

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Thursday June 19th, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

MEC Conference Room 303 N. Sales Street 2:15pm

Present: Laura Bertagnoli (Chair), Mark Weix (Aldersperson), Gene Bebel, Jay Tlusty, Sharon Harvey, Carol Holz, Elizabeth McCrank, **Excused:** Jennifer Clark (ADRC representative)

I. Opening

1. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.

II. Consent Items

1. Motion by Holz second by McCrank to approve April '25 minutes. Motion carried.
2. Motion by Bebel second by Tlusty to approve Apr/May/June '25 vouchers.

III. Public Comment

Hallie Savall, Social Media Specialist shared the success of Food Truck-a-Palooza. Committee asked questions regarding the camping sites on the fairgrounds. Hallie is the contact person or people can sign up on the city website. There are 20 sites with access to water and electric. The goal is to have them ready by August. Marketing for the campsites is on Facebook, on the radio and in the Foto News. She also shared the expo rental prices; day 1 is \$500, day 2 is 400 and day 3 is 300. Kitchen fee is \$50. Committee inquired into the black fencing around the perimeter of the fairgrounds. Discussion was that it is in the process of being installed and should not block off entry ways into the grounds unless needed for the fair. Holz asked the status of the Boys & Girls club going into the Armory building. Weix shared it is a 30 year lease commitment. Discussion led to potential intergenerational activities.

IV. Operations

- a. Director shared a recap of our volunteer appreciation. We had 30 people attend including some of our committee members. It was a wonderful turnout and people enjoyed visiting with one another. Director stated that next year we will have the date scheduled well in advance so volunteers can save the date, add pictures to each table as we did in the past, and will reach out to the Church Mutual Choir next year for entertainment. Harvey stated the lunch was great. We could consider having the meal catered in next year to support a local business. Director asked committee for recommendations for next year. *Holz stated that people like getting recognized. *Bertagnoli mentioned introducing the groups individually (quilters, cell phone trainers, etc.) like the previous year as it helps put a face to a name. *McCrank added she thought the Committee should help with the event such as helping setup, serve food, etc. Other members agreed.
- b. Director shared first quarter report. All accounts are in solid standing.
- c. Donation to the endowment was made by Dennis & Jocelynn Weber in the amount of \$250. They will be getting a leaf on our tree this fall when the Fab Lab teacher is back in school. Total fund is at \$2370.
- d. July offerings include farm to table education and hands on cooking classes run by Mary Huhta of Huhta Homestead Farm. New class offerings include Tatting and Needle Felting. New workshops in July are Dan Koblitz – estate planning and Aspirus Health offering Hospice Care education. Online awareness children's workshop. Tlusty asked how public is aware of this. Recommendations included reaching out to the school, daycare providers, and the library. Tlusty also added it is beneficial for younger generations to learn what the MEC is about. Director will send information to these places.
Discussion continued on our meal funding and how to best use it. Director shared we are scheduling food trucks for the next 3 months to offer discounted meals to our participants as well as those on the ADRC's meals on wheels program. We are in further discussion with the ADRC to have some lunch and learn gatherings for the community ages 60+. Tlusty mentioned that if the fund begins to deplete, the Bierman Foundation may be willing to provide additional money. Director will keep that in mind.
- e. The MEC and Park & Rec are offering Senior Swim days in both June and July. This aligns well with the MEC's goal of keeping older adults in our community healthy and well! Committee mentioned possibly water aerobics if this seems well attended.
- The MEC is happy to share our bus with Park & Rec for the Beyond Boundaries Camp which allows special needs children in our community opportunities for exploring and education. Note that a city employee needs to drive the bus and we do not allow community members to do so, as we received a request regarding use of our bus.

- MEC is bringing line dancing to our community in September. This is something new for us and we may continue it if there is enough interest.

V. Discussion

1. Bertagnoli recommended continued discussion on simplifying our instructor fee/\$3 user fee included. It causes confusion for instructors and is hard for staff to explain as well. Director will discuss with staff prior to the next meeting and bring ideas to the next meeting for discussion/approval.

VI. Adjournment

1. McCrank requested to have July meeting moved one week to the 24th due to scheduling conflict. Committee was all in favor.
2. Motion to adjourn by Holz second by Harvey.

The next meeting date is **July 24th, 2025 at 2:15pm at the MEC.** *Vouchers available for review 10 minutes prior to meeting time.*

Respectfully submitted, TMrachek



Tammie Mrachek, Director
Merrill Enrichment Center
City of Merrill
(715) 536-4226
MEC@ci.merrill.wi.us
303 North Sales St., Merrill, WI
54452
www.ci.merrill.wi.us

