

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

August 20, 2014 – 2:30 -3:30 PM

Board Present: Jim Hoppe, Monifa A. Jumanne, Mary Maisto, Ruth Ann Meyer, Ann Perkins, Mary Lou Petrulio, Trudy Riker, Art Roberts, Karen Warner

Absent Excused: Pat Berninger

Staff: Kim Phillips, Senior Citizen Services Manager

Guests: None

Chair Ann Perkins called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

No changes were suggested to the July 18, 2014 minutes. Art moved that the minutes be approved as read and Jim seconded the motion. The July minutes were unanimously approved as read.

Items for Information

- **Management Report** (Kim) Kim presented “Membership and Program Participation Data,” a chart summarizing member activity from 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. Kim is looking at retooling the Membership Application Form, perhaps soliciting additional demographic and other data that may be useful for PSC purposes in the future.
 - Attendance and Activities: Total event sign-ins: 2,319
 - Membership: 1,251, with 17 new members and 96 membership renewals
 - Volunteerism: >1,624, representing the work of 117 volunteers and valued at over \$35,300.
 - Program Highlights: The PSC Social Golf League is drawing about 24 weekly participants; the League will continue through September. Nine new members participated in New Member Orientation.
 - Travel Program: July highlights include a Chicago Architectural Tour, a Chicago Cubs and Colorado Rockies baseball game, a trip to Nova Scotia, and a 3-day Mystery Trip. Total travel participation: day trips, 54; extended trips, 19; international, eight.
 - Fundraising: Income for July: \$3,560; completed remodeling of Meeting Room and new lighting in the Multi-Purpose Room is underway, both supported by Friends of the PSC.
- **Wellness** (Ann) – One member mentioned news of a podiatrist accused of elder abuse, a recurring theme among senior issues. One member suggested that PSC could identify major wellness themes and, when appropriate, align its programming to coincide with these themes, such as “Pink Saturdays” (breast cancer awareness) and Stand Up to Cancer.
- **Trip Committee** (Art and Mary) The Chicago Architectural Tour was well attended. The semi-annual Trip Preview is October 20.
- **Friends Update** (Kim) – *Friends* is moving away from smaller events to focus on one annual appeal. PSC will assume greater responsibility for fundraising through the Annual Holiday Bazaar, November 8. The Board's exploration of fundraising ideas is directly linked to accreditation, programming, expansion, and trends. Mary asked about PSC's sponsorship of a “walk,” a popular and effective fundraising method.
- The Portage Area Charitable Fund (PACF) disperses residual Rotary Club funds that can enhance the quality of life for eligible individuals. The PACF Web site has eligibility guidelines.
- *Friends* maintains scholarship funds to support PSC membership.

- **Legislation RE: Seniors** (Ruth Ann) – An elder abuse bill with bi-partisan support is now in the Michigan House of Representatives. Its progress depends largely on the availability of finances to support implementation. October 6: deadline to register to vote November 4.

Old Business

- **Accreditation Committee** (Jim) – The Accreditation Committee met August 20 at 1:00 PM. Chair Larry Smith is asking for volunteers either to chair a committee or to serve on one. Advisory Board members on the Accreditation Committee are Jim, Ruth Ann, Mary Lou, Mary, and Monifa. The Accreditation Committee will meet again on October 15, 1pm, PSC.

New Business

- **Trends and Funding Priorities** – Many people have misconceptions about how the PSC is funded. Kim sent letters inviting 50 local businesses to partner with PSC for the benefit of the Center, the businesses, and the senior community, e.g., discounts on services and merchandise. With 1,400 active members, PSC can use its leverage to achieve the greater good.

When is PSC advertising “support” and when is it “conflict of interest”? The issue is PSC's displaying of brochures and other information from Western Michigan University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), which is both a program partner and a program competitor. Is there a conflict of interest? Kim does not see a conflict of interest, as we advertise the products and services of many agencies, many or all of which could be competitors.

- **Disability Network** – On August 8, the Disability Network conducted a study of “walkability” in the Kalamazoo area. Monifa shared an article from the August 10 *Kalamazoo Gazette*, “Downtown 'walkability' tour reveals some needs.” Tour leader Dan Burden identified modest changes to widen streets, create roundabouts, and remove structural barriers, in order to improve accessibility in Kalamazoo County for everyone who uses public walkways.

Advisory Board Comments:

- (1) PSC paid staff are required to amp up their knowledge of area services and programs through monthly in-service training. The staff will have a broader base of knowledge to help seniors find the activities, programs, and services they desire. (2) Art is excused from the September meeting. (3) Monifa reaffirmed her desire to work with Kim and staff to expand and improve the PSC newsletter. Kim will keep her in mind.

Citizens' Comments: None.

Activities Reminder: Bits of Business, September 11; Dance Down Memory Lane, September 23; Detroit Tigers vs. Minnesota Twins, September 28; Election Day, November 4

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Monifa A. Jumanne, Secretary

The next Advisory Board meeting will be September 17, 2014, 2:30 PM, Portage Senior Center. If you are unable to attend an Advisory Board meeting, please call the chair, Ann Perkins, at 269-329-1162, or e-mail annperkins2@gmail.com