

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Thursday April 16th, 2026 MEETING MINUTES MEC Conference Room 303 N. Sales Street 2:15pm

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

Agenda

- I. **Opening (2:15)**
Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.
- II. **Consent Items**
 1. Re-Approval of January consent items including November '25 minutes and December vouchers. Motion by McCrank second by Bebel to approve. Motion carried.
 2. Re-Motion by Holz second by Harvey to adjourn January meeting. Motion carried.
 3. Motion by McCrank second by Holz to *amend March minutes* to include 'no action was taken by committee to approve budget discussion with Ley and Akey.' Motion carried.
 4. Motion by Harvey second by Holz to approve vouchers. Motion carried.
- III. **Public Comment**
No public comment
- IV. **ADRC**
 1. Clark discussed the following ADRC offerings;
 - i. Dementia support group for family caregivers on 4th Monday and Fall Prevention.
 - ii. *Family Caregiver Resource Fair* – April 29th from 1-4 PM at the Lake View Conference Center in Wausau. The event is intended for family caregivers who want to learn more about local resources available to make their caregiving journey easier.
 - iii. *Power Tools for Caregivers 6 week program cancelled*. Clark mentioned it is quite a commitment for many people.
 - iv. *Sense of Balance offering* – This program, offered in partnership with Bone & Joint (Merrill Center) and will be held on June 24 from 10:00 AM -11:30 AM at the Lincoln County Service Center (Board Room). PT, Cindy Koheler will be demonstrating exercises to improve strength and balance. Pre-registration is required by calling the ADRC-CW.
 - v. *Fall Prevention Fair* – in partnership with Aspirus, LCHD, ADRC, and the MEC. The event is held in the Bierman expo center.
- V. **Operations**
 1. Director shared the success of our Art & Craft DeStash event. We ended up with 26 vendors for a total of 30 spaces + MEC had 4 spaces. We earned \$785-(\$35 was donation for extra tables). Craft Shop Sales from Saturday were \$652.66! We had a lot of positive feedback and requests from several people wanting to have a space in a future event. Many shoppers also asking us to do this event again.
 2. We have new workshop offerings coming up including; How to make your Retirement income last, and Health in Motion offering a nutrition to support muscle and bone strength. Harvey shared the large group of 36 people who attend the Koblitz Estate Planning workshop in March. Director shared that we have made the *'please register'* for all activities more noticeable in the newsletter. This is primarily for space utilization as we have many activities offered at the same time. Sound in the expo is also sometimes a challenge. If we have multiple activities taking place, using the microphone is not an option as it amplifies through the entire space. Holz and McCrank mentioned a hearing loop which is used in some churches and other businesses.
 3. Director shared that we had and will have limited activities (which equals less income) due to the expo in use for voting and the LCEDC Summit rentals.
 4. Bus trips have begun. We are happy to have a new driver, Dick Lupton who will sub when Mark is not available. We generally have 2-3 trips a month.. Director is working with Pine Crest to try to accommodate residents wanting to go on outings.
- VI. **Discussion**

Bebel mentioned the need to inform more people of the events happening in our community, most recently the Senior Empowerment luncheon that took place at the Eagles. McCrank added that it is the People for Pine Crest group that are now advocating under this new name. Bebel also discussed the marketing of offerings for the ADRC, Health Department, Library, etc. Clark and Director noted the challenges of marketing but more so getting people to seek out what is available in our community. Director also shared the many locations that house our monthly newsletters.

Bertagnoli mentioned possibly mailing some of newsletters again to outlying communities. Director will get in touch with the Foto News.

McCrank inquired about the auction expo rentals and the amount of income it brings to our city. Arnie is to retire and Director shared that he provides a fair amount of income for the city. He may have a successor lined up. In addition, the Mennonite weddings are also a frequent renter.

Bebel mentioned our fees and possibly charging less with the changes coming in the New Year for the MEC. Director along with McCrank and Holz were very concerned and do not believe this would be a good idea.
- VII. **Adjournment**
Motion by Holz second by Weix

The next meeting will take place on May 21st at 2:15pm in the MEC Conference room. Public attendance is encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

TMrachek - MEC Director

Enrichment Center Mission

To improve lives through social, physical, and educational opportunities.