

**CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, June 1, 2023 MINUTES**

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

Members Present: Mayor Steve Hass, Alderpersons Michael “Gus” Caylor and Mike Rick. Alderperson Sabatke was excused. Other committee members present – George Henrich, Brad Becker, Becky Meyer and Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund.

Others Present: City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Attorney Hayden, City Engineer Akey, Marketing Specialist Kuczmarski, and Eric Pfantz arrived at 6:20 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 Rick made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4th meeting. Alderperson Caylor seconded and the motion carried.
- III. **Agenda Items for Consideration:**
 1. **Fair Update** – Fair Association Rep Becker gave an update. The Fair Association is working with Holly from the new greenhouse to beautify the grounds. All other plans are going smoothly.
 2. **Rodeo Update** – Rodeo Association Rep Henrich gave an update. Ticket sales are ahead of last year and the ads are doing well and bring in a lot of interest.
 3. **Calendar of Events** – This was handed out at the meeting. There were no questions.
 4. **Continued discussion on promoting Festival Grounds:**
 - a. **Fireworks at Festival Grounds update** – Mayor Hass spoke about the Facebook post that was included in the packet by the Humane Society. Mayor Hass will be at their next meeting to discuss this issue for possibly having the fireworks at the Festival Grounds in 2024. For 2023, the fireworks will remain at the MARC.
 - b. **Campgrounds update** – Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund provided additional information at the meeting regarding the amount needed as an investment for campgrounds. Discussion occurred between committee members. No additional action was taken.
- IV. **Monthly Reports:**
 1. **Monthly Report – Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund** – There was no physical report however updates were given on the quad racing event, additional dates for auctions and wedding bookings.

- V. Public Comment** – Eric Pfantz, 5331 Brody Dr. Madison – gave a public comment regarding bathrooms at the Festival Grounds.
- VI. Establish date and time of next meeting** – The next meeting will be Thursday, July 6th at 6:00 PM. Becky Meyer stated she will not be able to attend the meeting.
- VII. Adjournment** – Alderperson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Hass seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk