

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2012

Board Present: Jim Hoppe, Mary Maisto, Ruth Ann Meyer, Ruth Michelhaugh, Ann Perkins, Mary Lou Petrulio, Trudy Riker, Audrey Searing, and Larry Smith

Absent Excused: Patricia Berninger, Monifa Jumanne, and Art Roberts

Staff: Jill Hess, Deputy Director

Guests: None

Chairperson Larry Smith called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. November minutes were discussed. Ruth Ann suggested an edit to the heading for the minutes. Minutes were approved with the heading revision.

Management November Report – Jill

- Participation and outreach activities for November totaled 4179.
- Total active memberships for November were at 1789, with 8 new members and 56 renewals.
- Volunteer hours totaled 1688.
- Fundraising – Jill reported that Portage Senior Center (PSC) received a \$2775 grant from the Kalamazoo Foundation for leadership training.
- Due to building upgrades PSC will be closed the week of January 7, 2013. Recent and upcoming changes to PSC will be discussed in a Kalamazoo Gazette article written by Tom Haroldson.
- Christy Carpenter has been hired as the new PSC receptionist. We welcome her arrival.

Items for Information

- Wellness (Jill) – PSC will be the host site for a pilot PATH program which will provide training for chronic pain management.
- Trip Committee (Trudy/Mary) – Trudy remarked that an extended trip to Louisville, KY was enjoyed by PSC travelers. Mary reported that 35 trips, with 969 total participants, were conducted through the PSC travel program in 2012.
- Friends of PSC (Jill) – Jill provided copies of the new Friends brochure and described their new logo which will be a mosaic with various people in movement. Some discussion followed.
- Portage Community Center Report – No new information this month.
- Youth Advisory Board (Audrey) – Audrey requested that advertising for the Portage Central High School production of “Beauty and the Beast” be posted at PSC. Jill agreed to display it at the center. The play will be held in February 2013 on various dates.

Old Business

- MySeniorCenter™ software webinar – Jill asked for comments on the software as demonstrated on November 14. She informed us that initial training for the software will be conducted on January 24. We hope to implement the system in February.
- Final 2012-13 Advisory Board goals – Larry distributed copies of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board goals that were approved by City Council. One proposed goal was revised. He advised us to start thinking about our updates to these goals so we are prepared to submit them in April. Ruth Ann reminded us that proposed new goals will also be needed by April.

New Business

- Jill and Larry attended a recent meeting with members of the Portage Senior Center Band. The relationship of the band to the Senior Center was discussed. Two future meetings are planned for further communication.
- Larry distributed handouts of a “mutual support agreement” that was presented at the November Friends retreat and agreed upon with Friends chair Kimberly Middleton. It provides a means of sharing information from each of our board meetings. Advisory Board members were in support of the new agreement.
- Larry suggested that we plan ahead to organize efforts for our next senior center accreditation. Ruth, Ruth Ann, Mary Lou and Jim agreed to brainstorm on how to streamline efforts and develop a work plan.
- Larry recommended that Advisory Board minutes and agendas be sent by Jan Gates via email to board members prior to our meetings. There was mixed support for the idea. We agreed to implement email on a trial basis and have printed copies available at our meetings. Those with difficulty accessing or reading documents via email should inform Larry.

Advisory Board Comments:

Jim brought a draft copy of the Recreation and Open Space Plan which contains some information about future plans and funding available for the Portage Senior Center. A copy is available on the Portage website.

Citizen Comments: None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The next Advisory Board meeting will be held January 16 at 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Submitted by Mary Maisto, Secretary