



Date: 07/12/2024

Sent Via Certified Mail

President, of the Running Springs Golden Oaks Seniors
President, of the Mountain Communities Seniors

**Re: Reservation System for Use of Twin Peaks Community Center
and Robert Hootman Community Center**

Dear Presidents of the Golden Oaks Seniors and Mountain Community Seniors:

The Board of Directors has asked that we provide you with this letter. First, the Board and General Manager thank you for your service to the District and interest in an ongoing relationship to provide recreation services to the senior community within the District. Your input is appreciated. Therefore, the Board wants to set out the basis of our ongoing engagement with your groups.

As you know, for a variety of legal reasons explained below, the District must implement changes in the reservation system for District facilities, and specifically for the Twin Peaks and Robert Hootman Community Center (the "Community Center"). The recent upgrades to the Community Centers provided generators, HVAC, parking lot resurfacing and energy efficient windows. The terms of that fund are that the Community Centers must benefit all residents of the District equally. (See, for example, 42 USC Section 5301)

We already notified you by letter(s) dated May 1st, 2024, that the Community Centers must be open to use by all on an equal basis. As discussed below, after a prolonged period of almost exclusive use of these Community Centers, your groups now must follow the Park District's requirements to reserve their use. That use is for an on-line reservation system administered on a first-come, first-served basis and provides for use of Community Centers built and operated with public funds to be used by all community members. We encourage you to participate in that reservation system so that your groups may continue to use the Community Centers.

To respond to your groups' comment, we carefully have reviewed the records regarding these Community Centers. Each facility was built in part with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in approximately 1986 for the purpose of serving low-income members of the community (CDBG funds are not local tax funds, but federal funds granted to local entities such as counties for specific types of projects). Over time,

local senior groups began to operate these Centers in return for use, an arrangement which ended in 2006 (18 years ago). From that time on, the Park District has operated the Community Centers as your organizations indicated that you could not afford to do so. While other groups had access, that was on a limited basis as your groups had sole use of the building on specific days of the week and stored your property there. This grant confirms that while your groups have treated these Community Centers as your own, they instead are public buildings which belong to the Park District, and which must be administered under the terms of the grant. To summarize, there is no commitment for your group to have priority of use of either Community Center, or more importantly, there legally could not have been such a commitment for public property.

At present, your groups' personal property is stored throughout the Community Centers. Please remove your property by August 12th, 2024; otherwise, it will be boxed and delivered to the Thrift Center.

Effective as of the receipt of this letter, to use either Community Center, your groups will be required to use the online reservation system. That reservation system can be found at rim-rec.org. There are two types of reservations: those for facility use and those for programs.

First, Mountain Community seniors may sign up to use either Community Center or to walk in to use those facilities at any time under the terms and conditions provided by the Park District and posted on the website or at the facility. The Park District will continue to offer recreational programs for seniors, families, and individuals looking for opportunities to improve their quality of life. Second, the District also offers ongoing facility use agreements and have corresponded with you about those. Such agreements do require insurance from the entity executing that agreement and confirm use of specific facilities for specific times. The modernization of the Park District's two Community Centers is achieving the District's Mission to "*enrich and fulfill the lives of the citizens through the provision of facilities and programs that will provide and enhance creative, wholesome, and imaginative leisure time living patterns*".

We look forward to working with both of your groups.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Martyn, Rim Park District Counsel
Cole Huber, LLP

Cc: Rim of World Recreation and Park District Board of Directors
Jenny Hueter, General Manager