

APRIL '21 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on April 15th, 2021 at 2:15pm

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 (Alderperson)

1. Opening

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion by Bebel second Harvey by to approve March minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Akey second Harvey by to approve April '21 vouchers. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment – Sharon Anderson and Josh Jaeger joined the meeting. Both are considering serving on the committee.

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

- a. Director provided the Mayors' Face Mask Declaration to the committee. The MEC is following the Declaration until the required date of May 26th unless otherwise determined. Public comment from Anderson shared information that exercising with a mask on is not good for a person's health. Director will take this information to the Mayor and City Administrator for discussion.
- b. Craft show May 1st will require/recommend mask use while shopping. Director shared that disposable masks will be available at entries with signs thanking participants for wearing a mask to protect all. Director will not put herself or employees/volunteers at risk if a person says they will not wear a mask. Hand sanitizers will be available at the doors and throughout the expo. Crafters will be encouraged to have hand sanitizers on their tables. LCHC has agreed to share standing signs with the MEC for use during our craft show which encourages safe distancing, masks, sanitizing and Covid symptoms.
 - i. Bertagnoli asked how we would manage numbers of people in our space. Director stated we will not be collecting information from each person for contact tracing as it is unrealistic during an event such as this. Our expo holds 730 people so we are confident that we will not have an issue. We will keep a close eye on our craft shop and only allow a certain amount of people in, asking others to wait in the lobby area if needed.
 - ii. Food will be provided outside by Ed & Sharon's food truck.

5. ADRC

Jennifer provided the following updates;

- a. ADRC will be opening their doors on Monday, June 7 for scheduled appointments only. Walk-ins will not be allowed at this point. Pre-appointment screening measures will be in place and we will be encouraging customers to bring limited people with them (3 people or less).
- b. ADRC is establishing 4 new part-time (limited) positions to help with COVID-19 vaccine registrations. 2 people will be hired on as Vaccine registration support specialists and 2 people will be hired on as community health workers. This position is meant to outreach to residents 60+ and adults with disabilities ages 18-59 years old. Positions will assist individuals with registering for vaccines, outreach and education. Some of our new hires are bilingual in English and Hmong and will help meet the needs of our Hmong population.
- c. ADRC is continuing to gather feedback on our 3- year aging plan. The more participation the better-- in order to address the needs of our community. ** A paper copy of the aging plan is attached.
- d. Stepping On Fall prevention VIRTUAL workshop will be starting on Thursdays, May 6- June 17 from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM. See attached flyer with more information.
Bebel asked about the rescue plan money for programs at the ADRC specifically for daycare. Jennifer stated that they only deal with older adult programs and maybe social services would handle that.

6. Discussion

- a. Director shared Mayor's one year appointments to the MEC committee; Bertagnoli, Bebel, Harvey and Akey. Russell has one more year as MEC committee alderperson. Director is looking for two more members to join.
- b. Director updated committee on the progress of a city marketing committee. The ordinance was referred to the next Common council meeting. Public comment questioned how the Chamber fits into this marketing committee. Bebel shared that once a new chamber director is chosen it will be a good time to involve them. Bebel explained the committee should be a working committee and focus on revitalizing our community and look to revamp/revise/renew past marketing efforts such as "Merrill on the Move."
 - i. Director shared marketing of MEC's Craft Show; Foto News including tomahawk, Antigo, Wausau papers; TV stations; Facebook Events, our newsletter.
- c. Attendance at the MEC continues to increase. Director shared the following participant counts for week of March 22 – 138, March 29 – 132, April 5 -137, and April 12th – 149.
 - i. Managing attendance at craft show was discussed in #4 Covid-19 update on operations.

7. Adjournment

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

The next meeting date is **May 20th at 2:15pm in the MEC Conference room. Please note change in time.**

Public invited to call in. Phone: 929-276-0297 PIN: 251 313 988#

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

Respectfully submitted,

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek

MEC Director