

February '23 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on Feb. 16th, 2023 at 2:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

Present: Laura Bertagnoli (Chair), Gene Bebel,

Sharon Harvey, Teresa Baker, Rose Akey, Jennifer Clark (via phone)

Absent: Rick Blake (Alderpersion), Sharon Anderson

1. Opening

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order. Roll call included Chantel Kuczmarski (City Communication Specialist), and Hallie Savall (City Social Media Specialist)

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion by Bebel second Harvey to approve January '23 minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Akey second by Baker to approve Jan/Feb '23 vouchers. Motion carried. Director pointed out the surprise Eagles Club donation for our quilting outreach.

3. Public Comment

- a. Bebel had a few ladies from the Eagles Club comment on our Festival of Quilts. They inquired about having it two weekends in a row. Bertagnoli added not only the liability of having the quilt show back to back weekends but the amount of work and payroll needed. Director shared the next Festival would be in August of 2024.
- b. Bertagnoli spoke with community members regarding our intergenerational offerings. Comments ranged from some evening offerings, which Director mentioned we do have, and possibly having a few Friday night openings during the Riders Club events. Director will look into that possibility cautioning that we do not want to become a daycare/babysitting location during these events.
- c. Kuczmarski promoted the visioning session at the TB Scott Free Library on Feb. 23rd at 5:30pm. It is invitation only but if you are interested please call the Library.

4. Operations

- a. Director shared final draft of survey. Baker suggested adding the word 'activities' in the last box for affordable fees. Director provided the feedback received from MHA Director Ross. She offered for us to bring our surveys over with a box to drop them in but did not believe that we would have much, if any attendance if we were to offer a listening/activity session. Baker will follow up with Ross to see if there is another option. Bebel questioned if we are doing enough for the people outside the city limits. Director shared we have many participants from Wausau area and further as well as north past tomahawk. However we can always try to reach more. Director is looking into how to reach more people and will work with Kuczmarski and Savall on this.
- b. Director provided Strong Bodies update. We received the funding from UW Extension and are now seeking out people to lead classes. They must complete the training prior. At the time of this meeting we had 2 people interested. We are now down to one, but actively promoting this opportunity. We will not have to pay anything to UW Extension as we are not directly affiliated with them and were approved as a non-profit able to take over the program. We are allowed to use the StrongBodies Logo. We are not allowed to change the program routines. We can add cardio and/or walking after the sessions.
- c. Director shared March workshops, classes and evening offerings.
- d. The MEC will have an open house in the spring showcasing the facility, activities, classes, and more. Date is TBD.

5. ADRC

- a. Jennifer shared that Meals on Wheels drivers are needed M-F for 1-1.5 hours.
- b. Our Dementia Care specialists have been working to get a Memory Cafe re-started in the Wausau area. Memory Cafes offer people with dementia and their care partners an opportunity to enjoy a social interaction with others in similar circumstances. They will continue to work with partners and volunteers to get the dementia cafe off the ground and hope to explore the interest in other communities across our region. Director will work on getting a Café started at the Center.
- c. Baker asked if the ADRC provides transportation. Jennifer informed us that the ADRC does not but will be able to connect them to what they need. She encourages people to call them for resources.
- d. Bebel asked if ADRC is aware of any adult day care other than Kindhearted, for those who do not want to go to assisted living. Jennifer is not aware of any. Bebel stated the need for more in our community.

6. Discussion

- a. MEC worked with Steve's friends to create Valentines Cards for Pine Crest residents.
- b. Committee open discussion included getting Stockbox information to the committee and the countless feedback for the ability for people to come and walk here and stay well! Bebel requested we put goal setting on a future meeting agenda.

7. Adjournment

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

The next meeting date is **March 16th 2023 at 2:15pm at the MEC.**

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

Respectfully submitted

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek, MEC Director

MERRILL ENRICHMENT CENTER (MEC)

2023 SURVEY



303 N. Sales St.

Have you heard of the (MEC) Merrill Enrichment Center?	Please circle Yes No
Have you visited the MEC?	Please circle Yes No
What activities would bring you to the MEC?	Please list
Would you need transportation?	Please circle Yes No
What are the best times for you to attend?	Please circle Morning Afternoon Evening
How can the MEC improve your quality of life?	Please list
What is an affordable activity fee amount for you?	Please circle \$1-\$2 \$3-\$4 \$5-\$9 \$10+