



MINUTES

North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission

November 18, 2019 | 3:00 PM

Hays Center

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

Present were: Dick Blankenbeker, Jim Lewis, Dorothy Romes, Dick Giddings, Robert Barnes, Belinda Snow, and Marleene Calvin, Beth White and Ed Coleman. All were present.

A motion was made by Jim Lewis to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed Coleman. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Bernadette Rhodes gave a financial overview, reporting that financials are in good order. She projected that at year end, the Center would have \$30,000 remaining in its budget to buy things that the center needs. The 2020 Budget has been amended due to the anticipated contract for services at the senior housing facilities. The Budget will be voted on next Monday. A Senior Citizens Outreach CD at Simmons Bank matures December 2019. Ms. Rhodes will solicit quotes from banks to find the highest interest rate. A motion was made by Robert Barnes to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Jim Lewis. 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. We had a several events; Halloween on October 31st served 85 people, Thanksgiving Lunch on November 12th served 150 people, and Christmas Lunch will be on December 17th. Ms. Rhodes attended the fall symposium of the Arkansas Gerontological Society learning about issues regarding long-term care in the state, specifically the gap in accessibility to Medicaid assistance for in-home care or assisted living versus nursing home care.

The Hays Center and BGC Advantage, the new manager of the senior housing facilities, are working on a new contract for resident services. Since the partner is changing, the contract will require an updated ordinance that must be approved by City Council. The Hays Center would, under the terms of the new contract, receive the payment amount stated in the contract instead of payment fluctuating based on PILOT funds received by the partner. New contracts should be ready by December 9th.

Ms. Rhodes gave a facility and equipment update. The Center now has a new carpet cleaning machine and new fitness equipment has been ordered. In the Aerobics Pool, a new water heater was installed for \$3600. The audio and visual upstairs in exercise room A & B will need replacing. We are planning on updating the ballroom in 2020 as well as the front desk.

During open comments, commissioners asked Ms. Rhodes to announce the 2020 membership fee increase via the center's newsletter, Facebook, signs around the center, and a press release.

A commissioner asked whether the center would be installing wireless internet in 2020. Ms. Rhodes stated it was in the budget and the IT department is planning for it.

The commissioners decided not to meet in December unless Ms. Rhodes called a meeting. The next commission meeting is scheduled take place on Monday, January 27th at 3:00 pm.

Belinda Snow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marleene Calvin seconded. Dick Blankenbeker adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Minutes approved by Senior Citizens Commission at January 27, 2020 meeting.

Memo To:
North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission
From: Bernadette Gunn Rhodes
Memo Date: November 14, 2019

I am in shock that it is mid-November already because we have not slowed down since the last Commission meeting! We have hosted two parties in the past two weeks. Halloween went very well, we had 85 attendees, fun games, and a hilarious costume contest. This past Tuesday, we served a full Thanksgiving meal to 150 people. R&R Band (which we call our “house band” since they play regularly with the Pickers & Grinners), provided festive live music. We were overwhelmed with the response to the Thanksgiving meal and plan to do it again next year. Our members really appreciated the food, music, and fellowship. The Arkansas Heart Hospital’s Strong Hearts Cardiac Rehabilitation Center provided two side dishes, five volunteers, and salt-free seasoning packets for each attendee. Five other sponsors (Bale Chevrolet, Bank of England, Roller-Owens Funeral Home, Revive Cleaning, and Direct Auto) provided a total of \$600 in cash sponsorships plus free pies for dessert.

Average attendance in the last four weeks has been up 8% compared to the same period in 2018, but down 7% compared to the previous four weeks. The dip in attendance is normal for this time of year. We have been logging an average of 2,738 visits per week so far this year. 504 members visit the Center on an average weekday. We had 3,540 active members in October. That is a net loss of 10 members over the previous month.

Financial Update

Our 2020 budget has been accepted by Finance and presented to City Council. I attended a budget hearing on November 12th and the Council did not have any questions about the Hays Center budget. The budget will be voted on at the Monday, November 25th City Council meeting.

We have ordered the Keiser seated butterfly machine as well as two seated bicycles/total body trainers and one seated elliptical. Those purchases total \$20,186. Clarity Pools is in the process of replacing the sand in all 4 of our pool filters. The total cost will be \$5,000. After accounting for those larger expenses, I anticipate we will have \$30,000 left in the budget to purchase any additional needed items. We are considering new AV equipment for the 2nd floor exercise room, interior design services, and kitchen supplies (pots and pans).

Program Update

We hosted our fall Senior Health Fair on October 8th. 131 members attended. The vendors were all impressed with the attendance and interest, stating that it trumped many of the larger, more expensive expos they had attended.

Angela and Bruce have started facilitating the “We Can Do It!” Ladies’ Home Repair club. There has been a lot of interest in the meetings. Last meeting, members took apart and re-assembled a sink and learned how to use power drills. 20 women attended.

As stated above, our Halloween and Thanksgiving events were quite successful and a lot of fun. We are now in planning mode for our Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 17. We are in the process of securing sponsorships and planning the menu.

At our meeting I hope to share an update from the City Attorney's office on the contracts for the Hays Center to provide resident services to the senior housing tenants at Hickory View, Cedar Gardens, Maple Place, and Oak View.

Transportation Update

We continue to receive calls requesting transportation to and from the Hays Center. We are eager to launch the pilot program that you approved last year once we receive the new van (application still pending). The Senior Citizens Outreach Board has given its approval for the pilot, as well. October was an exceptionally busy month for transportation. We provided 27 trips, transporting a total of 261 people. Hays Center day trips went to Crystal Bridges, Murry's Dinner Playhouse, the Garland County Fair, Altus, Bryant Senior Center for dancing, State Fair, Queen Wilhelmina Lodge, and Jasper Cliff House. The "Red Hot Hays Honeys" Red Hat Society travelled to Mather's Lodge. Public senior housing residents traveled to medical appointments (26 riders), grocery stores (2 riders). Our Bean Bag Baseball teams traveled to Jacksonville and Conway for away games. After fuel and bus driver wages, the program netted \$-1,024.

Facility Update

The Ballroom A/V upgrade is complete.

We have ordered two new total body trainers, one seated elliptical, and one Keiser seated butterfly weight machine for the 2nd floor workout area.

We plan to engage an interior designer to help us plan a 2020 ballroom renovation and explore options for relocating our front desk to improve the ambience and security of the entryway. The idea is to have a reception desk in the center when you first walk in, similar to an office lobby.

Regarding our Aerobic Pools DesertAire HVAC unit, this past month we had \$0 in repair expenses. That puts our 2019 YTD repair cost at \$14,083. In 2018, we spent \$10,997 repairing the unit.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday, November 18th.

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

Member Statistics

- Our members logged 12,152 visits to the Hays Center (592 more than last month).
- 76 new members joined the Hays Center this month for a total of 3,540 active members (10 less than last month).
- New member demographics:
 - 63 new “Core Hours” members, 12 new “Extended Hours” members.
 - 22 African American, 49 Caucasian, 1 Asian, 1 Hispanic, 3 other/unknown.
 - 49 females, 26 males.
 - 33 from North Little Rock, 43 from outside NLR.
 - The youngest 5 members to join this month were 50. The oldest was 81.

Deposits

- \$ 2,270.00 in new member fees
- \$ 6,622.48 in renewal fees
- \$ 725.00 in rental fees
- \$ 649.00 in trip fees
- \$ 921.00 in lunch/event/activity fees
- \$ 315.50 in other revenue
- **\$ 11,502.98 Total (↓ 42% over last month)**

Activities (Susan Russell)

- The quarterly volunteer luncheon was held this month
- Health Fair at the Hays Center
- Bernadette and Susan attended the CareLink Senior Center Directors' Retreat
- Governor's Advisory Council met at the Hays Center this month
- Angela and Susan taught at pour paint class for 20 members
- Cigna Health held at Medicare meeting at the center
- CareLink was in the computer lab this month to assist members with their upcoming Medicare renewals
- “We Can Do It” home repair club for our lady members began this month
- Halloween Party with food, games and prizes plus a costume contest was attended by approx. 85 people.

Facility (Bruce Vang)

- Replaced LED panels in lobby area.
- Cleaned carpets with new carpet machine.
- Working on getting sand replaced in lap pool.
- Working on quote for new Desert Aire unit for aerobics pool.
- Put up shelves in storage room and aerobics pool.
- Working on quote for new exercise equipment.

- Finalized A/V upgrade with vendor.

Trips (Chera Sbait)

- We provided 27 trips, transporting a total of 261 people and collecting a total of \$1,135 in trip fees.
- Hays Center day trips went to Crystal Bridges, Murry's Dinner Playhouse, the Garland County Fair, Altus, Bryant Senior Center for dancing, State Fair, Queen Wilhelmina Lodge, and Jasper Cliff House.
- The "Red Hot Hays Honeys" Red Hat Society travelled to Mather's Lodge.
- Public senior housing residents traveled to medical appointments (26 riders), grocery stores (2 riders).
- Our Bean Bag Baseball teams traveled to Jacksonville and Conway for away games.
- After fuel and bus driver wages, the program netted \$-1,024.

Rentals (Angela Wirt)

- 5 paid rentals
- Total rental income: \$3,875 (\$3,475 rental fees, \$400 retained deposits)

Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services (Angela Wirt)

- Hays Center volunteers reported 1,495 hours this month.
- Received 7 new volunteer applications.