

Senior Citizens/Portage Senior Center Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2012

Board Present: Patricia Berninger, Kitu Komya, Mary Maisto, Ruth Ann Meyer, Ruth Michelhaugh, Nic Opresco, Ann Perkins, Mary Lou Petruccio, Art Roberts, and Larry Smith

Volunteer Youth Participant: Humza Mirza

Absent Excused: Trudy Riker

Absent Unexcused: Jim Hoppe

Staff: Jan Gates, Administrative Assistant

Guests: None

Chairperson Ruth Ann Meyer called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. February minutes were reviewed and two corrections noted. Ann moved to approve corrected minutes and Larry seconded. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Management February Report – Jan Gates for Jill Hess

- Participations and outreach totaled 4018 for February 2012
- Volunteer hours totaled 2796.
- The new Special Event Lunch Sponsor Program was launched with two events in February. Combined attendance was over 140 participants.
- Funding sources and options for transportation are being investigated due to expected repairs needed for our mini-bus. Pat mentioned that transportation for the choir outings, especially in winter, would be very helpful.
- New Member Orientation has been well attended. There was discussion about having a board member at these sessions to provide information on the purpose of the board. We agreed it would be a good idea. There will be a signup sheet circulated. Sessions are held every other month. The next orientation is Thursday, May 10 at 10:30am.

Ruth Ann made us aware that youth and adult volunteers will be needed for the “Get Active” event sponsored by the American Heart Association on Saturday, Aug. 11. Please save the date. Details will be coming in the future.

Wellness – Ruth

No meeting of Wellness Committee in February. Ruth attended a “Memory Matters” session on February 23. She reported that it was very good and had 13 people. Ruth circulated information on upcoming health-related events and programs. It was also mentioned that an Ombudsman is available for handling concerns about nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Travel – Art

Art reported that one mini-bus trip was cancelled in part because no driver was available. He reminded us that new trips will be announced at the April 23 Trip Preview.

Friends of PSC Updates – Ruth Ann

Ruth Ann attended a February meeting of the Friends Board. She provided some financial information from the Friends. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 8 a.m. and attendance is welcomed.

Portage Community Center – Art

Ruth Ann officially appointed Art Roberts as liaison to the Portage Community Center. He reported that no meeting was held in March and the next meeting will be April 25.

Old Business –

- Visit to Tanglewood in Muskegon - a trip to see their software is yet to be scheduled.
- Goals and Objectives Update to Council – Ruth Ann provided a revised version of our update based on feedback. One new wording addition was proposed by Ruth. Pat moved to accept the update with the new edit and Art seconded. The draft was approved with the edit. A final copy will be sent to everyone.

New Business

New 2012-2013 Goals – A draft prepared by Jill and Ruth Ann was distributed for discussion. We voted to continue four of our current goals and adopt two new goals. A decision on one draft goal was delayed until Jill can provide further information.

Advisory Board Comments: Ruth Ann notified us of several upcoming events pertaining to senior issues. There will be an Area Agency on Aging/Kalamazoo County Advocates meeting on April 16 to discuss transportation issues. She also mentioned that www.ncoa.org is a helpful website. We were informed of a new publication by Steve Ellis called “Spark”. It will be similar to “Generations” and provided in hard copy. Jill is also working on updating the PSC website. Ruth Ann urged board members to give thought to whether a survey for PSC members is needed. Art Roberts asked whether we are aware of what is offered through the Lifelong Learning program. Ann is on their Travel Committee.

Citizen Comments: None

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

The next Advisory Board meeting will be held April 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Submitted by Mary Maisto, Secretary