

OCTOBER '20 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on October 15th, 2020 at 3:15pm

Merrill Enrichment Center Conference Room – 303 N. Sales Street

Present: Laura Bertagnoli (Chair), Gene Bebel, Rose Akey, Sharon Harvey, Paul Russell (Aldersperson)

Absent: Rev. Lucas Williams, Jennifer Clark (ADRC representative),

1. Opening

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order.

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion by Bebel second by Harvey to approve September minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Bebel second by Akey to approve Sept-Oct vouchers. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment – no public comment. Mrachek shared that NewsChannel 7 visited the MEC for a story related to keeping our community healthy amidst the current crisis. The segment aired over the weekend of the 16th.

4. Budget

- a. Director provided figures from the past 3 years for Committee and Council review. Please see this information on page 2. Director discussed the concern of the large increase in financial expectations for the MEC to contribute back to the general fund, despite what we are actually making. One example is from 2019 as shown in the spreadsheet. Our revenue balance after expenses was only \$3120 but we paid back \$8290 to fund #10. We do have reserved funds in budget #26 to help offset the difference however this money is budgeted for 5+ years out to ensure continued operations of the department. *The committee and director are very concerned over the 2021 expected funds of \$17,125, especially given the current economic impact of COVID and the uncertainty of next year.* Russell stated he did not have any input yet as it depends on the overall city budget.
- b. Per Mr. Bebel's request, Finance Director Unertl provided the updated fiscal status report for the Merrill Festival Grounds to the Committee. This resulted in a better understanding on how the Bierman Building is funded and that the MEC does not provide funding for the building.

5. COVID-19 – Phase 2 – Update on Operations

- a. Director stated that attendance numbers remain steady and increased due to Pound class offering again on Wednesday nights.
- b. Director shared MEC's most recent outreach efforts. "Lifting Lincoln County!" is an outreach program created collaboratively with 6 organizations designed for the purpose of keeping isolated adults in our area connected to the community. The organizations include The Merrill Enrichment Center, our local UW-Extension, ADRC of Central Wisconsin, T.B. Scott Library, Tomahawk Library and Tomahawk Senior Center. We extended our reach further to include area churches, as they generally have a list of members who are isolated. Our community organizations have established great connections with our seniors and isolated adults. However, because of COVID-19 even more seniors are confined to their homes. Many of us know this isolation can lead to loneliness, depression, and a number of detrimental health issues.
The outreach program will run from November of 2020 through April of 2021. Each household will receive a reusable bag designed with our logo "Lifting Lincoln County". Included in each bag will be the following items; art project, mind game, seasonal activity, at home exercises, mindfulness activity, recipes, and community resource information. Each household will receive a total of 3 bags; one in Nov/Dec., Jan/Feb, and March/April. Items will vary with seasonal changes. To date we will be delivering a total of 900-1200 bags.
- c. The MEC will work with St. Stephens Church to offer our annual Thanksgiving meal. The Church committee agreed to have all delivery and carry-out meals take place in the Expo. This is a perfect space for us to be able to coordinate this outreach safely for our volunteers and our community. The meal will be delivered Thanksgiving Day. We are planning for 350 meals. Registration is required by calling the MEC at 715-536-4226.
- d. Christmas Joy will be discussed further in our November meeting.

6. ADRC

- a. Jennifer Clark shared the attached document found on page 3 below.

7. Discussion

- a. Sales and Use Tax does not apply to the MEC. Mrachek called the DOR to discuss our operations which resulted in business as normal for us. Mr. Bebel also called and received similar information with the exception of entertainment fees if the MEC were to ever offer such events.

8. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Bertagnoli second by Harvey.

The next meeting date is **November 19th at 3:15pm in the MEC Conference room.**

Public invited to call in. Please check city website for call in number.

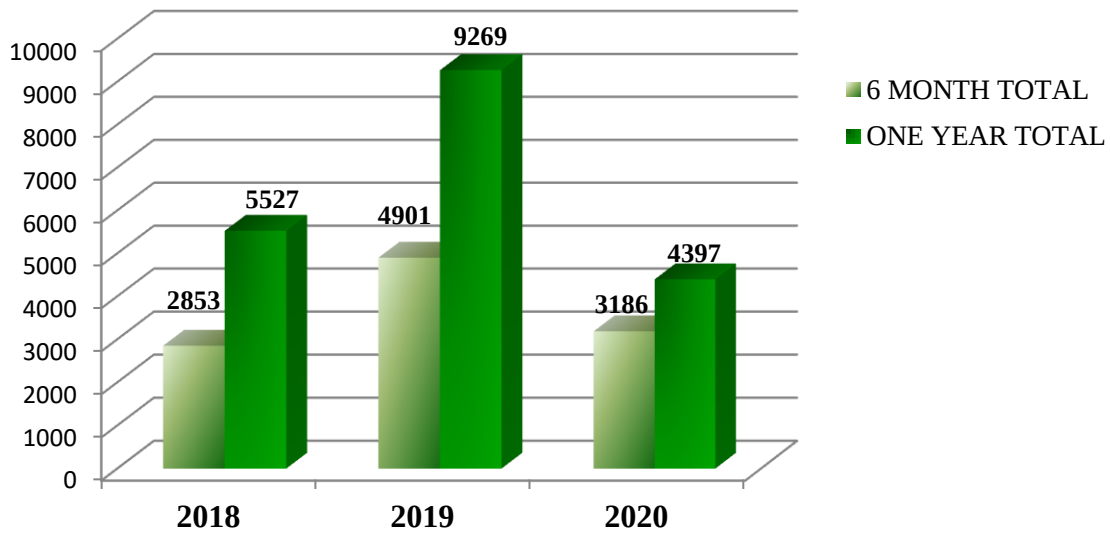
Vouchers will be available for review 10 minutes prior to meeting time.

Respectfully submitted,

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek
MEC Director

MEC Participant Counts



MEC	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue	\$ 21,156	\$ 18,167	\$ 15,875	
Expenses	13,448	15,047	9,112	
Balance	\$ 7,708	\$ 3,120	\$ 6,763	
#10 requested funds	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 11,766	\$ 17,125*
#10 funds taken	5,000	8,290	5000	
% of balance to #10	65%	266%	74%	

*\$5k anticipated
due to shut down

* This number has been changed to \$8750 (proposed) as of today (10/20/20) for the COW budget meeting.

ADRC

1. Medicare Part D open enrollment is just around the corner! ADRC benefit specialists will be taking calls beginning on September 21. Unfortunately, there will be no in-person appointments this year due to COVID restrictions, which looks very different than in years past. Benefit Specialists are happy to meet/support customers via phone or mail and can call the ADRC Merrill office to set up an appointment.
2. November is National Family Caregiver Month. If you "Like" the WI Family Caregiver Support Programs Facebook Page, you will see that each week is focused on different segments of family caregiving: i.e. employed family caregivers, long distance family caregivers... etc. Respite Care Association of Wisconsin will be providing 8- \$25 dollar gift cards to individuals who participate. Please consider sharing this information via your Facebook pages.
3. ADRC will be offering a virtual Powerful Tools for Caregivers program on Wednesdays, November 4- December 16 from 1:00 pm -2:45 pm (no class the week of Thanksgiving). This program is for family caregivers who are helping a spouse, partner, parent or friend with things like: Medications, grocery shopping, doctor visits, laundry, household chores etc. The program focuses on caring for your own physical, emotional and financial needs to help you become a better caregiver. I've included a flyer below with more information on how to register.

Jennifer Clark

Community Health Educator

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