

FEBRUARY '21 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on Feb. 18th, 2021 at 3:15pm

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 (Alderpersion)

1. Opening

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion by Akey second by Bebel to approve January minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Harvey second by Akey to approve Dec '20-Jan '21 vouchers. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment – no public comment. Director shared that many MEC participants have thanked the MEC for being open.

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

- a. Expo use in upcoming months for the MEC will often be limited to three days a week as Thursdays and Fridays will be utilized by the health department for vaccinations. Director communicated long-term concern on financial obligation of the MEC as Thursdays will not be available for revenue generating events/activities. Director shared the budget number of \$8750, given to the MEC from Kathy Unertl for 2021. This number seems to be reasonable.
- b. MEC offerings for March were discussed. We continue to offer curbside pick-up for activities and craft shop purchases. Both have slowed since the holiday season. Our depression support group is available in person. We are running both exercise and art classes as well as book club. For full offerings please see our March newsletter.

5. ADRC

- a. Jennifer provided the following updates;
 - i. Programs are being offered virtually; Identity Theft, Healthy Living with Diabetes, Powerful tools for Caregivers and Stepping On. Please see the ADRC website for dates and times. MOW drivers are needed. Please contact the ADRC at 715-536-0311.
 - 1. Powerful Tools for Caregivers is in need of trainers. ADRC does not have the capacity to run training. Jennifer also mentioned that Marshfield Clinic may have funds available. MEC will consider hosting the training.
 - ii. Marshfield clinic reached out to the ADRC based on the increase in the number of falls they are seeing. A Regional Trauma Group is being created focused on fall prevention. Committee mentioned checking into 'life-line' for people.

6. Discussion

- a. Director proposed an earlier meeting time for our committee. Committee agreed on a 2:15 start time. This will begin with our March meeting.
- b. Further discussion took place on how the MEC can contribute to the city's Strategic Plan, specifically #1 and #2. Director shared MEC's existing marketing and promotion of the City (via our newsletter and Facebook page) with all that we offer both in our space as well as utilization of the Expo. We also partner with a number of local entities. #2 – the MEC contributes greatly to the quality of life/amenities in our city. We have plans to organize Expos focused on a number of different themes.
- c. Bebel and Akey shared concerns on who decides on the definition of an essential worker and business, as well as opening up our card playing activities, respectfully. Director checked with the LCHD on the latter and at this time we will not be offering card playing based on the close proximity and length of contact time.
- d. Bebel mentioned the idea of teaching people residing in nursing homes how to use a laptop or iPad for Zoom meetings. Director will follow up on this topic to see how we can possibly provide that education.

7. Adjournment

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

The next meeting date is **March 18th at 2:15pm in the MEC Conference room. Please note change in time.**

Public invited to call in. Phone: 813-563-9925 PIN: 201 624 038 #

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

Respectfully submitted,

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek
MEC Director