

JANUARY '20 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on Jan. 16th, 2020 at 3:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

Present: Laura Bertagnoli (Chair), Gene Bebel, Rose Akey, Sharon Harvey, Rev. Lucas Williams, Jennifer Clark (ADRC Representative)

Absent: Paul Russell (Alderpersion), Mollie Stencil

1. Opening

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion made by Akey, second by Bebel to approve December '19 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion made by Akey second by Harvey to approve December '19 monthly vouchers. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

- a. Teresa Baker brought 6 friends to our Christmas Joy outreach in December. She shared how much they truly enjoyed the day, loved the food and portion sizes, gifts, entertainment and pictures with Santa and Ms. Claus.
- b. Gary Broesch attended the meeting to learn more about the MEC. He shared that he is running for Council.

4. ADRC

- a. Jennifer informed the group about the new full time regional dementia care specialist position at the ADRC. They received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Bureau of Aging and Disability Services to support this position permanently. This person will cover multiple locations providing support to individuals living with dementia and Alzheimer's and their caregivers. This was a long awaited and much needed position.
- b. The ADRC is also working with a medical student from the Medical College of Wisconsin. The Medical College and ADRC recently received a grant to expand the number of Stepping On (Falls Prevention Program) leaders across our four county regions.
- c. The ADRC opened a new senior dining site at the Gleason Lions Club on January 15. Over 40 people attended. The new dining site will be open on the third Wednesday every month.

5. Discussion (3:30)

- a. Director shared the Revenue and Expense reports of the Merrill Festival Grounds/Bierman Bldg; Expo/Merrill Festival Grounds expenses in fund 24 were paid for by \$36,000 in property tax, \$22, 000 in Room Tax (City Portion) in addition to revenue brought in from Expo Center rentals which this year totaled \$8624.56. Director also shared the amount of \$8338.99 required of the MEC to offset Center operations. Bebel expressed concerns about our activity fees taken to offset city operating costs and requested that Kathy Unertl and Dave Johnson attend the next meeting for further discussion and clarification, as this has been a concern from the onset of the MEC relocating to the new building.
- b. Thanksgiving meal final numbers were 306 *total* people enjoyed a meal which included sit down, takeout and delivery.
 - i. Ideas/Plans 2020 include reaching out to smaller parishes in the area to see if any would be interested in helping out either at the host church or possibly at the MEC. The only way the MEC would be able to host the meal would be with a large group of volunteers. (We will explore starting self-directed volunteer groups this year)
- c. Christmas Joy was a great success again this year. We served 121 people a delicious Christmas meal. Each person received a gift and a gift bag on their way out. The Vocal Jays performed for us as did Mr. Gaedtke. Santa and Ms. Claus were available for pictures as well. We will continue this program for years to come.
- d. Punch Cards are selling well. We started this in the New Year based on participant suggestions.
- e. A "Friends of the MEC" discussion took place. After examining the option, the Committee and Director, with suggestions from community members, decided to look to being self-directed volunteer teams instead as this seemed a better fit for us. We will begin compiling information on how to get these teams started and begin recruiting.
- f. Additional ideas/goals for 2020... Bebel suggested a community survey on needs. We will try to work with local churches and others as to the feasibility of a survey.

6. Adjournment

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

Next meeting date is **February 20th at 3:15pm in the MEC Conference room.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek
MEC Director

Enrichment Center Mission Statement: Dedicated to Enhancing Lives and Bringing Generations Together