Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Minutes: September 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Bill Wieringa, Sharon White, Larry Smith, Art Roberts, Trudy Riker, Douglas Gilchrist, Linda Zoeller, Mary Lou Petrulio, John Lobo

Absent Excused: Tony Lorentz

Absent Un-excused:

Guests: Monifa Jumanne

Staff: Kim Phillips

Call to order time: 2:30 PM

The minutes for August were approved without correction with Larry Smith moving and Sharon White seconding.

Special Events, Sharon White:

A list of upcoming events was distributed by Sharon White, including the History of the Underground Railroad on Thursday, October 7 at 1:30, The Skinny on Food Labels on Tuesday, October 8, How to Cook with Hands On Demo, October 19 at 1:15, a Financial Exploitation Workshop Thursday, October 22 at 3:00 and a Halloween Lunch on Thursday, October 31 at 11:30. A Meet the Author event on Friday, November 8 at 2:00 will be held for Shirley Burton who authored The History of the Orphan Train and a one-hour presentation on Tuesday the 19th will take place called Insights on History Novels. Mark your calendars now for the New Member Breakfast to be held on December 22nd at 9:00 AM. Don’t forget the purse sale this Saturday!

Travel Program, Trudy Riker:

In the last month there have been five trips, the most popular seems to be the trip to the Grand Hotel. The trip committee has exceeded their fundraising goal with a $56,000 total for the fiscal year. The fall trip preview will be held open-house style on Saturday, September 28, from 9-1:00.

Friends of PSC Board Update, Trudy Riker:

The Friends board met just prior to the Capital Campaign event. They committed to a $50,000 gift over the next two years in addition to the $35,000 pledge to operational expenses given annually. The Friends are hoping to sponsor a donor event for those who have made donations. They confirmed Monday, May 18th will be the date for next year’s golf outing. All volunteers are welcome.

During the meeting there was discussion regarding a ‘donor wall’ in the new facility.
**Legislative Update, Art Roberts:**

KASCI, this past Monday Rick and Lisa Fuller talked about fraud against seniors and next month will discuss the trend of home sharing. These meetings are the third Monday of every month at 1:15. All are welcome.

**Managers Report, Kim Phillips:**

Kim reviewed the public kick-off of the capital campaign siting that 5.5 million was committed by the City of Portage, privately 3.5 million has been raised, including a commitment from Charles and Lynn Zhang. One of the things talked about is a vehicle to get member input in some of the physical aspects of the new facility such as furnishings. To be the Gold Standard for senior centers is Kim’s goal. There is a “wall of names” concept in the works currently to honor donors with seven levels beginning at $500. The Betty Lee Ongley challenge was underwritten by an anonymous donor who will match any gift in honor of Betty Lee up to $40,000. The name of the new facility will be the Charles and Lynn Zhang Portage Community Senior Center. Kim underscored the name commits to the expansion of everything we already do, including community service events and activities, but we will always be a senior focused entity.

Kim appeared on 8-West WOOD TV to promote the senior center, and 8-West will continue to run this as advertising for the senior center.

Thursday afternoon from 3-5:00 PM at the shopping plaza where Advance Health Pharmacy is, there will be a big radio promotion program by WKZR with the senior center selected as the beneficiary of this event. Lots of giveaways will be available as incentives to participate.

The Senior Expo is on October 1st. The PSC is a sponsor of this event and will have table/booths and Kim is looking for volunteers to staff these.

**Program Needs Assessment, Kim Phillips:**

The focus group and surveys are done and some preliminary information should be available by the next Advisory Board meeting.

**Financial Report, Kim Phillips:**

There was discussion on the report and various aspects of funding. The senior center is unique in the city as the department is revenue-tied.

Looking to the bottom line on the report showing last fiscal year which ended June 30 board members can see that the goal of 60-70% self-supporting was exceeded. The net of revenue at the last line that appears to be negative is the amount the city subsidizes. The city’s subsidy was $161,000 which put us at 79% self-supporting. From a financial standpoint as a center, we’ve done a great job and revenue from travel was a huge part of that success.

There was a question regarding solar units on the new facility and general energy efficiencies. Kim answered that the building will be as energy efficient as possible within the budget we are given to work with.
Old Business:
None

New Business:
None

Activities Reminders:
Caesar Chavez movie screening in September

Advisory Board Comments:
Bill Wieringa related to the board his hip is healed after a prayer was made over him while attending church.

Kim Phillips thanked all present for their support these past few months and updated the group on her progress asking that if she owes an answer or task to please remind her.

Art Roberts had cataract surgery on one eye, and will miss the next meeting while he has the second eye done.

Citizen comments:
Monifa Jumanne expressed appreciation for having a seat there and thanked Dawn for attending the Library workshop. Monifa indicated that she was asked by the city to develop a proposal for a memorial to honor Dr. Martin Luther King which she has completed. Three concepts were proposed, a fountain, a garden, or lighthouse or ‘beacon of light.’ Monifa offered to initiate a Kwanzaa celebration, opened it to the board and asked it be added to the PSC calendar. Also offered was a workshop called, “Grandma Gets a Reboot; Grandparenting in the Digital Age,” consisting of a panel of grandparents in different mindsets ranging from the digital age to very old fashioned.

Time Adjourned: 3:30 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2:30 PM