



**MINUTES**  
**North Little Rock Senior Citizens Commission**  
**June 22, 2020 | 10:00 AM**  
**Hays Center**

The Senior Citizens Commission meeting was called to order by Dick Blankenbeker at 10:00 AM.

Present were: Dick Blankenbeker, Jim Lewis, Dorothy Romes, Dick Giddings, Belinda Snow, Marleene Calvin, Robert Barnes, and Beth White. Ed Coleman was absent. A quorum was declared.

A motion was made by Jim Lewis to excuse absences. The motion was seconded by Marleene Calvin. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dick Giddings 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. Expenditures and revenue are tracking behind budget due to the center's closure.

Ms. Rhodes gave a program update, including a review of her staff report to the Mayor. The staff report is enclosed below.

Ms. Rhodes informed the Commission that the Hays Center staff continues to make masks. A donation is encouraged in the amount of \$2 per mask. Donations are currently ahead of the cost to produce the masks. The staff is slowing mask production as it shifts focus to reopening the center.

Rock Region Metro has offered to assist with transportation for public senior housing residents at no cost during the time the center is closed. They are willing to help transport for medical, grocery and pharmacy needs. They have offered to extend this service during our opening until we can get transportation running again.

Ms. Rhodes gave a facility and equipment update. The new HVAC/dehumidification unit is being installed in the aerobics pool and may be completed by reopening. Several Keiser weight machines have also been reupholstered while they are not in use to prepare for reopening.

Ms. Rhodes outlined the Hays Center's proposed reopening plan. The center will follow the Arkansas Department of Health's Phase 2 guidelines for reopening fitness centers and recreational pools. The full plan is enclosed below. The Mayor has reviewed and approved the reopening plan. There will be strict social distancing guidelines in place. Health guards will monitor the building to disinfect surfaces and help enforce the guidelines. There will be a screening station prior to entering the building to check individuals for fever and COVID-19 symptoms. The biggest concern is that the Hays Center not be a source for spreading the disease. Members in work out areas will have to maintain 12 feet distance and non-exercising members will keep a distance of 6 feet. Masks will be required unless actively exercising.

Beth White asked about the plan if someone tests positive and or if staff gets sick. Ms. Rhodes advised that the center would work in concert with state contact tracers and quarantine staff if needed.

Dick Giddings inquired about the additional staff. Ms. Rhodes advised that Human Resources had authorized emergency hires. Three part-time staff members will begin working full-time and one additional full-time staff member and three additional part-time staff members would come on board to act as health guards.

Dick Blankenbeker raised a question about the additional \$7,000 per month in payroll costs for the health guards. Ms. Rhodes advised that the additional payroll costs would be covered using federal COVID-19 relief funds that the City can access through the CARES Act.

Beth White asked whether PPE would be made available to staff. Ms. Rhodes advised that staff had been given cloth masks, N95 masks, gloves, and face shields. Cloth masks are mandatory and staff may use the N95 masks, gloves, and face shields at their discretion.

Robert Barnes asked if the Hays Center would be open during its usual hours. Ms. Rhodes answered that it would.

Jim Lewis made a motion to reopen the Hays Center on July 13, 2020 as per the reopening plan presented. Dick Giddings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Open comment: None.

Marleene Calvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Lewis seconded. Mr. Blankenkemper adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.

*Minutes approved by Senior Citizens Commission at its July 27, 2020 meeting.*

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

### **Outreach**

- Thanks to the help of Steve Shields, Margaret Powell, and Isaac Henry, several members in need of emergency food have continued to get deliveries of emergency food and face masks.
- Hays Center remains busy sewing cloth face masks with the help of Dan and Shirley from Neighborhood Services (big thanks to them!). The material is being sponsored by Senior Citizens Outreach we are suggesting an optional \$2 per mask donation from those who receive them. We have been taking requests from seniors and healthcare workers as well as supplying city staff as needed. In May, we distributed a total of 563 masks and collected \$1,049 in donations.

### **Memberships**

- We developed a reopening plan and with the approval of the Senior Citizens Commission and Chief Bradley, we have decided to wait for the Governor to announce the requirements for Phase 2 of reopening for fitness centers before we set a reopening date.

### **Deposits**

- None.

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

- None other than our outreach activities listed above.

### **Facility (Bruce Vang)**

- Fixed two leaks in sprinkler line. Many thanks to Patrick Lane's crews for making sidewalk cuts to expose the leaks.
- New HVAC unit for aerobics pool has been ordered. Awaiting delivery.

### **Trips (Chera Sbait)**

- Rock Region Metro's LINKS paratransit has started temporarily providing free medical and grocery transportation to the senior public housing residents until the Hays Center reopens.

**Rentals (Angela Wirt)**

- All rentals through mid-June have either cancelled or been rescheduled.
- A plan is in place and has been reviewed by Chief Bradley to start accepting rentals again June 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Continuing to collect hours from other city departments.