



CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
AGENDA • THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2023

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 PM

To attend remotely call 361-589-8378 PIN 627 554 913 #

- I. Call to Order
- II. Agenda Items for Consideration:
 1. Loyalty Day Celebration update
 2. Fair update
 3. Rodeo update
 4. Calender of Events
 5. Discussion and recommendation on facility rental incentive
 6. Discussion and recommendations on promoting Festival Grounds and facilities
 7. Discussion on coordinating with the Enrichment Center on events
 8. Discussion and recommendation of stage accessories
- III. Minutes from previous meeting:
 1. Consider approval of the minutes from the October 6, 2022 meeting
- IV. Monthly Reports:
 1. Monthly Report - Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund
 - a. April 2023 and November 2022 Report
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Establish date and time of next meeting:

Thursday, May 4th at 6:00 PM
- VII. Adjournment

UP COMING EVENTS AT THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS

2023

April	4/1/2023	Lange Auction
	4/6/2023	(Festival Grounds Committee Meeting) to be set by Committee
	4/8/2023	Lange Auction
	4/21/2023	Wedding
	4/29/2023	VFW Loyalty Day Celebration
	Every Monday & Wednesday evening – Pound Classes	
May	5/4/2023	(Festival Grounds Committee Meeting) to be set by Committee
	5/4-5/6/2023	MEC Craft & Vendor Event
	5/19-20/2023	Wedding
	5/19/2023	Riders Club - Grounds
	Every Monday & Wednesday evening – Pound Classes	
June	6/1/2023	(Festival Grounds Committee Meeting) to be set by Committee
	6/2/2023	Riders Club – Grounds
	6/3/2023	Wedding
	6/9-11/2023	Rodeo
	6/16-18/23	Wedding
	6/23/2023	Riders Club – Grounds
	6/24-25/2023	Mounted Justice – Grounds
	Every Monday & Wednesday evening – Pound Classes	

Festival Grounds Committee meeting 10/6/2022

Attendees: Mayor Hass, Steve Sabatke, Rod Akey, Rick Bjorklund, Brad Becker, Tom Hayden, Nathan from MP3.

Regarding the campground, Rick Bjorklund reviewed the updated assumptions he had made regarding the campground. He indicated that if two spaces per day were utilized it would be a profitable endeavor and not stress the grounds. He indicated that perhaps Band Booster, etc., will be available to clean and police the restrooms. The MHS FabLab will construct a drop box for checks and cash. Alderman Sabatke suggested \$5000 budget for FabLab work, signage, etc. Rick Bjorklund indicated that we would have, potentially, a partnership with Tomahawk relative to use of an app for scheduling. General discussion was held regarding acquisition of picnic tables, installing gravel, etc. Discussion was held regarding ads, etc., for a "message center" at the Fairgrounds. Alderman Sabatke emphasized that more important than making money is an opportunity to promote the Festival Grounds. Bjorklund anticipates some overflow from the Tomahawk area for campground usage, but the campground should not be looked at as a "cash cow". It was agreed that the \$30 rate is in line with other places. Discussion was held regarding a time limit for campground use; Mayor Hass suggested a 7 day limit.

A discussion was held regarding lighting and security for existing buildings. Motion by Sabatke, seconded by Becker to approve the Campground concept as presented. All voted yes.

Capital requests: Brad Becker gave an update on the painting job and fan replacement/placement project. He indicated that painting could be done for \$3000 per wing. Kathy Unertl suggested that ARPA funds could be used and suggested barn rehabilitation rather than merely painting and whitewashing.

Discussion was had regarding a budget for the festival grounds. Motion by Becker seconded by Sabatke to add \$13,000 to Festival Grounds expenses and \$8,000 to potential revenue for budget purposes.

It was noted that the end of the year meeting for Fair stands will be held October 19th. Rick Bjorklund's report was accepted, no public comment. Sabatke/Becker to adjourn at 6:52 pm, next meeting November 3rd at 6pm.

FESTIVAL GROUNDS REPORT

4-6-23

LOYALTY DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY

The VFW committee seems to be on track with their plans and implementations. The Parade has more than 30 units committed and they think it will wind up being 50-75 units.

30 pages have been sold in the program and the VFW and Chamber will edit the book by Ap3. Pages for MIA's and other tributes will be included.

VFW will hand out little American flags along the parade route. Parade route clean-up is set.

Chamber bucks will be used as thank you's for contributors and participants.

Brian Wachowski, Korean War author, will have a Jeep for Korean war vets.

Clyde Nelson will announce for the Parade and for the Presentation Ceremony.

Don Friske will attend from the County Board.

Chamber will coordinate press release changes with Chantele

FLEA MARKET(S)

Jodie Malsack and her husband plan to do a spring and fall market starting this year in Sept. Jodie is an outstanding business woman and very dedicated. I am happy she is onboard.

AUCTION(S)

Auction crowds have grown from approx. 50 to approx. 150. Producer seems quite happy and is considering doing more.

QUAD RACING

Continue to meet and talk with Tim English about doing an event this summer. With its success, other groups will think about doing competitions also.

WRESTLING

It was a good show with 4 new headliners. Happy crowd arrived early and stayed late. Even had 2 cars "tailgate"! Next show is in June.

GUN SHOW(S)

The producer was more than happy with the last show. It set attendance records for him. The City crews did a great job pushing snow for more parking.

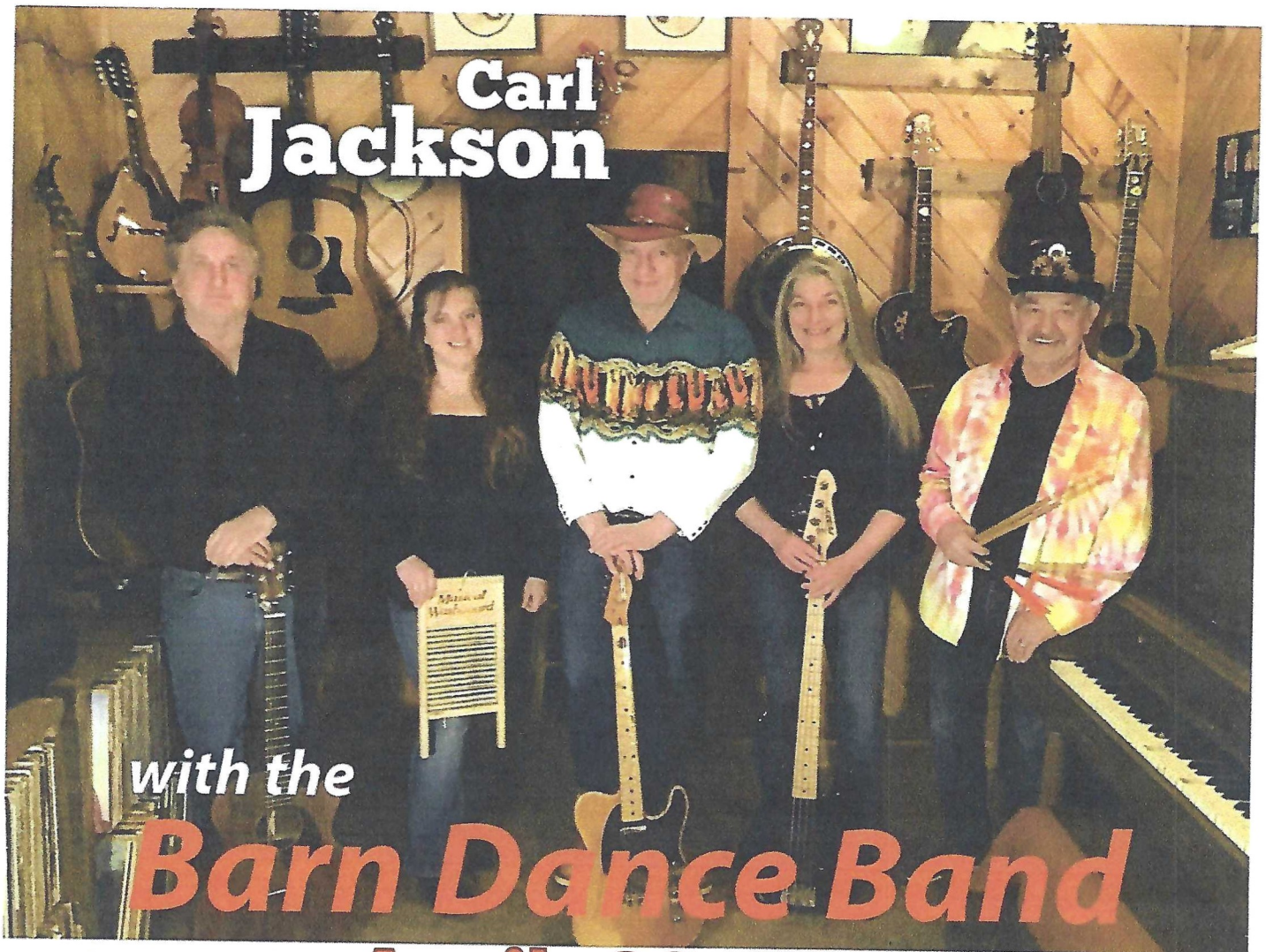
MOUNTED SHOOTING

The event was happy and successful. It should be an annual event now.

FACILITY ITEMS

Dented wall of Sell Building may indicate car bumpers should be installed

Podium/Stage has been placed on the west wall of the Expo. So far one wedding and Loyalty Day will use it. Other events may tolerate it but some will require its removal. It has not hindered other activities.



Appearing here: **April -29 -2023**

At Pub 1638

A Free Concert

Starting at 8:00 pm

Ending at 10:00 pm

Merrill Festival Grounds Report

November 3, 2022

Meetings and Discussions with:

Campground project information is for discussion and/or action by the committee. Sample rules and regulations for posting on the message center will be circulated to the committee for review and edit. Sample fee deposit envelopes will also be circulated for review and edit. Tomahawk will loan us a deposit box in the next week or so for the FabLab to use as a template to do a firm quote as well as doing a design and quote for the message center. It looks like Reindl would do our printing for an initial supply of deposit slips. We will use city printers for anything that can be done as standard size and type to keep cost down. If the budget is approved expenditure can't happen until Jan but advance preparation can help keep us on track.

The next wrestling show is on Nov 12. The promoter anticipates a steady schedule into the future. His other shows around the mid-west are showing the same improvement.

The Horse Show also seems has increased its participation and attendance. Their new leadership has been pleased with the arena.

Gun Shows in general are up in attendance and sales so the spring show will do well.

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

Krista Mitchell regarding event potentials; show Expo to potential renters, potential wedding receptions; company meetings; re-tour Expo for wedding family review. Word seems to be spreading in the Hispanic and Amish communities about the Expo for their events (weddings and quincineras). If it continues by word of mouth we may not have to consider advertising.

Met with Dan Barbacovi during the Fair several times about Fair schedule; alternative dates and WI Fairs Meeting. He has some serious health issues but is back "in harness".

The County Fair made several improvements that helped the layout and aesthetics of the grounds. The parking layout using lines and numbers helped set an orderly move-in and helped later arrivals find spaces. Music and tent entertainment seems well received and appreciated. Nicklaus family antiques and cars helped fill out exhibit space and was very appreciated. Pock-a-dot pie did an excellent job in the Expo and their cream puffs were great! New flower beds were very nice additions. Barn and auction layout were excellent.