



## **PSC Capital Campaign Questions & Answers**

***Q. Why do we need a new Community Senior Center?***

A. The current PSC facility is too small (7,200 square feet), lacks the amenities that today's seniors desire, offers inadequate activity space for the level of community/recreational programming envisioned and limited rental opportunities.

***Q. Will this increase my taxes?***

A. No. The money that the city will contribute will be derived from surplus funds or programmed Capital Improvement Program funds.

***Q. How much will it cost to construct the proposed facility?***

A. The current estimate is nearly \$11 million, based on construction, fixtures, furnishings and equipment.

***Q. What is the city's commitment to the project?***

A. The City of Portage has committed a dollar for dollar match of donations up to \$5.5 million.

***Q. Didn't Kalamazoo County just pass a senior millage? Doesn't that money go to the Senior Center?***

A: A millage was passed for services to seniors in August of 2018. These millage funds are used to support in-home and community services and reduce the waitlist for those waiting for these programs. These critical care services include basic needs, such as home safety & repair, home delivered meals and in-home care services. Millage funds cannot be allocated for the construction of a new senior center.

***Q. Who will use the building?***

A. The primary use for the new Portage Community Senior Center will be to provide programs and activities that promote personal growth, health, friendship and independence for adults aged 50 and over. However, the increased amount and type of space will also allow Portage Parks & Recreation to begin programming additional recreation activities for the public at large.

**Q. How much access will the public have to the building / services?**

A. The features of the new facility will allow for more and different activities for both the senior community and the public. As noted above, recreational programming through Portage Parks & Recreation will increase, as will rental opportunities for weddings, banquets, performances, conferences, meetings and other activities.

**Q. Will the added services compete with other organizations in the community?**

A. The Portage Senior Center collaborates with a variety of community organizations, like Senior Services of Southwest Michigan, Bronson Healthcare, Portage Community Center, Portage Public Schools, Osher Lifelong Learning, Western Michigan University and the AARP Tax Preparation program. We view this as an opportunity to increase these partnerships.

**Q. How big will the proposed facility be?**

A. The current plans call for a two-story, 32,000 square-foot building.

**Q. How much parking will there be?**

A. 300 spaces.

**Q. Where will it be located?**

A. The current plans call for the building to be situated on city-owned property at 203 East Centre Avenue, with frontage on East Centre Avenue and an entrance on Brown Avenue in the heart of the City Centre.

**Q. Are there naming opportunities to the building, rooms, etc.?**

A. Yes. Several naming opportunities exist throughout the entire facility.

**Q. What did the City of Portage pay for the land it owns on East Centre Avenue and Brown Avenue?**

A. The city purchased six parcels over several years for the total cost of \$1,240,000.

**Q. What is the value of the existing Senior Center?**

A. The current Senior Center is valued at \$1,114,392 and its contents are valued at \$166,904, for a total value of \$1,280,486.

**Q. What will happen to the existing building?**

A. Options for the disposition of the existing facilities might include sale to a not-for-profit or public entity.

**Q. Do I need to be a Portage resident to participate in programs & activities?**

A. No. Anyone 50 years or older can participate, regardless of residency.

**Q. How many members does the Portage Senior Center currently have?**

A. Membership currently stands at just over 1,500 individuals, but more than 2,200 people participated in programs at the PSC last year.

**Q. Will the new Community Senior Center merge with the Portage Community Center?**

A. No. The mission of the Portage Senior Center is to provide programs and opportunities that promote personal growth, health, friendship and independence for adults aged 50 and over. The Portage Community is a human services organization that helps Portage individuals and families in need with emergency assistance, youth development and other programs. The services provided by the two organizations do not cross over and the institutions will remain independent of each other.

**Q. What is the membership makeup of the Portage Community Center?**

A. Portage residents make up 58% of the membership, with 42% from Kalamazoo County and beyond.

*Added 11/13/18*