

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes - November 18, 2015

Present: Bill Wieringa, Arts Roberts, Monifa A Jumanne, Ruth Ann Meyers, Gloria Padilla-Carlson, Ann Perkins, Kathy Mishler, Trudy (Riker), Sharon White, Kendall Klingelsmith, Ali Arif (youth participant)

Absent Excused: Jean Wenz, and Mary Lou Petruccio

Absent Unexcused: n/a

Guest: Jan Livesay

Staff: -Kim Phillips, PSC Manager and Kendall Klingelsmith, Director of Parks, Recreation and Senior Services

Chair Bill Wieringa called the meeting to order at 2:30p.m. The chair asked for approval of the October minutes. Art moved and Ann Perkins seconds the motion that the minutes be approved.

The minutes were approved with no amendments.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Management (Kim)

- Total active membership for November is 1,259 (Flat)
- There was a suggestion to brainstorm ideas to bring to the table during a future meeting regarding why we are not bringing new members in or why they are not renewing their membership. What can we do better to up our membership?

Program Highlights:

- 40 came for the Evening Meal
- 50 came for the Underground Railroad (Donna Odom)
- 20 came for the Anti Human Trafficking Coalition (Sara Lacroix)

Programs and Services: Gloria gave a report on the Day of the Dead. Gloria's daughter compiled surveys, and there were 22 surveys completed, all of which were on a positive note. Comments included: it was a beautiful, exhibit was put together very well, looking forward to next year, more exhibits & more presentations.

Travel Program: Trudy stated that the most recent Mystery Trip was wonderful; it had to be run twice. Mary just returned from a successful trip to Mackinaw Island, which was well received. A member did have a fall on that trip. The Charlie Pride and the Pippin shows in Grand Rapids were well received. Art reviewed Trip Financials, stating that the Trip Preview week resulted in total income of \$9,980.00. Art also noted that one of the trips will feature a trip to the Underground Railroad location in Schoolcraft. There are seats left on the Beautiful trip. Trudy encouraged members to pick up the most recent Trip Brochure. Trudy expressed appreciation for trips being featured on the digital kiosk. Upcoming trips are Texas Tenors, Beautiful, and Callaway Gardens. There will be a Local Treasures trip in March 2016 featuring sites in the Kalamazoo area, including Tillers International.

Bill asked Art to talk a little more about the revenue generated during Trip Preview week. Art explained the trip payments and that the amount was slightly lower than last year. PSC Manager Kim Phillips explained how much revenue comes in for trips and that the program nets approximately \$40,000 each year.

Friends of PSC Board Update: (Trudy)

- Friends has two new members. Also they re-elected Board Officers. Kimberly Middleton will be chair, Jeff Emmer will be vice-chair, Alex Lueth is treasurer, and Marianne Love will be secretary.
- By-laws were reviewed. The board will be re-evaluating the role of the treasurer as a signer on the checking account.
- The Purse Sale was approved for April 2016, donations will start to be collected.
- PSC Manager, Kim Phillips, introduced the concept of a pilot program called the Aging Mastery Program.
- The Holiday Bazaar generated almost \$2,400.
- The Fall Appeal should be going out late November.

Legislative Update (Ruth Ann):

- New Board members for KCASI were elected. Art Roberts is a member-at-large and Kim Phillips is now the Vice Chair.
- Ruth Ann passed out the KCASI advocacy postcards, and a list of the state representatives, state senators' addresses for us to write them and get our questions answered.
- Ruth Ann passed out the hand out on Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan Aging Network News, for the week of November 6, 2015.
- Ruth Ann passed out the state legislators' addresses, and the Citizen's Guide Booklets were given out.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kim's update: Accreditation application is complete. Binders are assembled and have been reviewed by Tom Vance. They are ready to get mailed to the National Institute of Senior Centers. Next step is to submit binders to off-site peer reviewers, and then a site visit will take place, most likely after the first of the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Advisory Board binders were distributed (Replace old binders).

Discussion re: Spiritual Material. Gloria explained that she had come across religious materials posted on the bulletin board, and had heard members comment that material like that should not be on display at the PSC. She checked with Manager Kim Phillips and knows that materials must be approved before being displayed. If materials are seen, please bring them to the attention of the staff. Kendall Klingelsmith explained this is the position that the city has taken, not to display religious material on City property. He had conferred with the City Attorney to clarify and make sure this was appropriate. Trudy expressed support saying that this would have to be an "all or nothing" approach. Gloria stated it is helpful to be aware of the policy. Kim stated that the lobby and bulletin board are monitored on a regular basis for unapproved material. Monifa asked for a clarification/definition of what constitutes religious material. Kendall said he would refer that question to the city attorney, but reinforced that the city does have the right to monitor and remove materials. Monifa asked if that was the case, then why is there a bible at city hall and invocations are held at City Council meetings. Kendall said that according to the city attorney, there are different laws pertaining to invocations prior to public meetings. Monifa repeated her request for a definition of "religion." Kim and Kendall will check with the city attorney and bring that back to the next meeting. Bill asked that if members see information posted in the Center that are questionable, to bring those materials to staff attention, and that staff will determine if it should be posted. Kim said that staff are trying to initial and date materials before they get posted to show they have been approved. Monifa also asked for a definition of the term "spiritual."

ACTIVITIES REMINDER:

- Grandparent Holiday Event - Saturday, December 12, @ 10am-12pm. United Nursing & MediLodge will be hosting.
- Holiday Lunch - December 17 @ 11:30. Regular lunch will be served in the Senior Service dining area seating 95 people.

- Kwanzaa Event - December 17 @ 1:15P.M. Monifa reviewed program details. Several members of the Advisory Board agreed to help with this event. 1 week prior to the event; there will be a meeting (time and date to be announced). Event is free.
- PCC Holiday Family Adoption
- Diversity 101: What's your GPA? - January 7 @ 1:30p.m. Monifa and Kendall Klingelsmith co-presenting.

Advisory Board Comments:

Ann Perkins asked about having a Holiday gathering in lieu of a meeting. After a discussion, it was decided to have a brief meeting in December followed by a dessert potluck. Kim will provide beverages and paper goods. No need to sign up, everyone just bring a dessert to the December meeting.

Citizen Comments:

Kendall Klingelsmith spoke briefly about the pilot of the Farmers Market. There will be a test of an indoor market at the PSC on Sunday, December 20 from 1-4pm. The hope is that more of these markets be offered in the future. The intent is that there will be a weekly outdoor market starting in May of 2016.

Monifa expressed a concern regarding the update provided to Council in October. Saying the board gave themselves a lot of credit for things that they did not do. Ann stated the update was drafted at a meeting when Monifa was not present. Ruth Ann expressed that this was a summary of how goals were met, not just for the board but for the Center. Kim Phillips said she understood that the update was being provided by the Advisory Board on behalf of the board and the Center, that it functioned more as an "agency update." Ann Perkins said that staff worked a lot based on the recommendations of the board. Monifa stated she had a list of concerns that she would like addressed at a future meeting, and that she would ask for some time on the agenda. She stated that she would put it in writing. Bill asked that it be submitted as an agenda item. Monifa felt that the update was inappropriate, as the board was taking credit where it was not due. Ann said that was not the intent of the update.

The next PSC Advisory Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 2:30p.m. Reminder: If you are unable to attend an Advisory Board meeting. Please call or e-mail the Chairperson.

Submitted by Sharon White