



## MINUTES

### North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission

June 24, 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, Jim Lewis, Dorothy Romes, Dick Giddings, Marleene Calvin, Robert Barnes, and Beth White. Eddie Powell and Belinda Snow were absent. A quorum was declared.

A motion was made by Jim Lewis to excuse absences. The motion was seconded by Dorothy Romes. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jim Lewis to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Marleene Calvin. 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 matured. Two went to Arkansas Federal Credit Union for 23 months, one went to Arkansas Federal Credit Union for 13 Months. A motion was made by Dick Giddings to accept the financial report and 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. Independence Day Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Susan is back from Nova Scotia with our Hays Members. Mr. Humphries' June Swim Class was a success.

Ms. Rhodes reported that we will now be providing transportation on-demand throughout the week for pharmacy, grocery and medical van runs for senior public housing residents. Grocery and pharmacy will need to stay within the city of North Little Rock.

Ms. Rhodes gave a facility and equipment update. The low bid on the ballroom AV upgrade was submitted by Wirges Percussion Systems, Inc. The City Attorney's office is drafting a contract. The HVAC Desert Aire unit in the aerobics pool continues to have repairs. Ms. Rhodes has also learned how to test and backwash the pools while Bruce is out. There is a leak above the aerobics pool when it rains.

The Center held two focus groups of six to eight people each regarding updates to its membership fees. The groups were facilitated by Joe Whalen. Mr. Whalen reported that one focus group is leaning towards a price increase to \$4 per month, with the possibility of lowering the cost for Extended Memberships. The second focus group was leaning towards the idea of having one membership for all.

Ms. Rhodes suggested a policy change for day trips and events. Would like the policy change to allow members to bring one guest per member. Guest would have to purchase a day pass in order to attend the trip or the event. Only one guest per member allowed. A motion was

made by Marleene Calvin to approve the policy change and seconded by Dick Giddings. All in favor.

No open comments.

A motion was made by Marleene Calvin to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dorothy Romes. 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: June 19, 2019**

We have had a smooth month with good attendance despite summer vacations and several Center activities going on summer hiatus.

Average attendance in the last four weeks has been up 1.4% compared to the same period in 2018, and down 1.2% compared to the previous four weeks. We have been logging an average of 2,678 visits per week so far this year. 493 members visit the Center on an average weekday. We currently have 3,340 active members. That is a net gain of 9 members since this time last month.

**Program Update**

May and early June have been fairly quiet as far as programming. Our biannual swim class started up again and have been well-attended. Susan took approx. 38 people to Nova Scotia on a Hays Center trip. We are preparing for our Independence Day cookout on July 2<sup>nd</sup> with live music. We received a \$500 sponsorship from Fox Ridge Assisted Living to cover food costs.

Thankfully, we and our members were minimally affected by the Arkansas River flood. Hays staff worked with the Emergency Management Team on an evacuation plan for several neighborhoods, and we had our buses and drivers on standby for over a week. Fortunately, no large-scale evacuation was necessary.

**Transportation Update**

We are still waiting to hear from ARDOT regarding our transportation grant application. ARDOT has confirmed they have everything they need from us.

Due to low participation on Fridays, we are changing our weekly grocery bus to an on-demand service. Residents at the senior public housing facilities can call us by noon the business day before their desired outing date and we will take them to a medical appointment anywhere in Central Arkansas, or to a grocery store or pharmacy within NLR city limits.

**Facility Update**

JMD Construction is redoing some of its work in the aerobics pool. They failed to use the appropriate paint for the amount of moisture that is in the pool area. They replaced and painted the sheetrock in the front entryway. So far there have been no more leaks there despite heavy rains, so we are hopeful the dripping in the front entryway has finally been eradicated.

The Ballroom A/V upgrade request for bids was published and garnered 4 bidders. Wirges Percussion Systems of Little Rock was the low bidder at \$44,497. Our next step is for the City Attorney's office to draft a contract.

Regarding our Aerobic Pools DesertAire HVAC unit, this past month we spent \$909 on Freon. That brings our 2019 YTD repair cost to \$11,045. In 2018, we spent \$10,997 repairing the unit.

### **Financial Update**

Belinda Snow, Nancy White and I spend a great deal of time filling out paperwork for and visiting banks this past month and a half. We finally got all our accounts put in our three names, just in time to move three of our CDs (Flea Market, Bus Fund & Heritage House) from First Security Bank to Arkansas Federal Credit Union. AFCU came in with the highest bid, a rate of 2.65% APY for a 23-month term, and a 2.40% APY rate for an 11-month term. Belinda and I will meet on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> to officially transfer the funds to AFCU.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Member Statistics**

- Our members logged 10,888 visits to the Hays Center (1,125 less than last month).
- 79 new members joined the Hays Center this month for a total of 3,356 active members (32 more than last month).
- New member demographics:
  - 74 new “Core Hours” (\$35) members, 5 new “Extended Hours” (\$150) members.
  - 46 African American, 29 Caucasian, 1 Asian/Pacific Islander, 1 Hispanic, 1 two or more races, 1 unknown.
  - 53 females, 26 males.
  - 35 from North Little Rock, 44 from outside NLR.
  - The youngest 3 members to join this month were 50. The oldest was 89.

### **Deposits**

- \$ 3,025.00 in new member fees
- \$11,752.60 in renewal fees
- \$ 5,525.00 in rental fees
- \$ 1,074.00 in trip fees
- \$ 749.00 in lunch/event sales
- \$ 2,000.00 in City Beautiful funding
- \$ 526.50 in other revenue
- **\$24,652.10 Total (↑12.5% over last month; 22.5% if you count City Beautiful grant)**

### **Activities (Susan Russell)**

- Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group started up again.
- Our Graduate Assistant, Jagur, graduated with his MPA and had his last day here.
- Held an Open House for the residents of NLRHA senior public housing facilities.

**Facility (Bruce Vang)**

- Finished repair to wall, pool, front door, and ballroom with JMD Construction.
- Replaced backwash gasket to eliminate water leakage from aerobics pool.
- Work on finding replacement LED bulb for round lights.
- Installed metal bench in round patio out front.
- Fixed Octane RX6000 handle bars and ordered seat post for Pro-2 bike.
- Replaced water spout on the roof.
- Replaced floor outlet in exercise floor.

**Trips (Chera Sbait)**

- We provided 17 trips, transporting a total of 108 people and collecting a total of \$791 in trip fees.
- Hays Center day trips went to Crystal Bridges, Humble Crumb, and Fairfield Bay for a lake cruise.
- The Red Hat Society went to Charlotte's for lunch. The Hays Center Quilters traveled to Batesville for a quilters' meetup.
- Our Bean Bag Baseball and Chair Volleyball teams each traveled to 1 away game.
- Public senior housing residents traveled to medical appointments (2 trips) and grocery stores (5 trips).
- After driver, fuel and meal costs, the transportation program netted -\$876.

**Rentals (Angela Wirt)**

- 2 paid rentals
- 1 co-sponsored rental (Mayor's Youth Council)
- Total rental income: \$1,675.00

**Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services (Angela Wirt)**

- Held annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon with 139 guests.
- Hays Center volunteers reported 1,468 hours this month.
- Received 3 new volunteer applications.