

JULY '20 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on July 16th, 2020 at 3:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

Present: Laura Bertagnoli (Chair), Gene Bebel, Rose Akey, Sharon Harvey,
Rev. Lucas Williams, Jennifer Clark (ADRC representative)

Absent: Paul Russell (Alderson)

1. Opening

- a. Laura called the meeting to order.

2. Approval Items

- a. Motion by Bebel second by Akey to approve previous month minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Akey second Harvey by to approve March-July vouchers. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment – no public comment

4. COVID-19 – Phase 2 – Update on Operations

- a. Director provided the following information on attendance and outreach;
 - i. July 1 – 13th attendance for exercise classes 213 (includes walkers - 28).
 - ii. July 1 – 13th all other offerings were 32 making the total 245.
- b. Masks sales as of meeting date were \$684 (materials \$150). This money will be used for our outreach programs. Many thanks go to Stephanie Zoellner (MEC staff) and her mother Karen for their time and talents in making all of the masks.
- c. Our current outreach program is focused on staying connected to individuals living alone facing social isolation. Our outreach bags focus is on overall mind and body wellness. The MEC staff delivered 72 bags to date to individuals living alone, those who are homebound, and those who normally participate at the MEC. We also delivered a large box to Jenny Towers and 50 bags to meals on wheels recipients. The bags include a variety of the following items; our newsletter, search-a-word books, creative coloring pages, colored pencils/crayons, reading materials, prayer shawls, a succulent plant, tea, mints, lotions, lip balm, etc. We have received many thank you cards and calls expressing gratitude. This is a very important program to combat isolation in our city. We will continue this outreach at least until years end.
- d. Director shared August activities. We will remain operating with 50 and under participants at any given time. We have a number of meeting offerings including Alzheimer's caregiver support, depression and grief support, and a health online literacy presentation. Bus trips are cancelled for the remainder of the year.

5. ADRC

- a. Jennifer Clark thanked us on behalf of the ADRC for the 50 bags we provided for the Meals on Wheels people. Our newsletters were in the bags but she recommended we make sure to include a note stating the bags are from the MEC.
- b. Jennifer provided a Social Isolation Resource guide created by Area Agency on Aging of Dane County. This will be a great resource for the MEC to reach out to those at home via our Facebook page as well as our newsletter. Bebel recommended finding resources to share information on dental care along with other wellness care. Mayo clinic's website was also recommended.
- c. Sharon suggested the ADRC have a table at the Farmers Market to promote the voucher program. Jennifer thought it would be a great idea and will relay that information.
- d. Jennifer shared the ADRC's "Wear your mask Campaign" has ended. They will be choosing the winners of the contest and billboards should be up soon.

6. Discussion

- a. Operational plan through the end of the year...
 - i. Committee discussed ideas for our fall craft show. Director did not want to cancel just yet, suggesting having the show outside. Bebel recommended having it under the grand stands which helps with weather issues. He also asked who would have the final call on whether or not we can have the show. Director shared that the LCHD would more than likely make that call. Committee concluded that we should wait on any final decisions until our August meeting.
 - ii. Holiday outreach programs may not include sit down meals. Director informed committee that we would reach out now to schedule more volunteers for delivery of meals. Reverend Lucas will go back to St. Stephen's committee to discuss their plans for Thanksgiving. We will plan for all delivery/pick-up but hope for the traditional sit down as well. The same holds true for our Christmas Joy outreach.

7. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Bebel second by Akey.

The next meeting date is **August 20th at 3:15pm in the MEC Conference room.**

Public invited to call in: 470-327-1035 PIN: 499 534 835 #

Vouchers will be available for review 10 minutes prior to meeting time.

Respectfully submitted,

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek
MEC Director