

## FEBRUARY '22 MEETING MINUTES

### **Merrill Enrichment Center Committee**

Meeting was held on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 2:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

*Present:* Steve Hass (Alderson) via phone, Laura Bertagnoli (Chair), Gene Bebel, Sharon Anderson, Rose Akey, Sharon Harvey, Jennifer Clark (ADRC representative)

*Absent:* Paul Russell (Alderson), Josh Jaeger

#### **1. Opening**

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.

#### **2. Consent Items**

- a. Motion by Bebel second Akey to approve January '22 minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Akey second by Harvey to approve Jan/Feb '22 vouchers. Motion carried.

#### **3. Public Comment**

- a. Bertagnoli opened the floor to a member of the public in attendance. Deborah Keller is new to Merrill. She attended the meeting to learn more about the MEC. She is building brand awareness as a new board member for a program called Girls on the Run. There may be a potential fit with the MEC to run a summer camp for local girls. This would be a welcoming program that would align perfectly in helping to fulfill our mission of bringing generations together.

#### **4. Operations**

- a. Director shared final 2021 budget results for #10 which was \$2956.52 to balance this fund. Budget #26 (reserved & designated funds) was also discussed. Director shared Finance Director Unertl's questions as to what plans we have for utilizing these funds. The MEC will be offering a series of workshops that will extend throughout the year focused on planning for your future. Discussions will center on retirement, estate planning, nursing home and assisted living, insurance, funeral planning and more. The MEC will fund facilitators for these sessions. Our large expo events will also require funding as will update of fixtures in our craft shop. We are planning on starting up our guest chef meals at least once a month, if Covid stays at bay. Bebel brought up the need for a restroom in the MEC portion of the building. This was an oversight during the build. The MEC's memorial fund may be able to contribute funding to use toward this. Bebel also brought up staff trainings including visits to other Centers to share ideas. Anderson resurfaced her idea on organizing a River Bend Trail event as in past years. We will definitely work on organizing this again. Overall, the MEC has these funds available based on two years of COVID and not being able to run programming and events during this time.

#### **5. ADRC**

Jennifer provided the following updates;

- a. ADRC now has two full time dementia specialists on staff for this region.
- b. Stockbox program is off to a strong start with 124 people signing up. Akey mentioned she has heard some people are waiting to hear what their friends think of the boxes before ordering one. So, we may see an increase for next month.

#### **6. Discussion**

- a. Some of the MEC's goals for this year are as follows; free events for the community (craft shows, workshops, etc.), expand relationships with organizations such as the Chamber and MAPS. Bebel mentioned that we may want to review our mission before setting goals. He also discussed a specific part of our population that may be overlooked by the City as a whole. This population could be a possible area for the MEC to reach out to. Director shared that we could look into organizations that are qualified and experienced to see how we could assist.
- b. SOAR was not discussed due to time constraints.
- c. Strengths and Opportunities will be discussed in March meeting.

#### **7. Adjournment**

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

The next meeting date is **March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:15pm in the MEC Conference room.**

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*TMrachek*

Tammie Mrachek, MEC Director