

## NOVEMBER '22 MEETING MINUTES

### **Merrill Enrichment Center Committee**

Meeting was held on Nov.17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 2:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

*Present:* Rick Blake (Alderpersion), Laura Bertagnoli (Chair), Gene Bebel,

Sharon Anderson, Teresa Baker, Sharon Harvey, Rose Akey

*Absent:* Jennifer Clark

#### **1. Opening**

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.

#### **2. Consent Items**

- a. Motion by Blake second Harvey to approve October '22 minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Akey second by Baker to approve Oct/Nov '22 vouchers. Motion carried.

#### **3. Public Comment**

- a. Director shared comments received throughout the month from many participants who complimented the MEC staff for the wonderful offerings we have for the community. One comment was how fortunate Merrill is to have a facility like the MEC as many smaller communities do not. Another comment was about our bus trips to Appleton and how nice it is for people who are not wanting or able to drive. They further commented on how well organized the trips are.

#### **4. Operations**

- a. Director shared final budget numbers for the MEC. Rather than have our extra 50 hours for our 3 employees cut from the budget, Director offered to pay \$5000 out of our non-lapsing account to cover the cost. Blake offered further overall budget information including the Council's concern to overspend ARPA funds in case of unforeseen issues. The Police held off on the 23<sup>rd</sup> officer and the Fire Dept. held off on a promotion of a Battalion Chief. Blake also added the funding for our Social Media position comes from the States cable franchise fees. This also funds our MP3 team.
  - i. Committee had questions on the status of the City Administrator position. Blake shared the recruiting process will begin Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Director shared our numbers for Thanksgiving which were 166 and Christmas which were 21. These numbers are low compared to the past few years. MEC staff believes this is due to people getting together now that the pandemic has slowed. In addition, the MEC generally gets quite a few calls past the deadline.
  - i. Bertagnoli asked about the MEC's participation in O'Tannenbaum. The MEC volunteers will once again be making the decorations and tree skirt for our donation to the event.
- c. The Committee shared their input on questions for the survey the MEC will be sending out in the New Year. The purpose of this survey is to reach people in our community who do not, or are not able to make it to the Center for activities and offerings. Suggestions on distribution were to churches, ADRC meals on wheels participants, our Library, and the MEC Staff and Committee distributing to locations.
  - i. Questions recommended were: \* Have you visited the MEC? \*Do you need help with transportation? \* How can the MEC improve/enhance your quality of life? \* What activities would bring you to the MEC? \* Best time of day to attend? \* What is an affordable fee amount for you?
  - ii. Further discussion was to keep the survey to 5 questions and to keep wording simple.

#### **5. ADRC**

- a. Clark shared the ADRC's updates with the Director. They are as follows:
  - i. ADRC is accepting applications for Advisory Committee members willing to represent adults (age 60+), adults with disabilities (age 18+) or caregivers. Advisory community members will share their ideas and be an ADRC-CW liaison with the community. We are currently in need of Advisory Committee members in Lincoln, Marathon and Wood Counties. If interested, call: 888-486-9545.
  - ii. There have been some position changes at the ADRC. One of our Health Educators has taken on the role of volunteer coordinator. This will be a full time position focused on supporting the many, wonderful volunteers that we have across our 4-county region. The other Health Educator Role (Jennifer Clark) will primarily be focusing on fall prevention efforts among our 4-counties. This is important as we continue to see a large increase in the number of older adult falls within our communities. Wisconsin is also ranked #1 in deaths related to falls. We will continue to focus our efforts on offering more Stepping On programs, build relationships with our Fire Departments/EMS/Emergency Department staff to address falls and continue to provide one-time presentations around falls/fall prevention.

## 6. Discussion

- a. Marketing Meeting/Town Hall will take place on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 & 6:00 respectively. Blake shared the Mayor will provide opening statement focused on public comment and proper etiquette. Statements are limited to 3 minutes. Scott Steele, Church Mutual executive will present to the public the how, why, and what of the committee, logo and branding. Anderson stated how great the logo looked in the Foto News. Blake added the Logo needs to attract outsiders to visit and move to our location.
- b. Open discussion from Committee was to keep up all of the topics important to our population.
- c. Motion by Bebel second by Akey to forgo a December meeting.

## 7. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Baker second by Blake.

The next meeting date is **January 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 2:15pm at the MEC.**  
*Vouchers will be available for review 10 minutes prior to meeting time.*

*Respectfully submitted*

*TMrachek*

Tammie Mrachek, MEC Director