

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

MINUTES: February 16, 2022

ATTENDANCE: Doug Gilchrist, Larry Smith, Art Roberts, Linda Clampi, Jean Balazs, Trudy Riker, John Lobo, Sharon White

Absent Excused: Joe Magalski, Bill Wieringa, Linda Zoeller, Ashlyn Haigh, Genevieve Kim

Absent Un-excused: None

Guests: None

Staff: Kim Phillips, Kimberly Middleton

Call to order time: 2:28 p.m.

Corrections to previous minutes: None. Larry Smith motion to approve, Art second minutes approved

Travel Program, Trudy Riker:

No report on Travel due to a meeting delay. Trudy reports the trip preview will take place in the fall. Trips are being planned and moving ahead. Kim mentioned that the bus contract had been approved for three years through Cardinal.

Friends of PSC Board Update, Trudy Riker:

Trudy Riker attended the Friends retreat, a four-hour morning affair of hard-working people. A work session, planning. Anything the Advisory Board can do to support the Friends board should be done. Each Advisory board member should make a real effort to support at least one fund raising event during the upcoming year.

Bloomerang is a new software package the Friends have purchased as a database management system. This software will provide reporting, generates profiles of donors, identify patterns and stats on donors.

Legislative Update, Art Roberts:

21st of January was a round table discussion with Governor Whitmer. Items of concern/interest had been shared with her, many of those items were championed by the governor for example her budget recommendation for essential workers, educators, first responders, health care workers are all items of interest to the senior community. Julie Rogers Feb 18th coffee; Sean McCann has a 25 Feb coffee at KVCC. Christine Morris will be at the breakfast.

May 11, Older Michiganians Day.

Managers Report, Kim Phillips:

Kim Phillips: Welcome Kimberly Middleton. Note the Manager's report is now attached to the agenda. Because this is a public meeting, and if the report is on the agenda it automatically gets posted. Membership is in very good shape. Once or twice a year Kim will provide a three/four year comparison of membership numbers as well as non-member participations.

For the agenda for the next meeting, we will add a marketing plan and discuss it.

Old Business:

We still do not have a full parking lot available, our activities are limited due to that and Covid. Hopefully the parking lot will be cleared out soon, but we are only at this location 2 more months. Staff is working on the scheduling and programming for the new building.

Construction dry wall is up, painting, fireplace installed, walls are up, glass is installed. It seems bigger with the walls in place. Tentative open date in late May. The Governor wants to attend the ribbon cutting. There will be a two-three week shutdown while the move takes place.

We are not experiencing negative feedback on membership increases. We are experiencing a nice uptick on memberships.

New member breakfast March 8. Doug will be unable to attend, Larry Smith agreed to attend.

Doug Gilchrist: Community Resources, every month we'll have a speaker

New Business:

Doug Gilchrist: During the round table with Governor Whitmer, Doug learned of community resources he didn't know existed and suggested to Kim that each month the Advisory Board invite a speaker from one of these resources to educate the board on what they provide. Next month's meeting will include a speaker from the Area Agency on Aging. These speakers will be asked to give a 15-20 minute overview of what they provide and how people can avail themselves of those services.

Doug suggested we might reach out to Meijer for volunteer drivers because drivers are in short supply throughout all the agencies.

Activities Reminders:

New member breakfast, fitness classes are moving well. Veteran's lunch resuming in March.

Advisory Board Comments:

Jeanne: comment made about the public being involved in the meetings, does that apply to all Advisory Board meetings? Yes, because the board is appointed by city council, the meetings are subject to the Public Meetings Act. This board does not do hiring, firing, budgets, complaints go through a chain of command. The chain of command gets action, but the Advisory Board can hear the complaints/suggestions and make suggestions and recommendations.

Jeanne: what would a new board member participate in to gain better knowledge of the senior center?

Kim – attend a new member breakfast to get that foundational understanding of the center. From there, follow your interests and passions. Attending public gatherings and engaging people in conversations, getting a feel for how they feel about the center and bringing those comments to the board is a service. Sign up for a

class and participate, perhaps in travel. Sign up for the email communications from the senior center, read through them for a real-time perception of what is going on.

Art Welcomes Sharon White back to the table, and Kimberly Middleton to the PSC.

Citizen comment:

None

Time Adjourned: 3:18

Next meeting: 2:30 p.m. March 16, 2022