

JUNE '20 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on June 18th, 2020 at 3:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

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

Absent: Paul Russell (Alderson), Rev. Lucas Williams

1. Opening

- a. Laura called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comment – no public comment

3. COVID-19 – Phase 2

- a. Director updated committee to MEC's operations starting July 1st. We will begin phase 2 which allows 50 and under participants. This will only apply to classes that take place in the expo. Classes in the MEC portion of the building will remain 10 and under.
 - i. Gigi Heinz, BeWellYoga owner and instructor, will now operate under MEC programming to bring two mat-based yoga sessions to the Center. This will reach out to a new demographic and bring in new participants for us. Committee members mentioned having Gigi on a big screen if possible so all participants could see her because they are so spread out. At this time the MEC does not have the equipment for this option. We did however recently purchase a cordless microphone for instructors. The suggestion to video Gigi and post it on our Facebook page for those who are homebound was also brought up. Director will discuss this with Gigi.
 - ii. Bus trips are on hold until it is deemed safe to travel. In addition, many of the trips we had on the schedule are businesses that are not opening.
- b. Committee reviewed finance director's explanation of MEC's obligation to pay into Fund #10 operational expenses. Questions arose on wording but were clarified by director. Concerns were expressed that we would not be bringing in near the amount of revenues but yet are expected to contribute \$11,746 into fund #10. MEC's #26 activities fund does have the amount requested available.
- c. Director asked committee and other community leaders and members if MEC should continue to require masks entering and leaving the building as this is when physical distancing is the most difficult. The overall general consensus is to continue to do so. Further conversation led to the possibility of running classes outside if numbers push our capacity for safe physical distancing in the expo.
- d. Director moved this item (Plan through end of the year) to the July meeting.

4. ADRC

- a. Jennifer shared that the ADRC offices remain closed for in person meetings. Their front desk is staffed daily from 8am-4:30pm for calls. The staff is meeting via phone and video meetings.
- b. The Senior Farmers Market Voucher program is available now, but will look different in how it is administered. Criteria to receive vouchers are age 60+ /55+ if Native American, resident of Lincoln county, monthly income guidelines. Residents can call the ADRC for more information.
 - i. The steps are as follows:
 - 1. ADRC mails application to recipient
 - 2. Recipient mails the application form back to the ADRC
 - 3. ADRC mails the vouchers to the recipient
- c. Medicare Basics Virtual Classes are available starting now through December for those new to Medicare (A-D plus prescription drug) of just enrolling. Please see the ADRC website for specific dates and times. Laura Bertagnoli shared that she and her husband took the class last year and were extremely impressed. She applauds the ADRC for offering this educational class.
- d. Programs offered through the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (**WIHA**) are evidence-based for in-person classes only; WIHA has had to test/pilot the classes for an online, virtual format. They have found that they do work! The ADRC will be offering a Healthy Living with Diabetes and Living Well with Chronic Conditions program virtually this fall. More info to follow.

5. Discussion

- a. Director discussed the MEC's outreach to keep in touch with home bound elderly population. We are beginning to assemble activity bags to deliver. Pastor Lucas provided small prayer shawls and inspirational cards to add to our care packages. We started delivery last week.

6. Adjournment

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

The next meeting date is **July 16th at 3:15pm in the MEC Conference room.**

Public invited to call in: 1-401-753-9586 PIN: 413727433

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

Respectfully submitted,

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek
MEC Director