

**CITY OF MERRILL
ENRICHMENT CENTER COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MEC CONFERENCE ROOM 2:15 PM**

I. Opening

1. **Call meeting to order** - Chair Bertagnoli called the meeting to order
Present: Bertagnoli, Alderperson Meyer, Anderson, Harvey, Baker, Bebel, Tlusty, Clark (remote)
Others present: Enrichment Center Director Mrachek

II. Consent Items

1. **Approval of Feb 2024 meeting minutes** - Bebel motioned to approve the February 2024 minutes. Alderperson Meyer seconded and the motion passed.
2. **Approval of February/March 2024 vouchers** - Alderperson Meyer motioned to approve. Harvey seconded and the motion passed.

III. Public Comment Baker shared a request from residents at Jenny Towers to possibly have our bus provide transportation to and from our events such as our Festival of Quilts and Fall Craft Event.

Anderson shared how wonderful the wool-felted egg art class was, facilitated by Laura Bertagnoli. Director Mrachek added that we also received an abundant amount of positive feedback.

Bertagnoli and Anderson shared how much they loved the reel that Vicki created, which showcased "a week at the MEC". We have also heard many positive comments and the reel reached over 1000 views, which is great exposure for us!

IV. ADRC Jennifer shared an update on a funding opportunity from the ADRC, which has ARPA funds that must be spent by the end of September. The grants are for specific programs as follows: StrongBodies, Bingocize, and Stepping On. At the time of this meeting, Director Mrachek had already submitted the grant application for our StrongBodies program. Recipients will be notified by April 1st.

V. Operations

1. **Attendance Statistics** - 1. Director Mrachek shared a statistics report from our check-in system. Feedback from some committee members was; that it was too much information and to simplify it for future reports. Bertagnoli shared a document that Director Mrachek will use in future reporting, in our newsletter, and on social media. Director Mrachek will share data with the Common Council as well.
Key takeaways from this report are as follows:
 - a. From May 15 to Dec 28, 2023, we had 362 people attend offerings for a

total of 11,343 hours

b. From Jan 2 to Mar 13, 2024, we had 315 people attend offerings for a total of 8,259 hours. This shows we already have 73% of 2023 hours in only 2.5 months. This also proves our growth in attendance.

c. Furthermore, as of 3/13 we have 57 new people.

2. Bebel asked if we could see reports of expo rentals, including attendance numbers from event organizers and what the return on investment is from rentals, taking into account heat, lights, etc. Director Mrachek said that is not something the MEC handles and would check to see if we can obtain that information.

VI. General Agenda Items for Consideration

1. Continued discussion of Mission & Vision Statement for approval

- Continued discussion on changes to the MEC Mission and Vision statements took place. The committee all agreed on the proposed Mission and Vision statement. Motion by Bebel/seconded by Meyer to approve MEC's Mission and Vision as follows: Mission - To improve lives through social, physical and educational opportunities. Vision - To be that happy & safe place. Motion carried.

a. Core Values - review and consider changes - Current Core Values (Include, Encourage, Volunteer, Create) were reviewed for change. The committee brainstormed ideas and will make a final decision in the April 18th meeting.

2. Health Fair Discussion and Decision - The MEC is looking to offer a health fair in October during our business hours. The focus will be on overall health and wellness; from fitness, nutrition, healing, mental health, and more. We will reach out to the area organizations and community partners to take part by having booths, demonstrations, samples, etc. Director Mrachek will contact community partners for guidance.

VII. Discussion None

VIII. Date and Time of Next Meeting

1. April 18th, 2024 at 2:15 pm in the MEC Conference Room - Vouchers will be available for review 10 minutes before meeting time.

IX. Adjournment Alderperson Meyer motioned to adjourn. Harvey seconded and the motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by T Mrachek - Director Merrill Enrichment Center