

January '23 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on Jan.24th, 2023 at 2:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

Present: Laura Bertagnoli (Chair), Gene Bebel,

Sharon Anderson, Sharon Harvey

Absent: Rick Blake (Alderpersion), Teresa Baker, Rose Akey, Jennifer Clark

1. Opening

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion by Bebel second Anderson to approve Nov '22 minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Anderson second by Harvey to approve Dec '22/Jan '23 vouchers. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

- a. Director shared comments received throughout the past few months from many participants on how wonderful it is that our city has a facility like ours where they can come to walk and stay well.

4. Operations

- a. Director shared our final numbers for Thanksgiving which were 216 (127 delivered, 89 carry outs), and Christmas Joy where we served 38 for sit down (included volunteers and singers), 31 meals delivered and 7 carry outs. The weather was an issue that attendance was lower than normal.
- b. Director recapped Sip, Shop, and Support evening. The positive outcome of this event was that the MEC donated \$442 to Lincoln County Christmas Spirit. We also support the cause by having Christmas tags here for our participants to pick up. Our craft shop sales were \$415. The lesson learned was that we did not need a picnic license if we were not charging for the wine or admission. The evening was not as well attended as the previous year. In addition we did have a few vendor/boutique cancellations last minute. The future of this event is to be determined.
- c. Director provided 2022 end of year budget numbers. Despite having to contribute \$12681.96 to balance our #10 budget (due to wage/step increases, longevity pay, and health incentive), our budget #26 funds are strong going into 2023. Questions arose regarding the Strong Bodies program previously offered by the UW Extension. Director will get all details to the committee next month. This program will take time to start up here and will function differently.

5. ADRC

- a. No update as Jennifer was not able to attend.

6. Discussion

- a. Director presented first draft of questionnaire for the MHA. This was a recommendation from the committee. We will be calling all three locations to set up informational sessions and distribute the short survey. Our ultimate goal is to understand why some people are not attending activities and find ways to get them here to Stay active, socialize and improve their overall wellbeing. Revised draft is attached.
- b. Committee open discussion included brainstorming ideas for future offerings. *Bebel suggested creating cards for people in nursing homes. This will be a perfect activity for Steve's Friends who come to the center once a month. *Reaching out to home schooled group for intergenerational offerings. *Anderson suggested having small activities at the housing authority bldgs., to showcase some of the offerings we have at the MEC. *An open house was suggested also, which we will shoot for springtime. We hope to get people here who have never been here. *Harvey suggested small demos of our exercise classes along with learning how to play some of our games like Mah Jongg. Bebel suggested giving people a raffle ticket to win prizes. He also suggested taking people around the festival grounds on golf carts as many may not get here to see all of the progress. *Working together with other city departments specifically the Library and Park&Rec to coordinate some joint efforts in serving members. *Possibly coordinating with agencies and local hospital or clinics to sponsor a Health Fair.

7. Adjournment

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

The next meeting date is **February 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 Street

Have you heard of the Merrill Enrichment Center (MEC)?	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 fee amount for you?	Please circle \$1-\$2 \$3-\$4 \$5-\$9 \$10+