this area and therefore was attending the meeting to become better informed of the services and programs offered at PSC to better serve her clients.

Time Adjourned: 3:30PM

Next meeting January 18, 2017