



MINUTES

North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission

February 24, 2020 | 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, Marleene Calvin, Ed Coleman, and Beth White. Belinda Snow was absent. A quorum was declared.

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

A motion was made by Robert Barnes to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Bernadette Rhodes gave a financial overview, reporting that financials are in good order. The Hays Center's month-to-date expenditures are tracking at 6% for the year. According to the Center's revenue tracking, the \$10 raise in membership fees has increased revenue at the expected level. Revenue has already reached almost 10% of its goal for the year.

A motion was made by Robert Barnes to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Jim Lewis. The 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. The Hays Center's number of active members continues to increase and daily attendance is growing.

The North Little Rock Senior Citizens Hall of Fame has selected two recipients, Juanita Henderson and Ann-Marie LeBlanc. Tickets are for sale at \$10 per person. The event is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th. Invitations were extended to the Commission.

LPI Newsletters for seniors: The Hays Center has signed a contract for a free quarterly newsletter and will put out its first issue on May 1st with 2,500 copies printed at no cost to the Center. These will not be mailed out, but rather distributed in the Center and at locations throughout the community.

The Hays Center and BGC Advantage, the new manager of the senior housing facilities, have come to an agreement on the contract for resident services. There will be two separate, but similar contracts: one for Cedar Gardens/Hickory View and one for Maple Place/Oak View.

Changes from the Hays Center's previous contract with the NLR Housing Authority include:

- There will be one Activity Coordinator position between both contracts with a 24 hour per week schedule.
- Hays Center will provide services and transportation only to residents ages 50 years and above.
- Hays Center will provide 50 free memberships to the Hays Center, along with outreach, open houses and transportation.
- The Activity Coordinator will no longer maintain an office in the houses.
- Hays Center is no longer responsible for any maintenance or requests within the housing facilities.
- Home base for the Activity Coordinator will be at the Hays Senior Center.

Ms. Rhodes gave a facility and equipment update. Staff and IT are in the process of prioritizing which areas of the building will have wireless internet installed. It is cost-prohibitive to install Wi-Fi in the

entire building at once, but areas can be added over time. The elevator went down due to a seal breaking. It caused vapor to release and set off the fire alarm. All members vacated the building. A request for bids has been published to replace the dehumidifier in the aerobics pool. The deadline for bids is March 2nd. New AV equipment has been installed in Exercise Room A & B. The vendor is still fixing some minor issues with volume control.

Ms. Rhodes requested to add an item to the agenda. Mr. Blankenkemper approved her request. Staff received a request from the clients of a March 7th wedding. They would like two additional hours for decorating beyond the Hays Center's 10-hour limit. A 12-hour event would require the Hays Center to split the shift between two staff members in order to accommodate. A motion was made by Robert Barnes to approve two additional hours. Jim Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Open comment:

Mr. Barnes raised a question about why the Hays Center limits day passes to five per year. He would like the Commission to reconsider the policy and asked that the item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Coleman requested that signs be posted in the pool areas about proper attire, i.e. wearing only non-linting materials in the pools. Ms. Rhodes will see to it that signs are posted.

End of open comment.

Robert Barnes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dorothy Romes seconded. Mr. Blankenkemper adjourned the meeting at 4:07 pm.

Minutes approved by Senior Citizens Commission at May 26, 2020 meeting.

Memo To:
North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission
From: Bernadette Gunn Rhodes
Memo Date: February 19, 2020

We have been busy and productive this month with Black History Month and all the planning for the rest of 2020. New and renewing members are still coming in at increased rates and our income is looking great thanks to the rate increase. 122 new members joined the Hays Center in January for a total of 3,667 active members, which is a net gain of 123 members over Dec. '19 and 171 more than in Jan. '19.

Average attendance in the last four weeks has been up 19% compared to the previous four weeks, but down 1% compared to the same period the previous year. 487 members visited the Center on an average weekday in 2019. So far this year, average weekday attendance has been 476, but three holiday closures during that time have suppressed our average.

Financial Update

It is still early in the year but our expenses are tracking normally and our income is tracking ahead of schedule. The \$10/year increase in the Core membership has made a big difference.

We have a \$395 CD for Heritage House maturing in March. I plan to cash out the CD and deposit it into Heritage House's checking account.

With the changes to our contract with BGC Advantage for services to the senior and disabled housing facilities, it may make sense to combine the funds currently held in each house's name into one account and use the funds to supplement our contract. For example, the funds could cover any costs of providing transportation to the residents if the demand exceeds our budget estimates. I will bring the combination and possible use of funds to the Senior Citizens Outreach board for consideration.

Program Update

The City Council approved the contracts with BGC Advantage to provide resident services to the senior housing tenants at Hickory View, Cedar Gardens, Maple Place, and Oak View. We are awaiting BGC's signature. We have transitioned from three Activity Coordinators to one as per our contract. The three existing ACs decided not to reapply, but we have hired a licensed social worker, Faith Bedwell Adams, who has already been serving Heritage House (now Hickory View) for several years. I look forward to telling you more about Faith at our meeting.

We did not have a lot of events in January but stayed busy planning for Black History Month. So far all the events and exhibits have been fantastic. We have art and historical panels in the gallery, have had two well-attended film screenings, and a segment on Good Morning Arkansas.

A new Chicago Style Steppin' class started in January with about 50 participants.

We have signed a contract with LPi, which prints newsletters for senior centers, to publish a free quarterly newsletter for the Hays Center. The newsletter is funded through ad sales and a sales rep from LPi will be at the Hays Center for two weeks in March to contact potential advertisers. Each newsletter will be 8 pages long and give us an opportunity to feature the Center in a more in-depth fashion. We will receive 2,500 copies for distribution to our members and around the community. Maumelle Senior Center and others in the region already use LPi and had nothing but good things to say about their service.

Juanita Henderson and Ann-Marie LeBlanc have been chosen as inductees to the NLR Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. The awards luncheon will be March 19 at 11:30 am. You are invited to attend for free...please let me know if you can make it!

Transportation Update

All our January statistics are in the mayor's staff report in your packet. We are still waiting to hear about the ARDOT grant for the wheelchair-accessible van. Medical transports have grown exponentially.

Facility Update

We are still awaiting delivery of the seated elliptical.

The exterior building sealing is complete.

New AV equipment has been installed in the Exercise Room. Our vendor is also doing updates to the Ballroom AV this Friday to fix some issues we have been having with the audio.

I am still awaiting a quote from Taggart's 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 bid for the new HVAC system in the aerobics pool will be published either this month or early March.

Our IT department is working up a plan and pricing for installing wifi in select parts of the building. To install it all throughout the building would cost upwards of \$40,000, so we are being selective and can expand in phases in future years.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday, February 24th.

**Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizens Center and Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services
Monthly Report – January 2020**

Member Statistics

- Our members logged 12,082 visits to the Hays Center (3,056 more than last month).
- 122 new members joined the Hays Center this month for a total of 3,667 active members (123 more active members than last month and 171 more than Jan. '19).
- New member demographics:
 - 105 new "Core Hours" members, 17 new "Extended Hours" members.
 - 64 Caucasian, 53 African American, 2 American Indian, 1 Asian, 1 Hispanic, 1 other/unknown.
 - 77 females, 45 males.
 - 57 from North Little Rock, 65 from outside NLR.
 - The youngest 4 members to join this month were 50. The oldest was 89.

Deposits

- \$ 6,905.00 in new member fees
- \$ 15,244.24 in renewal fees
- \$ 6,600.00 in rental fees
- \$ 299.00 in trip fees
- \$ 1,256.00 in lunch/event/activity fees
- \$ 223.00 in other revenue
- **\$ 30,527.24 Total (↑ 70% over last month)**

Activities (Susan Russell)

- Fire promotions held at the center.
- Governor's Advisory Council met here.
- Chicago Style Steppin class began with 50 members participating.

Facility (Bruce Vang)

- Replaced parts on SciFit machine and checked all exercise equipment.
- PowerClean Pros continues to waterproof building exterior.
- Continued to install LED light panels throughout the building.

Trips (Chera Sbait)

- We provided 28 trips, transporting a total of 74 people and collecting a total of \$216 in trip fees.
- Hays Center day trips went to Searcy Senior Center for lunch and bingo and Swan Lake for lunch at the Red Apple Inn.
- Public senior housing residents traveled to medical appointments (22 riders) and grocery stores (6 riders).
- After bus driver wages and fuel, the program netted -\$921.

Rentals (Angela Wirt)

- 2 paid rentals.
- 1 co-sponsored rental.
- Total rental income: \$1,150 (\$875 rental fees, \$275 retained deposits).

Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services (Angela Wirt)

- Hays Center volunteers reported 1,302 hours this month.
- Received 3 new volunteer applications.