

JANUARY '22 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on January 20th, 2022 at 2:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

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

Absent: Paul Russell (Aldersperson), Josh Jaeger

1. Opening

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion by Bebel second Harvey to approve November '21 minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Akey second by Harvey to approve Nov/Dec '21 vouchers. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

- a. No public comment. However Bebel spoke for the appreciation the guys group has for being able to meet at the MEC on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Director added the many thanks from people who received our Christmas Joy outreach packages.

4. Operations

- a. Director shared Christmas Joy results. We reached 54 people with our meals and gifts which included Muk Luk socks, dish towels, large calendars, many necessities, and question cards from the ADRC. The MEC provided appreciation gift cards to our many dedicated volunteers including quilters and newsletter delivery drivers.
- b. The MEC along with the UW Extension and the ADRC will begin the Stockbox program for people age 60+ beginning February 22nd, running for 3 months. If the program is successful we will continue. The Wisconsin DHS/Hunger task force of Milwaukee manages the Stockbox program (commodities).
- c. Director discussed year end funds for budget #10. The total amount needed from our #26 fund was \$3004.71 which was based on technology needs. Bebel commented, for record, that the MEC does not receive any money from expo rentals. Final budget #26 numbers will be discussed in our February meeting.

5. ADRC

Jennifer provided the following updates;

- a. ADRC now has a Full time dementia specialist on staff. She will begin on January 24th.
- b. Free Virtual class offerings include Living well with chronic conditions; focus on arthritis.

6. Discussion

- a. Director started discussion on 2022 goals for the MEC. The MEC team will put together a list of goals for this year. Director asked the committee to review the *Strengths* portion of the completed 2018 SOAR analysis. Each month we will review and revise the sections.
- b. Committee had a lengthy discussion on intergenerational offerings. This is one area that we can grow in. Covid truly has disrupted many of our offerings including this one which is part of our Mission. The MEC will look into working with MAPS and the parochial schools, in addition to adding offerings for families, like a grandparents/grandchildren dance. Bebel offered the idea of the art students having our space including the expo for display of their artwork. Director has tried in the past to reach out to the MHS art teachers to make this happen and will try again, as it is a great idea.
- c. Bebel discussed the Chetek senior centers daily gathering of a community meal. Participants assist in preparing and cooking the meal. The Center has a bus that goes to pick up community members who do not drive and bring them home afterwards. Bebel mentioned this as a possible opportunity for the MEC. Director expressed the liking of this. However, we are not in a position to have a daily or even a weekly meal as it consumes so much time. Director did mention the possibility of a monthly meal when COVID will not be an issue. Director also mentioned the opportunity for the MEC to use our bus to pick up people for specific events and will look into this for this year.

7. Adjournment

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

The next meeting date is **February 17th 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