CITY OF MERRILL

FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE

AGENDA ● THURSDAY AUGUST 3, 2023

Regular Meeting | **City Hall Council Chambers** | **6:00 PM**

To attend remotely call 573-987-0049 PIN 738 051 617 #

I. Call to Order

II. Minutes from previous meeting:

1. Consider placing the minutes from the July 6th meeting on file

III. Agenda Items for Consideration:

1. Fair Update
2. Rodeo Update
3. Permanent Vendor Update
4. Calender of Events
5. Discussion on promoting the Festival Grounds

IV. Monthly Reports to consider placing on file:

1. Monthly Report - Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

V. Public Comment

VI. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday, September 7 at 6:00 PM

VII. Adjournment

CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, July 6, 2023 MINUTES

Regular Meeting City Hall Council Chambers 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Steve Hass, Alderpersons Michael "Gus" Caylor (left at 6:30) and Steve Sabatke. Alderperson Mike Rick was absent. Other committee members present – Bryan Bloch, Brad Becker and Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund. Becky Meyer was excused.

Others Present: City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Attorney Hayden, City Engineer Akey, Social Media Specialist Savall and Merrill Productions video operator.

I. **Call to Order -** Chair Hass called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. **Minutes from previous meeting –** Alderperson Caylor made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 1st meeting. Bryan Bloch seconded and the motion carried.

III. **Agenda Items for Consideration**:

1. **Fair Update –** Fair Association Rep Becker gave an update. They have an abundance of animals for the fair this year and are working through solutions for handling that amount. All else seems to be running as expected.

2. Rodeo Update – Rodeo Association Rep Bloch gave an update. He thanked the Mayor, Rod, Council and City staff for all the help given for the rodeo. Approximately 8,000 people attended the event and tickets were sold across the United States. The majority of tickets were sold in the northern 2/3 of Wisconsin. No total dollar amount at this time but it was a success.

3. Permanent Vendor Update – Permanent Vendor Rep Meyer was excused.

4. **Calendar of Events –** This was handed out at the meeting. There were no questions.

5. Continued discussion on promoting Festival Grounds:

a. 2024 Fireworks update – Mayor Hass and Alderperson Caylor met with the Humane Society board. They are willing to work with the city regarding fireworks. Information was presented at the meeting regarding the radius needed for fireworks. Following discussion, it was decided this would be on the August agenda for further discussion.

b. Campgrounds update – Mayor Hass stated the city is waiting for a fence quote from the Amory to Sales Street. The committee discussed defining the campsites. No additional action was taken.

Attachment: 2023-07-06 FGC Minutes (10241 : Consider placing the minutes from the July 6th meeting on file)

IV. Monthly Reports:

Monthly Report – Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund – The report was provided at the meeting. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund highlighted some of the items on his report.

Alderperson Sabatke made a motion to place his report on file. Mayor Hass seconded and the motion carried.

V. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

VI. Establish date and time of next meeting – The next meeting will be Thursday, August 3rd at 6:00 PM.

VII. Adjournment – Bryan Block made a motion to adjourn. Alderperson Sabatke seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk

Attachment: 2023-07-06 FGC Minutes (10241 : Consider placing the minutes from the July 6th meeting on file)

UP COMING EVENTS AT THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS

2023

August	8/1/2023	Community Night Out
	8/3/2023	(Festival Grounds Committee Meeting) to be set by Committee
	8/4/2023	Riders Club – Grounds
	8/5/2023	Lange Auction
	8/16-20/2023	Fair
September	9/7/2023	(Festival Grounds Committee Meeting) to be set by Committee
	9/9/2023	Flea market/craft fair at Expo
	9/9/2023	Riders Club – Grounds
	9/15-16/2023	Gun Show
	9/23/2023	Wrestling
	Every Monday & Wednesday evening – Pound Classes	
October	10/5/2023	(Festival Grounds Committee Meeting) to be set by Committee
	10/5-7/2023	Enrichment Center Fall Craft & Market Event
	10/14/2023	Wedding
	Every Monday & Wednesday evening – Pound Classes	

Attachment: 8-3-2023 UP COMING EVENTS AT THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS (10235 : Calender of Events)

FESTIVAL GROUNDS REPORT

08-03-23

RODEO

The Rodeo was excellent in all departments. We are fortunate to be the home of a pro rodeo with such great longevity. We will ask for their input and advice on additions or improvements to the grounds and facilities.

COUNTY FAIR

The 4-H will be operating the food stand for the first time and we will help them as they work to raise funds. Compliments to the 4-H for being aggressive to raise funds after their budgets were cut.

Improvements to the barns will be noticeable when the Fair opens. The Committee has done an excellent job on physical improvements and layout.

People have commented on the creampuff stand in the Expo from last Fair.

FLEA MARKET(S)

Jodie Malsack and her husband plan to do a spring and fall market event starting this year in Sept. Jodie is an outstanding business woman and very dedicated. I am happy she is onboard. They have begun assembling the vendors and items for the event and appear to be on track.

AUCTION(S)

Auction crowds have grown to approx. 150. The producer seems quite happy and is considering doing more on August 5. He has asked if it may be possible try a Wed. evening auction later in the year. Nothing definite. He may consider doing an event at VFW if it is not possible to use the Expo.

QUAD RACING

Event on July 29. Tim English and his family have done an excellent job at set-up and layout. They made significant progress with entries, sponsors, event times, ticketing, etc. With its success, other groups are thinking about doing competitions also and will be encouraged.

WRESTLING

Next show is in September.

GUN SHOW(S)

The producer was more than happy with the last show. It set attendance records for him. Pressure on the gun collecting public seems to encourage more attendance.

MOUNTED SHOOTING

The event was happy and successful. It should be an annual event now and we will try to help them with possible grants from Tourism. The Moody family's leadership has been first rate. It may be possible to do a multi-state event in a couple years. As it is, several dozen teams came in from neighboring states. They formed a working relationship with the Merrill Rider's Club.

Weddings continue to be a mainstay and universally are happy with the facilities. We have done 7 walk throughs.

We are looking at content and facilities for potential camping and will help the city department reviews as needed.

Attachment: 080323 FESTIVAL GROUNDS REPORT (10240 : Monthly Report - Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund)