



CITY OF MERRILL
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
AGENDA • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

Regular Meeting	City Hall Council Chambers	6:00 PM
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To attend remotely call 785-414-8177 PIN 145 348 216 #

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**
 - 1. Minutes from the February 21 meeting
- III. General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 - 1. Historic Street Name Applications for 2024
 - 2. Update on virtual Historic home/building tour
 - 3. Update on Normal Park and Legion building signs - Elizabeth McCrank
- IV. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Wednesday, May 15 at 6:00 PM**
- V. Public Comment**
- VI. Adjournment**

The Merrill City Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Merrill City Hall at (715) 536-5594.

**CITY OF MERRILL
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order:** Alderperson Sabatke acted as chair and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
Present: Alderperson Caylor, Alderperson Sabatke, McCrank, Heideman
Excused: Bea Lebel

- II. **Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting:**
 1. **October 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes** - McCrank made a motion to place the minutes from October 18, 2023, on file. Heideman seconded and the motion carried.

- III. **General Agenda Items for Consideration:**
 1. **Continued discussion and updates on the sign placement schedule and future nominations.** - Chair Caylor gave an update on the remaining signs that need to be placed. April 1st is the deadline for new historic street sign nominations.
 2. **Consider and approve the sign for Normal Park** - Elizabeth McCrank received the estimate for the storyboard sign from Premier of \$1,400 per sign. This would be for signs by the Legion building and Normal Park. Chair Caylor will talk with Finance Director Ley about available funds in the non-lapsing account. He will also talk to Parks & Recreation Director Wendorf regarding the installation of the signs. Following further discussion, McCrank made a motion to approve the signs contingent upon the availability of funding of \$3,400. Heideman seconded and the motion carried.
 3. **Update on virtual Historic home/building tour - Hallie Savall and Merrill Community Media** - Alderperson Meyer was given floor privileges and updated the committee on the virtual historic home/building tours. He stated there are four homes for virtual tours and are set for late spring.

- IV. **Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 20th at 6:00 PM:**

- V. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

- VI. **Adjournment:** McCrank made a motion to adjourn. Heideman seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by City Clerk Anderson-Malm



Historic Street Name Application

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Ralph "Fata" Voigt

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

Fata Voigt was the longest serving Mayor of Merrill. He served 9 terms as Mayor.

What year did the person(s) pass away: 1991

Any other comments:

Fata was my dad's 1st cousin but was known to us as Uncle Ralph. I'll be happy to

find more personal information about Fata if he is chosen.

Contact info for the nominator:

Name: Lori Anderson-Malm

Address: 606 Spruce St

Email: lorileamalm@hushmail.com

Phone Number: 715-803-5565

***A fee of \$20.00 is required at application. This fee is collected to help offset the cost of the sign and to prevent serial nominations.**

All applications must be submitted by March 31st. Names will be considered at the April meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee and announced in May along with timetables for unveiling.

Nominees must be deceased for a minimum of five years to be considered, this rule may be waived if the nominee died while in service to the City of Merrill or the United States.



CITY OF MERRILL

Steve Hass, Mayor

1004 East First Street • Merrill, Wisconsin • 54452

Phone (715)536-5595 • Fax (715)539-2668

email: steve.hass@ci.merrill.wi.us

Historic Street Name Application

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Robert Gruling

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

Please see attached

What year did the person(s) pass away: 2018

Any other comments:

Robert H. Gruling loved the people of Merrill and
this would be a great to honor him.

Thank you.

Contact info for the nominator:

Name: Tammy Gruling

Address: 1203 Cottage St

Email: lexustme@charter.net

Phone Number: 715-574-3449

20.00

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Robert (Bob) Gruling has been an asset to Merrill in many ways. As an educator, being a teacher at Franklin Elementary School first, then principal of both Lincoln and Washington Elementary schools. While teaching in his early years he would be a camp counselor at the school forest. Which was where he created the boom decker Becker legacy that still exists today. Many students have always looked forward to going to the School forest to hear those chains rattle. Me included. He was a well loved educator and left a lasting legacy on everyone he touched. He also entertained and read to students at the brickyard school, the one room school house at the Merrill Festival grounds so children could have that experience and history of what their ancestors attended for school. He would spend time sharing the history to people during the Lincoln County fair. He was very involved in the historical society. Community History and Genealogy was his passion. He put together the history of the water level marker that still sits on the riverbank of the Wisconsin River today. If you take this trail on the River bend Trail, you will see the collage of history and pictures that Bob created so you can read about the history of this marker. He was very instrumental in getting the river bend trail started and loved every minute of it. He was involved in many instrumental projects for Merrill and very involved with St. Stephens church. He loved the people and community so much. This would be a great way to remember and honor him.



Historic Street Name Application

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Robert J.B. Klug

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

Please see the attached narrative

What year did the person(s) pass away: 1982

Any other comments:

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about my grandpa. He was a great

man and influential leader in the city. His legacy is still around even today, so a historic

street name after him would be very fitting.

Contact info for the nominator:

Name: Becky Meyer

Address: 1401 E. 10th St. Merrill

Email: tiggs398@hotmail.com

Phone Number: 715-218-4989

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Robert J.B. Klug served the City of Merrill as the city clerk from 1950 until his death in 1982 while still in office. Prior to becoming city clerk, Klug served as alderperson from 1946 – 1947. In addition to his time with the city, he was widely known for his active participation in local youth sports programs, amateur baseball and semi-pro football.

Born August 28, 1920 in Merrill, he graduated from Merrill High School and attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Robert was past president of the Wisconsin Clerks and Finance Officers of the league of Wisconsin Municipalities and served many years on the leagues's election administration committee. He was a member and a certified clerk of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Mr. Klug was a founder and president of the former Wisconsin State Football League and coached the Merrill Foxes football team from 1940 – 1953. He played one year with the former Merrill Rangers baseball team.

He was active in the Lincoln County Baseball League for more than 20 years, serving as president and as a coach and manager of the Merrill Giants. He was also a former president and team manager in the Merrill Little League and coached sports at St. John Lutheran School for nearly a decade.

For many years he served as treasurer and March of Dimes campaign chairman for the Lincoln County Chapter of the National Foundation.

Mr. Klug was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, former chairman of the Board of Education and president of its Men's Club.

Robert J.B. Klug was a member and former president of the Merrill Silver M Club, had been secretary-treasurer of the Merrill Kiwanis Club and was a former member of the Merrill Lions, Eagles and Jaycees.



Historic Street Name Application

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Roger "Budda" English

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill: See attached sheet.

What year did the person(s) pass away: 2016

Any other comments:

Contact info for the nominator:

Name: Crystal Duwe
Address: 600 W. 1st St. Merrill
Email: Crystalduwe@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 715-218-5003 Cell
715-536-1997 Home

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I am submitting my father's name, Roger "Budda" English, for consideration of an honorary street sign in his name. I feel this is a very deserving honor for him.

My father was the head cashier at Lincoln County Bank for 42 years. It was there that he met many diverse people and made lifelong friends with them. The youngest customers got suckers, and to this day, they still talk about it.

Another big part of my father's life was that for over 25 years, he served as an Alderman for the city of Merrill. He took great pride in the decisions they made and the committees he was on. Knowing that this would help shape the future of the city of Merrill for years to come.

Being a member of the Silver M was also a source of great pride for my dad. He received the very first MVP award ever given out. While in high school, he was a four year letter winner. He was proud to be a Silver and Golden M'er.

Over the years, he served on committees including president of the Silver M Club. All of this took place while he refereed football and basketball for over 25 years. My dad took great pride in his new chapter when he retired from refereeing. He coached Merrill 7th and 8th grade girls basketball for about five years. To this day, the girls say he was the best coach they ever had.

After my dad finally cashed the last customer's check at Lincoln County Bank, he started as he would say the best job he ever had. He was a foster grandparent at Lincoln Hills. He truly enjoyed working the boys. He was so proud and supportive of every single one of them. When he came home from working there, he would say, "They are all good kids."

One of the worst days of my dad's life and the city of Merrill was July 1960, the day of the JC Penney Company explosion. My dad was an employee there and was on his first day of vacation when this happened. He would remind us every year on the anniversary of this horrible incident.

A couple things my dad would tell people is that he was born the day the stock market crashed on October 29, 1929. The other fun thing was he was related to the Capone's through marriage.

My dad was president of the Lions Club and the former Westside Business Association. He was a proud member of the VFW. He served in the Korean War. He loved and was very proud of his country.

My father was involved in many different organizations, businesses, government, and church. The number one thing he always made sure of was the outcome of every meeting or vote would benefit the city of Merrill's residents and children. He took great pride in the decisions made knowing they would impact people at the present time and future.

He truly loved everything about Merrill and always showed it!



Historic Street Name Application

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: CHUCK SUMMERS

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

CHUCK (my dad) was known as the 'Voice of the Merrill Rangers'. The broadcast booth at Athletic Park is dedicated to him.

What year did the person(s) pass away: 2007

Any other comments:

He also covered many High School Sports. The street(s) leading to Athletic Park would be an ideal place for a street sign to honor him. Thank you for considering.

Contact info for the nominator:

Name: TESS (SUMMERS) KLUG

Address: 4311 WINNEQUAH RD. MONONA, WI 53716

Email: tess.klug55@gmail.com

Phone Number: 608-225-9248

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Historic Street Name Application

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Edward & Diane Chartier

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

Sold numerous homes to citizens through their real estate business (Lincoln Realty),

supported their community through through Christ United Methodist Church and

What year did the person(s) pass away: 2020

Any other comments:

Beta Sigma Phi. In addition, they mentored children through the Girl Scouts and

Guardian Council of Job's Daughters. Most importantly, they built a beautiful life and

family; found it to be a privilege to live and work in Merrill.

Contact info for the nominator:

Name: Lee DuBois

Address: 2968 N 75th St, Milwaukee, WI 53210

Email: dubois.lee@outlook.com

Phone Number: 414-335-4620

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Historic Street Name Application

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: James L. Severt

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

He started "Grampa's Farm" in 2010 which brings in thousands of visitors to Merrill each fall and teaches about the agriculture history while creating lasting family memories.
What year did the person(s) pass away: 2014

Any other comments:

"The Red Shed" concession stand donates 100% of profits to many charities in Merrill, homeless shelters, MAPS snacks, Merrill Food Pantry, CHAOS youth group, Merrill Wrestling scholarship, Never Forgotten Honor Flight, etc.

Contact info for the nominator:

Name: Ashley Knox

Address: 6405 Old Costa Lane, Weston 54476

Email: Knoxashley m@gmail.com

Phone Number: 715-297-3977

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