The Senior Citizens Commission meeting was called to order by Dick Blankenbeker at 3:00 PM. Present were: Belinda Snow, Dorothy Romes, Dick Giddings, Marleene Calvin, Virginia Raum, Eddie Powell and Dick Blankenbeker. Robert Barnes and Murry Witcher were absent. A quorum was declared.

A motion was made by Eddie Powell to excuse absences. The motion was seconded by Marleene Calvin. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Virginia Raum 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. Senior Citizens Outreach has a CD maturing in November 2018. Ms. Rhodes will solicit renewal bids from several banks. Mr. Blankenbeker asked if CD renewal could be postponed until after January 1, 2019.

A motion was made by Dick Giddings to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Eddie Powell. 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. Jagur Klemann, Hays Center Graduate Assistant, gave an update on his survey to gauge members’ interest in increased transportation services through the Hays Center. Mr. Klemann reported he had collected 50 surveys with the goal of collecting 100 total.

Ms. Rhodes gave a facility and equipment update. The new ballroom floor will be installed over the Veterans Day weekend. Quotes for new gallery furniture are coming in. New projectors will be installed in the exercise room next week. There is a moisture issue in the exercise room. The north and west walls are getting moist and the wallpaper is peeling off. Ms. Rhodes will call roofer to inspect the problem. Mr. Blankenbeker asked if building insurance could cover any repairs. The ballroom kitchen needs a new refrigerator and gas range. Ms. Rhodes is getting quotes. A sprinkler line in the lap pool is leaking. Reliable Fire Protection is supposed to cap the line.

Mr. Blankenbeker raised a question about wireless internet access at the Hays Center. Ms. Rhodes reported that the City’s IT department is able to help us set it up if desired. Mr. Blankenbeker proposed a vote to state the Commission’s desire to install wireless as soon as
possible. Ms. Snow made a motion to support the statement. Dick Giddings seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Prepared by Bernadette Rhodes, Hays Center Director

Approved by Belinda Snow, Secretary
Member Statistics

- Our members logged 10,381 visits to the Hays Center (2,106 less visits than last month).
- 69 new members joined the Hays Center this month for a total of 3,387 active members.
- New member demographics:
  - 25 African American, 40 Caucasian, 2 Asian American, 1 Hispanic, and 1 Native American.
  - The majority of new members were female (45 females and 24 males).
  - The youngest two members to join this month were 50. The oldest was 89.

Deposits

- $2,780 in new member fees (↓1% from last month, ↓25% from Sept. ‘17)
- $8,864 in renewal fees (↓11% from last month; ↓29% from Sept. ‘17)
- $2,325 in rental fees (↓11% from last month, ↓58% from Sept. ‘17)
- $176 in trip fees (↓12% from last month, ↓72% from Sept. ‘17)
- $389 in lunch sales (↓32% from last month)
- $264 in other revenue (↓37% from last month)
- TOTAL: $14,798 (↓11% from last month, ↓35% from Sept. ‘17)
- We also received our 2018 PILOT funds from the Housing Authority: $84,577

Staff

- Hazel Lynch and Mack Agnew are the new Activity Directors at Heritage/Bowker House.

Activities

- 37 members went to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon on an 11-day bus trip
- Held a “Make Your Own Tamales” class
- “Flavors Around the World” cooking class taught members about healthy cooking
- Held monthly Member Vendor Day
- Two Hays Center Quilters appeared on KATV Good Morning Arkansas
- Dr. Stambough from UAMS held a session on knee replacements
- The senior class of the UAMS Nursing Program completed their time at the center, interacting with the seniors and learn about senior living and health.
- Started a new exercise DVD called “Body Groove,” a free-form dance workout.
- In an effort to provide more classes on the weekend, a new yoga instructor taught a Sunday afternoon class. She has agreed to teach on the first Sunday of each month at 2:30 PM starting in November.

Facility
• The sensor that controls the AV equipment in the ballroom when the wall opens or closes was giving us a lot of trouble. We had the sensor removed and put in button in the control closet instead. It works much better.
• We are improving our security camera coverage of the parking lot. Waiting on a quote for new and improved cameras.
• Floors First was the low quote for replacing our ballroom floor with a commercial-grade LVT product ($13,709). Info has been sent to Legal to write a contract.
• The projectors in our exercise room are going out and will be replaced before the end of the year by Jay Stanley ($7,500).
• Remaining 2018 facility improvement goals:
  o Replace/reupholster gallery and lobby furniture. (Commission decided on patterns and we are awaiting a spec from Taggart so we can go out to bid).
  o Replace TVs in the workout area (Jagur, our Graduate Assistant, secured a $750 grant from Walmart to buy TVs. The rest will be purchased as budget allows).
• Coming up in 2019: Will likely need to replace 3-door refrigerator in ballroom kitchen (~$4,500).

Trips
• We provided 17 trips, transporting a total of 120 people and collecting a total of $494 in trip fees.
• Public senior housing residents traveled to medical appointments (5 trips) and grocery stores (4 trips).
• Our Bean Bag Baseball teams traveled to 5 away games.
• Hays day trips went to Jonesboro and Eureka Springs (Quigley’s Castle).
• After fees, meals, fuel, and driver costs, we spent a net $790 on our transportation program.

Rentals
• 3 paid rentals
• 1 free use of meeting room (ABCs of Medicare)
• Total Revenue $3,150
• Total Retained Deposits $100

Mayor’s Office of Volunteer Services
• Hays Center volunteers reported 1,333 hours this month.
• Received 5 new volunteer applications.
Memo To: North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission  
From: Bernadette Gunn Rhodes  
Memo Date: October 16, 2018

The Hays Center has been running smoothly and we have held two more big events since our last meeting. Our senior health fair on Oct. 8th had 17 vendors and 146 members visited. Our Bean Bag Baseball tournament on Oct. 12th hosted 20 teams and over 225 people. The results were: 1st Place: Jacksonville, 2nd Place: Arkadelphia, 3rd Place: Conway Shakers, and 4th Place: Bowker House (North Little Rock). Both events went extraordinarily well. The Bean Bag players got to participate for free and had the option to purchase a hearty lunch and lots of concessions. Everyone felt very well taken care of!

Average attendance in the last four weeks has been flat compared to the same period in 2017 and compared to the previous four weeks. We have been logging an average of 2,611 visits per week. Please see my Mayor’s staff report for more data. September was a slow month, but we are gearing up for lots of events in October through December, and then of course things get busy in January with people renewing their memberships/resolutions for 2019.

Our budget will soon go to City Council for approval. All department heads will meet with Council at 5:00 pm on November 13th to answer questions about our budget.

On the facility end, I am having both projectors replaced in the exercise room because one has stopped working altogether and they are both too old to get parts for anymore. The cost will be $7,300.

We are having a big problem with water pooling on the roof above the west and northwest wall of the exercise room and seeping down the walls, causing the wallpaper to peel off. I will contact CBM construction regarding this issue. I expect that the sheetrock will need to be remediated and the wallpaper completely replaced.

One of our 15-year-old Keiser lower back machines needs a new cylinder. The cylinders are $570+tax and shipping. A brand new machine would cost $4,744, including tax and shipping. We still have $16,500 in our 2018 equipment budget. I am leaning towards buying a new machine but wanted to get your thoughts first.

Below is a summary of our upcoming events:

Wednesday, October 31st at 11:00 am-12:30 pm is our Halloween party. We will have lunch, five performances, games, a photo booth, and a costume contest. Jagur has done a phenomenal job securing sponsorships for both this event and our Christmas party, so our costs have been almost zero so far. Tickets are $7 and are for sale in our office through Friday, Oct. 26th. I encourage you all to come!

All November, a group of painters from the Hays Center and Maumelle Senior Center will be exhibiting and selling their art in our gallery.
November 3rd will be the first Saturday Aqua Zumba class. The instructor is being paid by CareLink and will hold class on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am in the aerobics pool.

November 4th will be the first Sunday a new volunteer yoga instructor, Regan Gruber Moffitt, will teach a beginner yoga class at the Center, at 2:30 PM in the Exercise Room. She will hold class on the first Sunday of each month. Also this Sunday, the Community Concert Band will be giving a free concert in the ballroom.

November 7th and 14th Jeanne Rollberg, board member for Friends of the Arkansas State Archives and the Arkansas Genealogical Society, will teach classes on genealogy research from 10:00 AM–Noon in our Computer Lab.

November 9th I will be attending the Arkansas Gerontology Society’s conference.

Thursday, November 8th–Sunday, November 11th, we will mostly likely be getting our new ballroom floor.

Monday, November 12th, we will be closed for Veteran’s Day.

November 16th I will be on Good Morning Arkansas demonstrating how to make a Gratitude Tree for Thanksgiving. Be sure to add to our tree, on display in the ballroom!

December 5th we will be having a larger version of our monthly vendor day in time for Christmas shopping. We will have food options and invite City and Library employees to come shop alongside members.

Friday, December 14th from 6:00-9:00 pm is our Hays Center Christmas party. We will have a catered dinner, DJ, and dancing. Tickets will be $15.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the Monday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 26th). How many Commission members will be available?

I look forward to seeing you on October 22nd.