



**CITY OF MERRILL**  
**FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES • THURSDAY MARCH 5, 2020**

**Regular Meeting**

**Bierman Building**

**6:00 PM**

**I. Call to Order**

Alderman Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

| Attendee Name        | Title                           | Status  | Arrived |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Michael Caylor       | Food Vendor Rep.                | Absent  |         |
| Rob Norton           | Aldersperson - Seventh District | Present |         |
| Steve Sabatke        | Alderman - Eighth District      | Present |         |
| John M. Van Lieshout | Aldersperson - Fifth District   | Excused |         |
| Derek Woellner       | Mayor                           | Present |         |
| Bryan Bloch          | Rodeo Assn. Rep.                | Present |         |
| Brad Becker          | Fair Assn. Rep.                 | Present |         |

Others in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund, Krista Mitchell, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Dave Buck, Jerry Leopold and City Clerk Bill Heideman. Hunter Lane was present to videotape the meeting for Merrill Productions.

**II. Minutes of previous meeting(s):**

**1. Minutes of February 5, 2020 meeting**

Motion (Woellner/Bloch) to approve.

**RESULT:           APPROVED**

**III. Agenda items for consideration:**

**1. Cattle Barn**

Information was in the meeting packet. Additional information was distributed at the meeting.

City Administrator Johnson suggested that method(s) and funding for maintaining the cattle barn should be based on how long we anticipate keeping the barn.

Alderman Norton suggested that, at some point, consideration should be given to erecting a new facility that could be used for multiple events. Obviously, this would require fundraising.

Alderman Sabatke stated his opinion that this historic building, for its age, is in remarkably good condition. He suggested that razing the structure would not be a popular decision.

City Administrator Johnson reported that a quote of \$40,000 to paint the structure has been received.

Rodeo Association Rep. Bloch remarked that, although the building may be structurally sound, it is not user-friendly. He urged the committee to focus on the future when considering options related to the cattle barn.

Mayor Woellner requested that the next meeting agenda include consideration of the 10-year capital plan for the Festival Grounds.

Motion (Woellner/Sabatke) to request and receive Request for Proposal documents for structural repairs to the cattle barn. Carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

## 2. Discussion on pavement options

A map of the Festival Grounds was distributed. The map illustrates four options (1,2,3 and 4) for paving at the grounds in 2020. Public Works Director/City Engineer stressed that it is imperative to pave all areas shown "in red" on the map. The funded amount for 2020 Festival Grounds paving is \$150,000.

Motion (Norton/Bloch) to approve the proposed 2020 paving areas, excluding option #4 and the "diagonal" portion in option #1.

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>APPROVED</b> |
|----------------|-----------------|

## 3. Fair update

Fair Association Rep. Becker reported that, to date, preparations for the 2020 fair are going smoothly. Axe throwing and an escape room are among the additions being planned. The tractor pulls may result in a reduction in the parking area.

## 4. Rodeo update

Rodeo Association Rep. Bloch reported that preparations for the 2020 rodeo seem to be going well. The dates for the 2020 rodeo are June 12-14.

This year there will be eight events, including the addition of an girls-only event.

The Sunday of the rodeo (June 14<sup>th</sup>) will be family day. Rodeo representatives are looking for groups to provide games and entertainment that day.

No permanent stands will be allowed to open for the rodeo this year. That is a change from previous rodeos.

## 5. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events was in the meeting packet. Krista Mitchell reviewed the calendar.

## IV. Monthly Reports:

### 1. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

### 2. Food Vendor Rep. Caylor (No meetings until April)

No report, because the Food Vendor Committee did not meet.

V. Public Commnet Period

None.

VI. Establish date, time & location of next meeting

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. in the Bierman Building.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Woellner/Sabatke) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned (without vote) at 7:13 P.M.