

## Portage Senior Citizens (PSC) Advisory Board

Minutes: January 20, 2021

**Call to order time:** 2:31 PM (Due to Covid-19, the meeting was held Online using WebEx)

Chairperson Doug Gilchrist called the meeting to order at 2:32 PM and read the following statement:

“I call the January 20, 2021 Senior Citizen Advisory Board Meeting to order. In accordance with Michigan Senate Bill 1108, this meeting is being conducted in a virtual format. The meeting will include one public comment opportunity. If you are interested in making a comment or asking a question, please note that in the chat box and you will be called on during citizen comment time.”

### **Roll Call:**

Doug Gilchrist (Chairperson) - Portage  
Larry Smith (Vice Chairperson) - Portage  
Joe Magalski (Secretary) - Portage  
Linda Zoeller - Portage  
Mary Lou Petrulio - Excused  
John Lobo - Portage  
Trudy Riker - Portage  
Bill Wieringa - Portage  
Art Roberts - Portage  
Sharon White - Portage  
Genevieve Kim (Youth Advisory Committee) - Portage

Senior Center Staff Present:

Kim Phillips - Portage  
Dawn Shilts - Kalamazoo  
Judy Vandernoot - Portage

Guests: None

The minutes for the November 18, 2020 meeting were approved with two corrections with Larry moving and Linda seconding.

- Added Genevieve's last name (Kim)
- On page 3, under New Business, changed "introduce" to "introduced".

### **Travel Program, Dawn:**

- As of right now, no trips are scheduled (due to Covid).
- The PSC has been offering several virtual tours of travel destinations. It has been very popular. There is a nominal cost for members

### **Legislative Update, Art:**

The Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues (KCASI - kcasi.net) met virtually on January 18. They reviewed issues from last year. The next meeting will be February 15.

### **Friends of PSC Board Update, Kim:**

The Friends of PSC Board have been meeting virtually. They plan to have a purse sale this year. The golf outing is being discussed but no decision has been made yet.

### **Managers Report, Kim:**

- AARP will not be offering tax help this year because of covid-19.
- The PSC has been identified as a covid-19 vaccine site.
- Some PSC staff have been working in the building.
- The State of Michigan has determined that the PSC staff is essential so they can get the vaccine under the 1B category. Joe asked if that would include some volunteers like transportation drivers; Kim did not know so she will follow up.
- The statistics provided include the virtual events since the PSC remains closed.

### **Old Business:**

- Update on current status of Senior Center - Kim
  - Upcoming drive-through events include the following:
    - N-95 Mask Give Away
    - Valentine Day
    - St Patrick Day
  - Kim has been teaching Zoom classes and it has been very well received.
  - They continue to offer many virtual classes.
- Accreditation Update - Dawn, Kim
  - The 9 sub-committees are progressing well. Some have finished and the rest are very close to completing their work.
  - Dawn is very pleased with the commitment of the entire team.
  - A Strength/Weakness/Opportunity/Threat (SWAT) analysis was conducted . All felt it was a great exercise and there was a lot of good input provided. Kim will send a summary to all advisory board members.

- Meeting Schedule
  - We had a brief discussion on the frequency of the advisory board meetings while the PSC remains closed. Doug recommended meeting every other month; Trudy made a motion for that, Art seconded it, and the motion passed.

**New Business:**

- Contacting PSC Members (not on the agenda but added).
  - Kim reported that the PSC is working on a program to have volunteers contact PSC members on a regular basis to check on them. Volunteers would call from their own phone to a central phone number (Call-Hub) and then the actual phone connection to the PSC member is done via Call-Hub. This allows the volunteer's actual phone number to be hidden from the PSC member. It is expected to have this in place by the end of February.
  - Genevieve then reported that the Youth Advisory Committee has also been discussing contacting PSC members. This would give the opportunity for both the youth and the seniors to discuss topics and get to know each other. Some training would have to be provided. Because some of the youth would be under 18, a PSC staff member would listen in. There were positive comments from the advisory board. Kim will meet with Genevieve and PSC Staff to discuss further.
- Financial Update - Kim
  - We are six months into the fiscal year. Obviously, revenue is way down.
  - Kim was not able to share the details at the meeting but will have it for the next meeting.
- PSC Construction Update
  - The digging has begun! The concrete footings are done.
  - They found a large "pudding" stone and plan to use it in the landscaping of the new building.
  - They have been meeting with the project manager and builders weekly.
  - They will be getting some furniture samples to look at.
  - They were able to do a "virtual walk-through" of the new building.

**Activity Reminders:**

- Kim reported that the online/virtual programs continue to go very well. They continue to look for new offerings.
- They will continue to offer the very successful drive through events.
- Kim commended both Dawn and Julie for their flexibility over the last year.

**Advisory Board Comments:**

- Larry - gave thanks to Dawn and Kim on their help with the accreditation. Linda and Joe echoed Larry's comment.
- Art mentioned a video created by the City of Portage on being Kind to your neighbor. Kim will send everyone the link.

- Bill - Provided a definition of a "Pudding" stone.
  - Puddingstone, also known as either pudding stone or plum-pudding stone, is a popular name applied to a conglomerate that consists of distinctly rounded pebbles whose colours contrast sharply with the colour of the finer-grained, often sandy, matrix or cement surrounding them. The rounded pebbles and the sharp contrast in colour gives this type of conglomerate the appearance of a raisin or Christmas pudding.
- Trudy - thanked Kim and staff for the computer help.
- Doug - thanked the PSC staff and advisory board.

**Citizen comments:** None

Time Adjourned: 3:21 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 2:30 PM (virtual)