

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

MINUTES: March 15, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Gloria Padilla-Carlson, Arthur Roberts, Mary Lou Petrulio, Larry Smith, Albert Steffens, Trudy Riker, Bill Wieringa, Cortney Chow

Absent Excused: Geana Goorhouse, Sharon White, Ann Perkins

Absent Un-excused: N/A

Guests: Kathryn Hansland from Aetna

Staff: Kim Phillips

Call to order time: 2:30 PM

Corrections to previous minutes: None.

February and March approved: Art Roberts moved and seconded. Minutes approved without amendments.

Travel Program, Arthur Roberts and Trudy Riker :

Trudy: The trips last month were very successful, with a trip preview scheduled for April 17, please come in the afternoon in an open house style event, 2-6:00 PM. Trip brochure will be available on site, select vendors will offer presentations on those trips they are offering as well.

Friends of PSC Board Update, Bill Wieringa:

The Friends have not met yet in April, so an update will be tabled for the next meeting. Kim Phillips mentioned that the Carnival cake walk was popular, the Golf Scramble is coming up on May 22, and the Friends of the PSC Spring Appeal is in the process of being developed.

Legislative Updates, Art:

Current issues being followed are the county Identification program and 911 surcharge millage? Brent Iden expected at KCASI meeting. At the Older Michiganian Day there will be a bus, May 17, from the area. There will be no tents this year, but meeting rooms are reserved indoors. Trudy stated that Fred Upton is a good speaker and suggested the group be on the watch for opportunities to hear him.

Manager's Report, Kim Phillips:

Kendall Klingelsmith has left the city's employment, moving up north. The city is in the process of interviewing for the position, but meanwhile, Kim will be stepping into the role. Email is the best mode of communication until a replacement is hired.

Senior Center won third place for a \$2,000 grant for programming through a flu shot clinic competition.

Ageing Mastery Program continues to be a "crazy success" with capacity sign ups. We have a third ten week course scheduled, and Kim has been receiving calls inviting AMP to be held around the county.

Contract finalized to bring in the documentary Age of Love, which will be shown on Monday, June 5, on a group of seniors from upstate New York on speed dating. This documentary is about our need as

human beings to have contact with one another and how we never stop wanting to connect with others. The follow up to that is that the PSC will host a speed dating event for seniors. Kim is hoping the producer will help promote this.

Theresa Irish, author of A Thousand Letters Home, will be presenting twice on June 22nd, one at a luncheon and one evening event.

The indoor walking program was so successful that staff decided to capitalize on it by offering an outdoor walking program to begin late in April, partnering with local vendors to offer some prizes. This program offers opportunity for people to go at their own pace and enjoy the Portage park system. There will be celebrities at some walks.

Staff continues to offer Pop Up Programs, taking advantage of circumstances and good weather to offer activities. Pop Up Concerts, walks, and other activities advertised via emails.

Old Business, Kim Phillips:

Last month, discussion took place on the closing policy that was proposed, and Kim requested feedback and endorsement of the change. If the schools are closed, the PSC van transportation will not run. The PSC will be open for instructor lead classes. The PSC has purchased a telephone communication capability that allows us to record one message and send calls to participants of individual groups. If group leaders inform us that they do not want to come in, we can send messages to participants. Kim asked the board for feedback. In July, the PSC will promote the new inclement weather policy. Chair Bill Wieringa endorsed the new policy, and asked the board for any objections or comments. There were none. The board agreed to support the new policy.

Transportation was discussed at the previous meeting. Local travel opportunities are “hamstrung” by the lack of a multi-passenger bus. Ideally, the travel department would like a 24 passenger bus. Ann Perkins had previously suggested that the board begin advocating for this purchase. The budget for the 2017-18 year is already wrapped and approved. An expense would be approximately \$55,000 and if considered, would go in the 2018-19 fiscal year. Handicapped accessible transportation would be preferred. The city would not purchase a used vehicle. A formal recommendation from the Advisory Board could be made at the annual recommendations to Council in October or November.

New Business, Kim Phillips:

Friends Scholarships: The Friends of the PSC provide scholarship funding. One Accreditation recommendation was that the scholarship program offered provide more flexibility. Fitness, Health and Wellness classes and memberships are the only things for which scholarships are currently provided. The new draft was distributed to board members for review. A cap of \$100 per year is included in this new policy, which allows funds to be offered to more people. The annual cap is at \$100 and golf and casino trips are not included. The new Federal Guidelines for income levels are being respected in this new policy. Kim requested feedback from the Advisory Board during the May meeting. The new policy was constructed after careful review of the scholarship history.

ACTIVITIES REMINDERS:

Gloria commented on the Ted Talks as being very good.

Invitations for the volunteer appreciation event, which is in April this year, will be going out shortly.

As a Public Service reminder, Bill encouraged everyone to “get your Shingles shots” to prevent or lessen the effects of Shingles. Gloria asked Bill to describe his symptoms, which include pain following the nerves from the back around one side of the body. The injections are not covered by Medicare. There was discussion on the medical aspects of Shingles, the price of the injections which may be covered by private insurance. MMAP appointments are provided once a month at the PSC.

At this point in the meeting things dissolved into a free for all.

ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS:

March 9 Human Services on Gull Road Kareem Jubar’s book – chapter 8 is on seniors. Yesterday 2,000 people attended. He signed the books.

Larry Smith commented on the Florida trip – the only mishap was a flat tire and a good trip all around.

Youth Advisory Committee:

None

Citizen comment:

Kathryn Hansland asked about volunteer needs for the volunteer recognition. Larry Smith volunteered to take photos for the event.

Bill Wieringa announced the Pub Run is being held tonight.

Encore Magazine mentions the Farmer’s Market – last indoor Farmers Market moves outside to a weekly schedule for the summer. People’s Food Co-op does all the marketing for this event, time shifted 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Time Adjourned: 3:30PM

Next meeting April 19, 2017