

## Portage Senior Citizens (PSC) Advisory Board

Minutes: May 19, 2021

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

Chairperson Doug Gilchrist called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM and read the following statement:

“I call the May 19, 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  
Julie Vandernoot - Portage

Guests: None

The minutes for the March 17, 2021 meeting were approved with no corrections with Larry moving and Genevieve seconding.

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

- As of right now, the PSC does not have any sponsored trips scheduled but Ed and Ted have a Cape Code trip in June. It was noted that they require passengers to have had the covid vaccine.
- The PSC continues to offer virtual tours of travel destinations.

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

- The Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues (KCASI - kcasi.net) met this past Monday. Some State legislators (McCann, Morse) attended to discuss their reaction/support for the Senior Action Week issues.
- Art also attended a meeting with Governor Whitmer and a few other seniors to discuss senior health care.

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

- The golf outing fundraiser is all set for May 24. They have the highest number of entries this year.
- Their spring fundraiser appeal was very strong.
- The Friends have made a \$40,000 donation to the PSC.
- The annual purse sale this year is scheduled for September 18.

### **Youth Advisory Board, Genevieve:**

- The Portage Senior Center is going to be piloting a new Pen Pal program, "Summer Story Swap" with high school students from Portage Public Schools. Beginning in June, students and seniors will swap stories from their summers or other stories from their lives. This program will run through June, July and August. So far, 6 seniors have signed up.

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

- Kim gave an overview of the Monthly Operations Reports for March and April.
- Absolute Home Care and Medical Staffing partnered with the PSC for a blood pressure drive through clinic in April. These will continue throughout the summer.
- Various virtual classes and activities continue.

### **Old Business:**

- Update on current status of Senior Center - Kim
  - Kim does not know when the PSC will be able to re-open.
  - When they do re-open, the plan is to follow CDC recommendations on masks - masks will not be required if members are covid vaccinated.
- PSC Construction Update - Kim
  - Construction is going well on the new building. The target completion continues to be February, 2022.
  - Kim showed the latest floor plan; there are 3 levels.

- The PSC Staff will tour the construction site on May 20.
- Once more progress is made, Kim will schedule a tour for the Advisory Board.
- Initially, a medical care provider was being sought for the building to operate a clinic but they could not locate one.
- Doug asked if interior security cameras were included; Kim said this was looked at but it was too expensive. There will be outside security cameras.
- Since the PSC staff will be spread out, they are looking at some type of audio devices to communicate with each other.
- Note - Doug turned the meeting over to Larry since he had to leave for an appointment.
- Accreditation Update - Dawn
  - All of the documents have been completed and uploaded to the National accreditation web site.
  - The required peer review may take place virtually.
  - Dawn and Kim thanked everyone involved. As a token of their appreciation, they provided gift bags to all team members.

**New Business: - nothing to report**

**Activity Reminders - Julie**

- Online programs include:
  - Partnership with Bronson
  - Music Therapy
  - Eat Smart/Live Strong
  - Chair Yoga
- Online programs will probably continue after the PSC opens back up since some members cannot physically come to the building.

**Advisory Board Comments:**

- Art and Bill reported that they had trouble getting into the Webex meeting.
- Larry thanked Genevieve for her update. He also had positive comments on the latest PSC newsletter.
- Trudy is looking forward to volunteering at the golf outing.
- Kim informed us that the Courier Drive entrance is closed because of the Library construction.

**Citizen comments:** None

Time Adjourned: 3:19 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 2:30 PM (location is TBD)