



MINUTES

North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission

May 27, 2019 | 3:00 PM

Hays Center

The Senior Citizens Commission meeting was called to order by Dick Blankenkemper at 3:00 PM.

Present were: Dick Blankenkemper, Belinda Snow, Dorothy Romes, Dick Giddings, Marleene Calvin, Robert Barnes, and Beth White. Eddie Powell and Jim Lewis were absent. A quorum was declared.

A motion was made by Robert Barnes to excuse absences. The motion was seconded by Dick Giddings. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dick Giddings to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Belinda Snow. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Bernadette Rhodes gave a financial overview, reporting that financials are in good order. Income has been steady and on track with lunches and events. Locker rentals are down. Three Outreach CDs are reaching maturity soon. The signers on those accounts are in the process of being transitioned to Belinda Snow, Nancy White, and Bernadette Rhodes. A motion was made by Beth White to accept the financial report and seconded by Marleene Calvin. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rhodes gave a program update, including a review of her staff report to the Mayor. The program memo and staff report are enclosed below. Independence Day Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, July 2nd.

Ms. Rhodes reported that the Section 5310 Transportation grant application was completed and may take up to a year to process before we know if we are approved for 80% ARDOT funding of a new handicap-accessible van.

Ms. Rhodes gave a facility and equipment update. Facility Manager Bruce Vang is now a Certified Pool Operator and will be able to maintain the pools. Staff has received compliments on the improved cleanliness in the pools. A robot pool vacuum has been purchased to clean the pools at night. Repairs to the Exercise Room wall are finished and sheetrock repairs to the main entryway bulkhead will be completed within the next few weeks. Specs for the ballroom AV system upgrade have been sent to Commerce in order to publish a request for bids. The HVAC Desert Aire unit in the aerobics pool has cost \$11,045.37 in repairs so far this year.

The Center will hold two focus groups of six to eight people each regarding updates to its membership fees. The groups will be facilitated by Joe Whalen. He will lead the groups in discussion and report back the information to the Commission.

Commission members requested information on how many members accessed the building between 7:00 and 8:00 AM. They also asked that Community Concert Band performances be listed on the main City calendar.

Suggestion Box: One member inquired about installing a water spout on the existing water fountain to fill water bottles. Ms. Rhodes stated she would follow up with our options.

No open comments.

A motion was made by Dick Giddings to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Marleene Calvin. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Prepared by Chera Sbait, Hays Center Staff

Approved by Belinda Snow, Secretary

Memo To: North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission
From: Bernadette Gunn Rhodes
Memo Date: May 22, 2019

We are heading into summer vacation, which creates a bit of a lull here at the Hays Center. Many members travel or stay home to take care of grandchildren. Several volunteers will take a summer break from their classes. I'll be tracking attendance to see how much of an impact the summer makes on us. The summer lull creates an opportunity for us to work more strategically, planning events for the rest of the year, continuing our discussions with members about possible rate adjustments, and improving our communications to keep current and potential members informed of what we have to offer.

Average attendance in the last four weeks has been up 3% compared to the same period in 2018, and down 8% compared to the previous four weeks. The rainy weather has a lot to do with the dip in attendance. We have been logging an average of 2,700 visits per week so far this year. 497 members visit the Center on an average weekday. We currently have 3,335 active members. That is a net gain of 17 members since this time last month.

Program Update

We held an open house for public senior housing residents on Wednesday, May 8th, from 1:00-3:00 pm. The open house included a tour of the center, information on our transportation program, presentations from three current members, and snacks. Transportation was provided. We had 14 participants. Two participants who had been previously been Hays Center members renewed their memberships that day, and several others took applications home.

We held our annual City-wide Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on May 16th with 160 people. We had Charley Baxter speak in his role as "Deputy Mayor," and of course he did a great job! Our featured speaker was Todd Price from Carelink, who spoke about the power of positive thinking and laughter.

Transportation Update

We submitted our AR DOT Section 5310 grant application for a wheelchair-accessible van. ARDOT confirmed receipt of the application. From here, it is a long process. If our application is approved, it will still be several more months (up to a year) before we would actually receive the van. The estimated price for the van is \$48,225, with the grant covering 80% and Senior Citizens Outreach covering the required 20% match, or \$9,645. Outreach's Bus Fund CD balance is \$7,495.14 and matures on 6/16/19.

Facility Update

JMD Construction has replaced the mildewed sheetrock in the exercise room, fixed water damage on ballroom window sills, replaced mildewed acoustic panels on the south aerobics pool wall above the double doors, and treated the rust on the double doors.

The last part of JMD's contract is to replace sheetrock in the front entryway. We've postponed that until we can confirm that the leak over the entryway is fixed. Ketcher has been out twice, and based on the last few heavy rains, we think the leak is finally gone. We will likely have JMD put the sheetrock back up next week.

I am still working up the specs for the Ballroom A/V upgrade bid. The next step is to get those to the Commerce Department to put them out to bid within the next month.

Regarding our Aerobic Pools DesertAire HVAC unit, this past month we spent \$1,436 on a leak check and valve replacement. That brings our 2019 YTD repair cost to \$10,137. In 2018, we spent \$10,997 repairing the unit.

The final big change is that we terminated our contract with Blue Water Pools for pool maintenance. Our facility manager, Bruce, has earned his Certified Pool Operator certification, which authorizes him to maintain the chemical balance in the pool. He has also taken on responsibility for cleaning the pools, and we have ordered a highly-rated pool robot that can thoroughly clean our pools overnight once or twice per week. This new approach gives our pools more daily attention and saves us \$3,000 per month. If we need backup due to Bruce being out of the office, Clarity Pools of Little Rock is available to fill in. The Parks & Recreation Department also uses Clarity Pools for their two outdoor pools.

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 28th.

Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizens Center and Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services
Monthly Report – April 2019

Member Statistics

- Our members logged 12,013 visits to the Hays Center (88 more than last month).
- 71 new members joined the Hays Center this month for a total of 3,324 active members (30 more than last month).
- New member demographics:
 - 66 new “Core Hours” (\$35) members, 5 new “Extended Hours” (\$150) members.
 - 33 African American, 37 Caucasian, 1 two or more races.
 - 53 females, 18 males.
 - 28 from North Little Rock, 43 from outside NLR.
 - The youngest 2 members to join this month were 50. The oldest was 89.

Deposits

- \$ 2,980.00 in new member fees
- \$ 9,903.00 in renewal fees
- \$ 4,500.00 in rental fees
- \$ 1,299.90 in trip fees
- \$ 570.00 in lunch/event sales
- \$ 874.00 in other revenue
- **\$20,126.90 25,832.72 Total (↓13.8% over last month)**

Activities (Susan Russell)

- Member Vendor Day held. Brought in \$28.50 in commissions to Center.
- Community Concert Band had their April concert at the Center.
- Social Security Admin was in computer room twice this month to assist members with signing up with logins to their accounts.
- Governor's Advisory Council on Aging held its quarterly meeting at the Center.
- Friends of Animals held their fundraiser at the Center.
- Held a Plant Swap outside the Center.
- Held Senior Health Fair with 131 attendees.
- NLRFD promotions held at the Center.

Facility (Bruce Vang)

- Started repairs on exercise room wall.
- Continued to replace fluorescent light fixtures with LED panels where needed.
- Started servicing swimming pools in-house.
- Replaced water seal for pool pump in aerobics pool.
- Finalized specs for bid document on A/V system.
- Replaced light switches in gallery.
- Walked through with National HVAC to come up with maintenance plan for HVAC system.
- Continued to work with JMD construction to complete building repairs.

- Working with Ketcher on leak above front door.
- Monthly check up on fitness equipment.

Trips (Chera Sbait)

- We provided 17 trips, transporting a total of 164 people and collecting a total of \$442 in trip fees.
- Provided a bus and driver for the Sister City Program's delegation.
- Hays Center day trips went to Heber Springs and Des Arc.
- The Red Hat Society went to Cabot and our Bean Bag Baseball teams traveled to 8 away games.
- Public senior housing residents traveled to medical appointments (1 trip) and grocery stores (4 trips).
- After driver and meal costs, the transportation program netted -\$406. (Does not yet include fuel costs. Awaiting Fuelman bill.)

Rentals (Angela Wirt)

- 3 paid rentals
- 2 co-sponsored rentals (NLR Friends of Animals & NLRFD Promotions)
- Total rental income: \$2,525.00

Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services (Angela Wirt)

- Hays Center volunteers reported 1,403 hours this month.
- Received 2 new volunteer applications.