



## **MINUTES**

### **North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission**

**February 26, 2018, 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, Virginia Raum, Marleene Calvin, Murry Witcher, Eddie Powell, Robert Barnes, Belinda Snow, Dorothy Romes, and Dick Giddings. A quorum was declared.

Absent was Robert Barnes. Mr. Barnes had called before the meeting to be excused due to an unexpected work obligation.

A motion was made by Murry Witcher to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Marleene Calvin. Motion passed unanimously.

Hays Center Director, Bernadette Rhodes, gave a brief overview of the financial information and bank accounts reporting that all financials are in good order. Virginia Raum made a motion to accept the financial information, which was seconded by Dick Giddings. 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 attached.

Ms. Rhodes solicited suggestions from the Commission in regards to building maintenance. Suggestions included reupholstering some of the Keiser weight machines and getting a quote for replacing the ballroom floor.

Ms. Rhodes informed the Commission that a handful of members had made the suggestion to turn the entire ballroom into wood flooring so it could accommodate two Pickleball courts side by side. Ms. Calvin stated that many other members use the carpet for activities like P.A.C.E. and Walking off the Pounds, because the carpet makes them feel safer from falls and makes it easier to make turns. Other Commission members stated concerns over the expense of such a large wood floor and the need to balance the room's utility between many disparate uses.

A motion was made by Eddie Powell to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Murry Witcher. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Prepared by Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Hays Center Director

Approved by Belinda Snow, Secretary



**Memo To:**

**North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission**

**From: Bernadette Gunn Rhodes**

**Memo Date: February 22, 2018**

What *haven't* we done this February? RESTED! We've had an incredibly busy month putting on two huge events and dealing with the flu season like everyone else.

Black History Month was an overwhelming success. We cooked for 200 people and had an hour and a half long program, all by Hays Center members. They contributed poems, speeches, history, songs, fashion, and art. I have included the full program in your packet. The program was incredibly well received, many members thanked the staff for putting it on and can't wait to do it again next year. The History Commission installed a new exhibit in the lobby for the occasion all about notable African Americans in North Little Rock. We had a temporary exhibit in the gallery on "Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds" (1/29-2/11) and are now hosting "Arkansas African American Legislators, 1868-1893 (2/22-3/2). Please stop by the gallery on your way in!

Just a week later, we celebrated Mardi Gras with a big production: King Charley, Queen Bernadette, and 13 Dukes and Duchesses representing Hays Center activities paraded into the ballroom to the live music of Bob Boyd's Dixieland Band. Ann-Marie LeBlanc was our "Krewe Captain" and helped us put on an authentic ball, the likes of which most of our members had never seen. We served traditional Cajun food and gave out prizes for finding the "bébés" in the king cake.

Check out our Facebook page for photos of both events (you can view them even if you don't have a Facebook account): [www.facebook.com/hayscenter](http://www.facebook.com/hayscenter).

On Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, we are honoring two new inductees into the North Little Rock Senior Citizens Hall of Fame: Esther Crawford and Erma Wilbert. The luncheon starts at 11:00 AM and tickets are \$10. I hope you will join us!

Regarding the Center facility, have you done your homework? ☺ I am seeking recommendations for possible repairs and renovations for 2018. So far, I have requested a quote for repairing corroded metal door frames in the women's

locker room and aerobics pool. I have ordered a new arm curl machine and am checking on the delivery date. We have requested a quote for a security camera in our parking lot. I have a \$1,000 quote to rewire our PA speakers so they operate at a normal volume (many in the newer part of the building are too quiet). I also want to price out new benches for the lobby and TVs for the workout area.

We are running out of room! New classes like drawing, crocheting, chess, and diabetes management are vying for time and space, and existing activities like Bible study and Mahjongg have sought more space or time. It is becoming a big challenge to find rooms for everyone and keep it all straight with things changing so rapidly. It's a good problem to have, but eventually we are going to have to look at sharing rooms among classes who have less than 10 participants, or possibly cancelling some classes with chronically low participation.

I look forward to seeing you on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizens Center  
and  
Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services**

**Monthly Report to Mayor – February 2018**

**Member Statistics**

- Our members logged 10,211 visits to the Hays Center.
- 68 new members joined the Hays Center this month for a total of 3,341 active members.
- New members: 32 African American, 28 Caucasian, 3 Hispanic, 1 multi-racial and 4 unknown.
- The majority of new members were female (46 females and 22 males).
- The youngest 6 people to join this month were 50. The oldest two were 85.

**Deposits**

- \$3,115 in new member fees
- \$10,280 in renewal fees
- \$1,410 in rental fees
- \$198 in trip fees
- \$2,363 in lunch & event fees
- \$230 in other revenue
- **TOTAL: \$17,596**

## Activities

- Held a Black History Luncheon and cultural program with 200 guests. Over 20 Hays Center members contributed to the program, which included poetry, speeches, history, fashion, song and art.
- Held a Mardi Gras party with Dixieland band for over 90 people. King Charley and Queen Bernadette held court along with 15 dukes and duchesses representing different Hays Center activities.
- Displayed exhibit titled "African American Legislators, 1868-1893" from the Arkansas State Archives.
- Hosted the Sister Cities dinner.
- Miracle Ear and Captioned Telephones set up in the lobby to test hearing and offer phones for those with hearing loss.
- Pickleball has picked up additional court time over at the Community Center on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Thanks, Terry, for reserving the gym for Hays Center members!
- Physical Therapists from Advanced Physical Therapy have begun again to volunteer their time for one hour Monday mornings working with members upstairs with the fitness machines.
- New classes: Chess, Crochet, and Drawing.

## Facility

- Moving forward with \$1,000 quote to adjust wiring on PA system so all speakers function at an acceptable level.
- Getting quotes for replacing corroded aluminum door frames in ladies' locker room and on aerobics pool deck.
- Getting quotes for ballroom floor replacement. Might need to go out to bid.
- Waiting for quote for security camera in parking lot.
- Other 2018 facility improvement goals:
  - Replace some of the TVs in the workout area
  - Buy 2 new treadmills, 1 seated elliptical, 2-3 recumbent bicycles
  - Replace gallery and lobby furniture
  - Remove wallpaper in ballroom, repair sheetrock and paint

## Trips

- We provided a total of 11 trips, transporting a total of 73 people and collecting a total of \$177 in trip fees.
- Hays Center trips went to the Pyramid Fine Arts Gallery and the Bryant Senior Center for a dance.
- Public senior housing residents traveled to medical appointments (4 trips) and grocery stores (4 trips).
- The Chair Volleyball team traveled to Bryant for a game.
- After fuel, meal, and driver costs, we lost \$474 on our transportation program.

## Rentals

- We provided two free rentals for the Sister City Program and Fire Department Testing.
- We had two paid rentals for a total revenue of \$2,425.

**Mayor's Office of Volunteer Services**

- Hays Center volunteers reported 1,094 hours this month.
- We received 3 new volunteer applications.