

Portage Senior Center
Advisory Board Meeting
May 20, 2009

Present: Patricia Berninger, David Crawshaw, Gordon Heikkila, Ruth Ann Meyer, Ruth Michelhaugh, Nic Oprescu, Stephanie Oprescu, Ann Perkins, Art Roberts, and Larry Smith.

Absent: (excused) Dorothy Hazard, James Hoppe

Staff: Jason Horan

Guest: Portage Council member Claudette Reid

Chair Larry Smith introduced the new member of the Advisory Board, Ruth Michelhaugh and Portage council member, Claudette Reid.

Larry Smith, Chair, called the PSC Advisory Board meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. April minutes were read. It was moved by Ann Perkins and seconded by Patricia Berninger to approve minutes as distributed. Motion passed.

I) Manager's Report –highlights from Manager's Monthly Report – Jason Horan

A) Attendance and Activities

1. Participation for April totaled 6,650.
2. The new travel brochure distributed at the annual Spring Trip Preview. Over 100 PSC members and non-members attended. The Travel program sold \$7,000 in trips at that event.
3. Several new clubs have begun meeting in April, including the Art club, Race Walking, walkers and Wii sports.

B) Membership

Membership since July 1, 2008 stands at 2,324. April had twenty-two new members. Out of the possible April renewals 74% percent renewed their membership.

C) Intergenerational Activities

The Partners program took a trip to Tiller's. Also the Pen pal program continues with 19 students and PSC members participating.

D) Health Promotion

A Matter of Balance (MOB) class was held off-site at Dillon Hall with 13 participants. This program is designed to promote balance and safety in older adults while minimizing risk of falls. The PATH program has newly trained Lay Leaders.

E) Room Utilization

PSC rooms were rented 15 times during the month of April.

The Kalamazoo Family Church, Romence Rd, donated use of their banquet facility for the Volunteer luncheon.

F) Services

AARP tax assistance did over 200 returns.

G) Volunteers

A total of 2,619 volunteer hours were contributed to the PSC for April.
Over 175 attended the Annual PSC Volunteer Recognition luncheon in April.

II) Trip Committee - Art Roberts

No trip committee information at this time.

III) Friends of the Portage Senior Center – Larry Smith reported for James Hoppe

No new report. Golf outing netted approximately \$4,900, with 58 people playing.
Scheduled fund raising events include a July 17 pig roast in conjunction with Parks' symphony in the park.

IV) PCOC - Art Roberts

No report

V) Old Business

Celery City Showcase:

Jason gave a progress report on the Celery City Showcase IV –June 24, 25 and 26.
Articles in newspaper have been submitted and “Portager” had an article. Cable access will be utilized. Jason handed out flyers that will be distributed and displayed in various business places. Board members took some to assist with distribution. Next step is to sell tickets. Jason reminded the Board that this is the main fundraiser for PSC so changes in the show schedule were required to meet this goal. Past history viewed this as an event rather than a fundraiser event.

VI) New Business

- A) Ruth Michelhaugh (new PSC Adv Bd member)** shared her background and her interest in senior issues.
- B) Claudette Reid, City of Portage Councilwoman,** was introduced.
First question: How many members are in the age group 50-54? Jason will find out exact figures. He explained that the Senior Center is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and this age group in most case are still working thus unable to take participate in the PSC activities.
- C) Discussion points:**
* Perception of the Portage Senior Center. Using the Portager, website, name
*Volunteers – clubs – training for leadership of activities.
*Budget – City has 198 employees. Did not rehire some positions where retirements occurred. *Property tax not showing growth because of evaluation of property, etc.
*Demographics of the city – realize the need for a facility.
*How does PSC work with Portage Community Center? Larry and Art will look into having the Advisory Board tour and revisit the center. Mrs. Reid explained some of the financial aspects of the PCC and PSC.
*What creative programming can be done with other groups since PSC has restrictions of space?
*Wellness programs that provide evidence that the individual does reduce health risk factors when involved in wellness programs. Mrs. Reid is heading up a committee regarding this topic.

* Marketing – how to promote PSC? Other programs that the city of Portage provides and how PSC could utilize a central city marketing effort.

VII) Comments from citizens - None

VIII) Comments from board members -None

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Next meeting Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 2:30 p.m. to be held at the Portage Senior Center.

Submitted by Ruth Ann Meyer, secretary.