

Portage Senior Center
Advisory Board Meeting
January 21, 2009

Present: Patricia Berninger, David Crawshaw, Dorothy Hazard, Gordon Heikkila, James Hoppe, Ruth Ann Meyer, Nic Oprescu, Ann Perkins, Art Roberts, and Larry Smith.

Excused: Youth participant member: Stephanie Oprescu

Staff: Jason Horan, Manager

Director: William Deming, Director of Parks & Recreation Department

Larry Smith, Chair, called the PSC Advisory Board meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. December 17, 2008 minutes were read. Moved by James Hoppe and seconded by Art Roberts to approve minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

I. Larry Smith introduced William Deming, Director, Parks and Recreation Department & Senior Center.

Mr. Deming explained that the Senior Center is now a division within the Parks and Recreation Department. Jason Horan has been promoted to the position of Senior Citizen Services Manager and reports to him. He explained the history of the Senior Center and the Parks and Recreation Department. Originally starting in 1980 the Senior Center was under the Parks and Recreation Department until 1993. Bill was part of the staff in 1980 and has worked with the Senior Center during this time. He will be in charge of larger grants, facility needs and capital improvements.

II. Directors Report –highlights from Director’s Monthly Report – Jason Horan

A) Attendance and Activities

1. December – 5,404 attending
2. The Christmas luncheon was expanded to two events to meet participant demand. Over 130 participants attended.
3. Project Enhance staff hosted a “Healthy Holiday Potluck” event and was well attended.

B) Membership

Since July 1 Membership is 1,912.

C) Room Utilization

PSC rooms were rented 18 times during the month of December. The PSC was open nine evenings and two Saturdays for senior activities.

D) Fundraising

Three Gift wrapping fundraisers were hosted at the Crossroads Mall. Jason thanked Larry Smith for obtaining the gift-wrapping supplies that were obtained from Design Ware. Over \$300 was collected. Jason discussed the possibilities for doing this next year and increasing the amount of dollars to be raised. Total funds raised for the month of December came to \$17,415. This includes memberships, donations, grants, trips, etc.

E) Volunteer hours for December were at 4,237 hours. The PSC band played at St. Michael's and Altaira.

F) Health Promotion

The Hearing Center was recruited to resume monthly free hearing screenings.

III. Trip Committee - Art Roberts

Some trips were cancelled. The MSU/WMU football game location has been changed so has been cancelled. March 30 is the California trip preview.

IV. Friends of the Portage Senior Center - Jim Hoppe

The website is being updated. Friends of PSC website is: friendsofthepsc.com
Scheduled fund raising events – May 11, golf scramble and July 17 – pig roast.

V. Old Business

Fund raising ideas.

Mr. Deming mentioned the possibility of a pancake breakfast at the time of the Memorial Day parade. Jason reminded the Board that the Annual Fund drive is to raise \$20,000. The "Revenue Thermometer" is shown in each issue of the PSC Newsletter and illustrates how much progress is being made.

VI. New Business

Announcements: April 21 is the volunteer luncheon.

Pat Berninger asked about the PSC membership manual –2005. Is there a newer addition?

Larry Smith asked Art Roberts to be an "unofficial" advisory board liaison to the Portage Community Center. (Art is currently a PCC Board Member).

Jim Hoppe related that the 2009-2010 PSC Advisory Board goals/objectives provided an opportunity for the board to be proactive by providing pertinent information about the numbers of seniors in the city of Portage and Kalamazoo County.

VI. Comments from citizens - None

VII. Comments from board members – Ruth Ann Meyer attended the Kalamazoo Co.

Advocates for Senior Issues (KCASI) meeting on January 19. The topic was in Aging Trends: What it means for our community. Bob Littke, President, Kalamazoo Senior services and Judy Sivak, Director, Area Agency on Aging provided thoughtful ideas. Question: How are you old?

The Communities for all Ages (CFAA) concept formed in February 2008, and has some grant monies to promote bringing together key stakeholders to identify common concerns and develop strategies to benefit all ages with the limited resources available.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Next meeting Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 2:30 p.m. to be held at the Portage Senior Center.

Submitted by Ruth Ann Meyer, secretary.

