



CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
AGENDA • THURSDAY MAY 6, 2021

Regular Meeting

City Hall Basement Conference Room

6:00 PM

- I. To attend remotely, call 252-825-7098 and PIN 806 285 183 #.
- II. Call to Order
- III. Agenda Items for Consideration:
 1. Building names on the newly colored buildings
 2. Rodeo update
 3. Fair update
 4. Calendar of Events
- IV. Monthly Reports:
 1. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund
 2. Permanent Vendor Rep. Caylor
- V. Public Comment Period
- VI. Establish date, time and location of next meeting
- VII. Adjournment

May

Building names on the newly colored buildings

Rodeo Update

Fair Update

Calendar of Events

(Attachment)

Festival Grounds Manager Report – Bjorklund

(Attachment)

Food Vendor Report – Caylor

(Attachment)

Attachment: Agenda Items (5901 : Building names on the newly colored buildings)

UP COMING EVENTS AT THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS

2021

May	05-06-21	(Festival Grounds Committee Meeting) to be set by Committee
	05-07/08-21	Gun Show**
	05-21-21	Rider's Club (grounds)**
	05-22-21	4H Recycling (parking lot of Enrichment Center)
June	06-03-21	(Festival Grounds Committee Meeting) to be set by Committee
	06-05-21	Wrestling
	06-11/12/13	Rodeo**
	06-12-21	Pig Show
	06-18-21	Rider's Club (grounds)**
July	07-01-21	(Festival Grounds Committee Meeting) to be set by Committee
	07-09-21	Rider's Club (grounds)**
	07-23-21	Rider's Club (grounds)**

**** Yearly Repeat Events ****

Merrill Festival Grounds

May 6, 2021

Meetings and Discussions with:

Swine Show producer and Rodeo about conducting both events on Rodeo Saturday; also discussion with County Fair and City about clearing and use of building.

Discussion with Wrestling promoter (who had by-pass surgery) about success of last event and prospects for future events.

Discussion with Gun show over set-up, move-out and show conduct; also use of Aqua Jays for set-up and clean-up.

Tammy M about Christine Vorpapel contact. Called twice; no answer.

Presentation invite from Lion's club about tractor pull move to County Fair.

Tom Hayden regarding City procedures, agreement issues, scheduling restrictions, etc.

Dave Johnson regarding County health use of Expo; open and close Expo for events x3.

Krista Mitchell regarding event potentials; show Expo to potential renters.

Jack Koshick regarding Wrestling dates and Covid impact, alternatives for wrestling dates, state wide procedural differences; open and close for event; set-up for Aqua Jays and move out.

Gun Shows and producers regarding dates and alternatives regarding Covid impact, meeting results, dates and alternatives.

Paul Russell County Fair; County Fair Committee about Fair schedule and opening; Fair committee about schedule; Community persons about county fair, Statewide fair managers; Tom Hayden about County Fair.

Dan Barbacovi about Fair schedule (x5), layout issues; alternative dates and WI Fairs.

Merrill Fairgrounds Permanent Stands Meeting

4-29-21

Members in attendance:

Ken Adams – Lions Clun

Corey Dornbrack, Fred Heldt – VFW

Darrell Barker, William Hanson – Knights of Columbus

Randy Wixon – Optimist Club

Jay Schlueter – Eagle's Club

Mike Caylor – St. Francis

Fair Board Members: Cindi Christiansen, Sue Kunkel, Clyde Nelson, Paul Russell, Brad Becker

City Staff/Elected invited by fair board– John Vanlieshout, Dave Johnson

Paul Russell called the meeting to order as he had requested the meeting to discuss the fair board's (FB) plans for 2021. The meeting was held, at the request of the FB at the fairground between the Eagle's/VFW stand.

The dates of the 2021 Lincoln Fair will be August 11, through the 15th.

Topics: The use of wristbands last year was called a “debacle” by the FB. They said if they use them, again in 2021 they would try to simplify it.

In speaking of financials for last year, Paul Russell stated all stands did well in 2019 and they hope to keep down on transient food vendors in 2021 in order to maximize profits. Randy Wixon reported that the Optimist Club did not do well in 2019 and they in fact were down as they were competing against a carnival cheese curd stand. FB members said that vendor would not be invited this year.

The fair itself is a go; Paul Russell reported he is still working with the health department in order to get an action plan to them prior to the event. Everyone seemed to agree no one will know where we will be in the world by late summer but we hope things continue to improve.

Grandstand plans for 2021:

Wednesday – Horse Show

Thursday – No planned events

Friday – Demo Derby

Saturday – Incredible Bank – Nicklaus Family tractor pull

Sunday – Monster truck show

It is possible this will be the last monster truck show and the FB is looking to bring an event similar to a mug bog for 2022 but it would involve sand/silt instead of mud.

The tractor event for Saturday will reduce available parking; the FB will be reaching out to the county to get additional parking in the fields north of the fairgrounds.

Covid Concerns:

Paul Russell asked about running water in stands. All stands confirmed we have running water and all food stands have full restaurant grade commercial washing sinks. All food stands are inspected yearly and sometimes multiple times during events such as the fair.

The FB spoke of adding more picnic tables, Park and Rec has 15 tables that can be moved down to the grounds for the fair. Paul Russell spoke of the desire to have those tables south of the Knights stand. Caylor reminded the FB that without a tent that area will not have many people using the tables. Caylor reported the St. Johns and St. Francis stands provide a tent and multiple tables and chairs yearly for space for people to relax and eat. This area has increased in traffic quite a bit since the family tent run by the fair went away. The FB advised they will be bringing back that tent this year.

The FB is hoping to have more hand washing stations on the grounds and are hoping each stand can provide hand sanitizers for their customers.

The FB stated they are in a bad financial way this year again and fear having the fair in the future unless they have a successful year. The carnival is booked through 2022 and they promised to bring back larger rides for older “kids” to enjoy this year.

Randy Wixon advised everyone present that the Merrill Optimist Club will be *giving away cheese curds* at the fairgrounds on May 22dn.

The permanent stands group agreed to meet again in May, hopefully in a warmer environment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Mike Caylor

Chair