

APRIL '19 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on April 18th, 2019 at 3:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

Present: Paul Russell (Aldersperson), Gene Bebel, Rose Akey, Mollie Stencil, Sharon Harvey,

Absent: Rev. Kyle Carnes (Chair), Jennifer Clark (ADRC Representatives), Emily Weix

1. Opening

- a. Russell called the meeting to order.

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion made by Bebel, second by Akey to approve March '19 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion made by Bebel, second by Harvey to approve monthly vouchers. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

- a. Sharon Harvey introduced Mary Klug to the committee. Mary, a Merrill resident, discussed her involvement in the community, recently working with Paul Russell and the Housing Authority as a volunteer. Mary has her own business called Klug Financial Solutions. She offered to be a resource volunteer for the MEC as well as conducting an information session on what people need to know relative to insurance.

4. ADRC

- a. Jennifer was not able to attend due to another meeting.

5. Planning

- a. Mrachek updated the Committee members who were not present last meeting on the 2019 goals, strategic plan and capital plan.
 - i. Bebel shared a New York Times follow-up study which discussed a health issue people do not want to discuss which is loneliness and isolation of elderly. Most people will not go to see a healthcare professional for this and it is a serious issue in our society. The MEC strives to be the place that everyone can come to participate, ultimately to help alleviate issues like this. We will continue to work together with other community organizations and churches on this issue as well as many other issues affecting elders.
- b. Committee members Bebel, Akey, Harvey, Stencil did commit to another term.

6. Discussion

- a. Russell discussed his recommendation for an Ordinance for MEC Committee membership to include a representative from the Merrill Housing Authority. Discussion further led to others in the community that should also be included such as the ADRC, a local clergy member, Merrill High School, and possibly a person from Bell Tower... ultimately to keep strong connections to the organizations that we would like to continue collaborating with for the overall success of the City.
 - i. Russell suggested that City Attorney Hayden attend our next meeting to clarify the required member count along with other questions posed by the Committee.
- b. Director informed committee that we have a potential candidate for our open position. We will know by the end of the week of April 25th.
- c. Russell discussed the council members recall to avoid any misconception, including timeline, contingency of amount of signatures, recalls like this are not abnormal, and finally the importance of people to regularly attend City committee meetings to voice concerns, share ideas on what they would like to see. Bebel added...to aid in understanding the working of running a multimillion dollar business, etc. to avoid situations like the one we are in.

7. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Stencil second by Harvey.

Next meeting date is **May 16th at 3:15pm in the MEC Conference room.**

Vouchers will be available for review 15 minutes prior to meeting time.

Respectfully submitted,

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek
MEC Director

Enrichment Center Mission Statement: Dedicated to Enhancing Lives and Bringing Generations Together