

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2013

Board Present: Monifa Jumanne, Mary Maisto, Ruth Ann Meyer, Ruth Michelhaugh, Ann Perkins, Mary Lou Petrulio, Trudy Riker, Art Roberts, Audrey Searing and Larry Smith

Absent Excused: Patricia Berninger and Jim Hoppe

Staff: Jill Hess, Deputy Director

Guests: Kimberly Middleton, Chairperson, Friends of the Portage Senior Center (PSC), Georganne Oldenburg, Friends Board, and Ann MacCreery, Programs & Services Liaison, Volunteer Kalamazoo

Chairperson Larry Smith called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. January minutes were discussed. Ann asked for additional wording as clarification. Mary proposed new wording. Ruth Ann moved to accept the minutes with the amendment. Monifa seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Larry provided proposed updates to the meeting agenda. With board agreement, the agenda was revised to remove discussion of room rental rates and a fundraising development plan, and add the topic of training by Ann MacCreery. Guest and board member introductions were made.

Management January Report – Jill

- Participation and outreach activities for January totaled 2432, despite a snow day and a week of closure for facility upgrades. Facility improvements are now complete.
- Total active memberships for January were at 1804, with 11 new members and 47 renewals. Jill provided handouts of membership and participation policies at PSC. Larry distributed copies of a letter he wrote to City Council on behalf of the Advisory Board. It described our support of the recommendation to create a \$3 per visit fee for non-members who routinely participate in PSC activities which are free to members. Some discussion followed.
- Volunteer hours totaled 1001.

Items for Information

- Wellness (Ruth) – Ruth and Ruth Ann recently attended a KCASI session on Elder Abuse. Ruth shared information on proposed legislation. She also informed us that senior amber alerts can be implemented by calling the sheriff's office.
- Trip Committee (Art) – Art reported that two new people have joined the Trip Committee. A presentation by Phyllis Rose, travel writer, will take place on February 25.
- Friends of PSC (Kimberly Middleton) – Kimberly provided copies of the new Friends brochure and Thank You notes. She also discussed the new Friends logo. "Save the Date" cards are being made for the May 20 golf outing fundraiser at Angels Crossing.
- Portage Community Center (PCC) Report (Art) – Three people, including Art, will be leaving the board this year, so vacancies are available. A "Wine Down" fundraiser is scheduled for March 8 at the Beacon Club.
- Youth Advisory Board (Audrey) – A successful Winter Snow Party was held at Oakland Drive Park. The youth board is working on plans for a "Green-a-Thon" on April 27.

Old Business

- MySeniorCenter™ software (Jill) – Launch of the system for routine use will begin on March 4. Trainers will be available to assist with familiarization.

New Business

- Accreditation Planning (Mary Lou) – Mary Lou shared thoughts on preliminary planning for our 2015 reaccreditation. We have not yet received the self-assessment manual from the National Council on Aging (NCOA). Attention is needed at this time to ensure we have all documents needed for reaccreditation.
- Ann MacCreery, Volunteer Kalamazoo – Jill explained that grant funding from the Kalamazoo Foundation was obtained for four leadership training workshops which will be conducted by Ann MacCreery. Ann gave us background on Volunteer Kalamazoo and proposals for each of the workshops. She asked for our feedback on the workshop topics. Discussion followed. We look forward to participating in upcoming sessions.

Advisory Board Comments: Larry commented on a focus group which met in February to discuss the search for a new Portage Public School Superintendent. Several Advisory Board members attended. Audrey also participated in a youth focus group on the subject.

Citizen Comments: None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

The next Advisory Board meeting will be held March 20 at 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Submitted by Mary Maisto, Secretary