

Senior Citizens/Portage Senior Center
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2011

Board Present: Patricia Berninger, Jim Hoppe, Mary Maisto, Ruth Ann Meyer, Ruth Michelhaugh, Mary Lou Petruccio, Trudy Riker, and Larry Smith

Youth Participants: Kitu Komya and Humza Mirza

Absent Excused: Nic Opresco, Art Roberts, Ann Perkins

Staff: Jill Hess, Bill Deming

Guests: Georganne Oldenburg (Friends Volunteer/Liaison)

Chairperson Ruth Ann Meyer called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. October minutes were reviewed and some corrections were noted. Motion to approve as corrected.

Introductions

Bill Deming introduced the new Deputy Director, Jill Hess. Jill provided information on her background and experience. Each of the board members introduced themselves as well. Larry Smith noted the wide range of volunteer experience within the backgrounds of the board members, including at least 3 people who have participated in the PSC accreditation process.

Management October Report – Bill Deming

- 4648 participations in October 2011 (7585 in Oct 2010, 6712 in Oct 2009)
- Bill recognized Bea Butler for her donations of carpeting and drapes for PSC.
- Membership has remained steady.
- Letters have been sent for the fund-raising effort. The Friends Board has also done the same.

Mary Lou asked if it would be beneficial to solicit donations earlier in the year, perhaps June, to avoid duplication with many other groups at year end.

Patricia inquired about the success of the Nov. 12 Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale at PSC. Georganne said it went well, but exact numbers for income generated were not yet available. Patricia noted that a similar sale occurred at St. Catherine's on the same day. Georganne informed us that any suggestions for changes to the PSC sale should be given in writing to Terri Drafta for consideration.

Wellness – Ruth

- PATH, Diabetes PATH and Matter of Balance sessions have been conducted at various sites throughout the county. These evidence-based programs require leaders trained by a Master Trainer. Bobbe Taber has previously been the trainer. Enhance Fitness (exercise) programs are led by paid contractors.
- 12 volunteers and 207 hours were involved in October
- Ruth also provided a summary of Evidence Based Disease Prevention Programs at PSC prepared by Bobbe Taber. This handout provides much information for our review.

Jill looks forward to participating in discussion of future plans for Wellness programs and believes that Wellness should be a focus of all our PSC programs. It should be recognized as a shared value.

Travel – Trudy

The Oct. 24 Trip Preview was well attended. The Trip Committee introduced Early Bird Pricing to encourage travelers to sign up ahead of our cutoff dates.

Friends of PSC Updates – Georganne

The Friends Board met recently with a marketing specialist. They are looking for ways to increase the exposure for PSC. A retreat is planned for January 17 when fund-raising plans for 2012 will be determined. Those with ideas for fund-raising should provide them to the board prior to their retreat. A new treasurer has been named for the Friends. Bill reported that the 2011-12 budget allows up to \$26,000 of funding from the Friends organization to be used for expenses at PSC.

Portage Community Center – Ruth Ann

PSC will be collecting food for donation to the center. See details in PSC Newsletter.

Old Business

- Ruth Ann gave us final printouts of the Goals and Objectives Update presented to the City Council on Nov. 1. She thanked Board members who attended the meeting. Their support was recognized by Council members.
- Ruth Ann reminded us to be ready to discuss new goals in February.

New Business

Jill provided her email address for communication: hessj@portagemi.gov

Ruth Ann mentioned continuing efforts to contact those who have not renewed their memberships.

Georganne informed us that residents of Pavilion Township do not receive solicitation for donations to PSC, although some residents are members. She also recommended that an Advisory Board member attend New Member Orientation.

Jim Hoppe obtained Monthly Report data from Oct 2009 and 2010 for our comparison to 2011. Some differences in reporting practices were discussed. There is a need for better understanding of how numbers are gathered. Trends need further investigation.

Jim also reported on who owns property adjacent to PSC. The City of Portage owns the land to the south (bordered by Brown St and fencing) and adjacent land to the west is owned by the church nearby.

Advisory Board Comments: No meeting in December

Citizen Comments: Georganne expressed the need for an advocate for programming at PSC.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

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

Submitted by Mary Maisto, Secretary