

JULY '23 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on July 20th, 2023 at 2:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

Present: Gene Bebel, Sharon Anderson, Sharon Harvey, Jay Tlusty, Nathan Meyer (Aldersperson), Jennifer Clark (ADRC representative), Hallie Savall (Social Media Specialist)

Absent: Teresa Baker, Laura Bertagnoli (Chair)

1. Opening

- a. Mrachek called the meeting to order.

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion by Bebel second by Meyer to approve June '23 minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Bebel second by Anderson to approve June/July '23 vouchers. Motion carried.
 - i. Director shared expense of our new book house in our vestibule made by a local crafter.

3. Public Comment

- a. None

4. Operations

- a. Director shared the most recent Endowment flyer, printed by VIP. The quality paper, suggested by VIP, was liked by all. Bebel asked for clarification on who is managing the endowment. Director will manage the donations and deposit into our Memorial/Endowment Fund and keep two separate spreadsheets for tracking these funds. Bebel further stated consulting with someone in town who has experience in this area. Director shared that she had met with Dee Olsen months back and received guidance and she also extended her assistance in the future. Bebel stated that the library had 3 month reporting out. Director will take this into account. Meyer asked how much the printing cost was. He also suggested a single sheet printed on both sides if cost was a factor. Also suggested was a thank you letter along with our MEC information. Tlusty suggested stating donations are tax deductible, and writing out Merrill Enrichment Center vs. MEC for tax purposes. Additional committee suggestions included larger print, adding wording for anonymous donations, and charitable contributions to governmental units are tax-deductible under section 170(c) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code if made for a public purpose. Anderson suggested adding 401(k) donations may also be exempt. Director consulted with tax advisor. The IRS rule is as follows; people 70.5 years old and up may distribute up to 100k, tax-free from trustee directly to an organization. Individuals cannot make a qualified charitable donation *directly* from their 401(k), but can roll over funds to an IRA and then make a donation.
 - i. Suggested placements for flyer were the Chamber, City Hall, and other willing organizations. Savall recommended adding a link online, on our City page, for people to print and send in.
- b. August calendar offerings will be affected by the fair. We will hold classes that normally meet in the expo in our classrooms if possible as our space is limited. Director shared her thanks to Lincoln County for allowing us to utilize the Land Services conference room the week of the 21st for our exercise classes.
- c. MEC's open house will be held toward the end of September or mid-October from 2-6pm. Director shared what the MEC staff had brainstormed including intro to our fitness classes, make & take projects, demonstrations, displays, tours and food. Committee discussion centered around whom we are trying to target to attend and how to draw them here. Kids and men were the first focus of discussion. Why would they come? Anderson recommended a dad/mom/child project, similar to what ACE hardware has done in the past. Savall suggested painting and wine nights which we have done in the past. Clark mentioned Dr. Zorba Paster from NPR for us to recruit as a speaker at the Center, or possibly a local doctor that people are familiar with. Director will check into this. Tlusty discussed promoting our evening offerings at the open house to draw in those who are still working during the daytime hours. Director would like to have a board that allows people to list what would draw them to attend the Center. Bebel suggested MEC promotional goods for people to leave here with.

5. ADRC

- a. Jennifer Clark shared information on the Prevent Falls Resource Fair. Sadly, Wisconsin has one of the highest rates of death from unintentional falls in the nation. In fact, the death rate due to unintentional falls in Wisconsin is twice the national average. This event is free and will be held at NTC on September 20th from 1-4pm. NTC medical students will be assisting with the free screenings. There will be numerous community organizations participating such as eye doctors, chiropractors, footwear companies, occupational therapists, etc.

6. Discussion

- a. Committee discussed the date and time of the next meeting. Meyer is still busy with the fair the week after. Director will look at other dates and times and provide them to the committee for a decision.

7. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Meyer second by Bebel.

The next meeting date is **August 24th, 2023 at 2:15pm at the MEC.** *Vouchers will be available for review 10 minutes prior to meeting time.*

Respectfully submitted

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek, MEC Director