

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

MONTH: February 20, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Bill Wieringa, Larry Smith, Sharon White, Trudy Riker, Art Roberts, Mary Lou Petruccio, Linda Zoeller, Douglas Gilchrist, Tony Lorentz

Absent Excused: N/A

Guests: Mona-Lisa Watson

Staff: Kim Phillips

Call to order time: 2:30 PM

Corrections to previous minutes:

Corrections to the names will be made. Larry Smith was absent from last month's meeting. Trudy Riker was also absent. Art Roberts moved that the minutes be approved with the corrections stated. Larry Smith seconded. The minutes were approved.

Special Events, Sharon White:

Special movie screening Thurs Feb 21, 1:00 PM, please come and see the movie Hidden Figures. The St. Patrick's Day lunch is on Thursday, March 14. Sharon urged board members to attend as many special events as their schedules will allow. Grocery Bingo is coming up, this is a sponsored event in which participants play for grocery item prizes. The New Member Meet & Eat is March 14 at 9:00 Am – please attend and engage participants at your table in PSC activities and events. The Friends of the PSC annual golf scramble is coming up on May 20th. This will be the 24th golf scramble. If you can volunteer or play, please let Kim know - this is a good time. Don't forget the Tuesday morning chess club – if you know how to play, please attend. If you would like to learn chess, this group has people who will teach you.

Travel Program, Trudy Riker:

The first trip of the year went out with Ed & Ted's to the Florida Gulf Coast. There are loyal travelers who make this trip annually. The third Thursday of each month the committee is having a Travel Talk. April 27th is the Spring Trip Preview, please sign up to help out with this event.

Friends of PSC Board Update, Trudy Riker:

\$233 was approved for scholarship requests.

The golf scramble was discussed. The board was assigned a list of prospective sponsors to contact. If Advisory Board members know of any possible donors for the golf scramble, please contact them or pass their contact information to a Friends board member. \$110 per golfer this year, a \$440 for a foursome. Heritage Glen in Paw Paw is the location.

The Capital Campaign stands at approximately \$180,000 from smaller donors.

The Friends website is updated with the purse sale information.

Legislative Update, Art Roberts:

May 15th is Older Michiganian Day. Congress suspended *spousal impoverishment protection* by allowing the spouse to keep a modest income to provide basic needs but this expires March 31st unless congress enacts an extension of *impoverishment protection*. Contact the senators and let congress know we need a permanent solution.

KCASI meets monthly, the third Monday of the month at 1:15 PM and is free. Membership is only \$25. If you would like to be added to the KCASI email list please let Kim know. The March KCASI meeting will hold a panel discussion of directors and managers of senior facilities regarding the needs of senior facilities in Kalamazoo County.

Managers Report, Kim Phillips:

If you come to events, we have the ability to print name badges that identify board members.

The top sponsors are already locked in for the Friends of the PSC golf scramble

This year's volunteer appreciation event will be on Tues April 30, 5-7:00 PM and include cocktails.

February numbers will be low due to one day's closure and the cancelation of instructor led classes on days when public schools were closed due to weather.

Old Business, Mona Lisa Watson:

Mona Lisa Watson reviewed the updated strategic plan. The proposed equity and non-discrimination statement was reviewed by the board previously. Questions and clarifications should be voiced by the board members today while Mona Lisa is available.

The equity statement is new and was added because the PSC wants to be more proactive and public with a formalized equity statement. This statement acts as a foundation, it is not the same as a diversity or anti-discrimination statement. Equity is the goal all organizations should strive to achieve. It was noted that the non-discrimination language proposed includes specific mention of sexual orientation and gender.

Bill Wieringa noted the drop of language specifying “over the age of 50” and asked for the thought process behind its elimination. Kim answered that many of the PSC programs include the community at large and although the focus for service is the *over 50 population*, we don’t want to limit our equity statements to that (or any) group.

Language around the disabilities statement was expanded because the descriptions were expanded at the state and Federal levels. The more specific our language is, the better able we are to accommodate and serve those with disabilities. How people need to request reasonable accommodation must be clearly spelled out.

Service (support) animals are under scrutiny because people are bringing their pets into public areas and calling it a service animal. There is formal paperwork that should accompany the service animal. Clauses need to be spelled out as being up to the discretion of the manager, because for example, we cannot accommodate a horse. Allergies to animals was discussed. Allergy information is requested on the membership form. Kim will research service animal provisions and qualifications.

Behavior was another category discussed. Kim has had to contact family to have a talk with them about the behaviors observed that may disrupt or interrupt classes or travel. Wheelchair accessible motor coaches are very expensive. Language in the statement presented allows for the final decisions to be at the discretion of management personnel. The language was reviewed by the City of Portage Human Resources department and Kathleen Hoyle, Parks Department Director.

Art moved the equity statement be approved, Bill Wieringa seconded, and the non-discrimination proposed equity disclosure was unanimously approved and will be added into the membership manual.

The statements will be an attachment to the city council’s copy of the minutes.

Adapted strategic plan: Kim distributed copies of the document which included only those things the board needed to review. Staff will provide the board with how the strategic plan is being rolled out. Page 1 – who we are, a description of who the PSC is. Mona went to the website to see what was communicated to the public and in what language (terms). Mona took that language and added to it to better describe the PSC. The vision statement was not altered. The mission statement was altered only to include the word equitable. Strategic priorities were unchanged and are in line with national accreditation categories. Pages 4-6 of the strategic plan were edited by Kim (in red) and distributed to the board members for their consideration. Goals for this year were edited by Kim Phillips and distributed these to the board.

There was discussion of the goals in relation to what is mandated by the city of Portage, what verbiage addresses accreditation standards and mention of a ‘wellness model’ which was incorporated into the goals. The adjustment that should be made yet are in regards to a new facility.

New Business: Linda

One of the areas that needs attention is the issue of health and wellness in senior center programming. This area is one of the focuses of accreditation. The change over time includes maximizing wellness while moving away from disease prevention. Wellness models build on the International Council on Active Aging's nine principals, which is part of the accreditation as well. Programs should be tailored around the seven dimensions of wellness. We have to assess where we are now and what places we need to bolster to better serve these dimensions more evenly/completely. Kim is working on a **needs assessment** in conjunction with Western Michigan University.

Activities Reminders:

Garden Talks by Schram's Greenhouse begin Tuesday night at 6:00, April 9.

New Member Meet & Eat is on Thursday, March 14 at 9:00 AM.

Advisory Board Comments:

Art Roberts: Enrich, Empower and Ensure – send in your checks in support of the new building (bring your checkbooks for the next meeting).

Megan: If any of you have volunteer opportunities for the youth, let Megan know. Likewise, if Advisory Board members would like to volunteer with youth, let Megan know.

Citizen comment:

None

Time Adjourned: 3:45 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 2:30 PM at the PSC.

Equity and Non-Discrimination Statements: Portage Senior Center

Equity Statement:

Portage Senior Center believes that when we value one another as diverse individuals with unique backgrounds, abilities, and needs, we promote an inclusive environment of safety, respect, and dignity and achieve Equity for our community of persons age 50 and older.

Non-Discrimination Policy:

Portage Senior Center is committed to providing equitable, culturally relevant services and programs to all individuals, regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

ADA Reasonable Accommodation:

Portage Senior Center will reasonably accommodate the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability, unless the accommodation would impose an undue burden. We will make every reasonable effort to determine and provide the appropriate reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual upon request. Portage Senior Center, in its discretion, may require the individual to provide additional information about his or her disability or limitations and the need for an accommodation. The ADA does not require Portage Senior Center to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Qualified individuals with a disability who require an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Portage Senior Center should contact Kimberly Phillips, Senior Citizen Services Manager, (269) 329-4550 or the Director of Parks & Recreation, Kathleen Hoyle, (269) 329-4521 for assistance in coordinating the request for accommodation. The individual should be prepared to provide a description of the specific need(s).