

SEPTEMBER '22 MEETING MINUTES

Merrill Enrichment Center Committee

Meeting was held on Sept. 15th, 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, *via phone*

Absent: Jennifer Clark (ADRC representative), Rose Akey

also in attendance: Chantel Kuczmariski, City's Communications Consultant

1. Opening

- a. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order. Director introduced Chantel.

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion by Blake second Anderson to approve July '22 minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Bebel second by Baker to approve July/August '22 vouchers. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

- a. Baker spoke on behalf of people who go on our lunch bus trips, stating what great experiences they have and are happy we offer these trips. She also gave a shout out to Stephanie Zoellner for the great job she does for us in organizing the trips and how compassionate she is with participants.
- b. Bertagnoli shared her praise to the staff, committee and all volunteers for the success of the quilt show.
- c. Bebel wanted to remind all to vote for the referendum for our school district. Discussion took place on the lack of public awareness for the April election.
- d. Anderson commented that activities such as the Enrichment Center's Quilt Show help to market Merrill. Another example of grass roots marketing was achieved when Kyle Gulke, a member of the Park and Rec Commission suggested that the Park and Rec Commission look into becoming an Ice Age City. Dan Wendorf proceeded to apply for the designation which was successful and resulted in enlightening many hikers of our close proximity to one of the most scenic portions of the IAT. A packet of information was compiled and a special event commemorating the designation is going to be held at the Sawmill Brewing Company.

4. Operations

- a. Director shared the success of our Festival of quilts. It was our best overall and profitable event to date and had roughly 600 attendees. We received almost 500 responses on our marketing survey. The results showed Facebook and word of mouth (mainly from quilt guilds) were how people knew about the event. At this time we are planning on every other year based on committee feedback and payroll hours.
- b. Workshops continue to be offered and are well attended. We have a few offerings left in October and will start again sometime in the first quarter of 2023. Anderson mentioned the Generations on Line Sip & Swipe café. The program offering was one of our largest. As with many offerings, its popularity came to an end. The MEC will try to recruit high school volunteers to assist older adults in learning how to navigate their phone and electronic devices. This would help to fulfill our intergenerational goals.
- c. Our annual Fall Craft & Market Event is October 1st. We are excited to have over 60 vendors and have expanded into the Steckling building. We will continue to work on growing this event each year. Director asked committee to seek out people who sell

- pumpkins, corn stalks, produce, and more for our event as we do not have any of these vendors.
- d. Director is happy to share that Steve's friends from the high school will be visiting the Center once a month for intergenerational activities. We will be in need of volunteers to work with these youth with disabilities.
 - e. Director requested of the committee to bring their ideas to the next meeting, regarding getting older adults to our facility, associated costs, fees, etc. We need to establish what this will look like and how we will manage it.
 - i. Bebel brought up the concern of our disabled adults not having an overhead program and how the MEC could assist with that. Director suggested having the adults come here to volunteer and possibly have some activities for them to participate in. Director stressed the importance of having qualified case managers on-site during any of our offerings as they are professionals who understand how best to work with this group. Anderson voiced her concern as well about the MEC staff not qualified to manage the group without assistance.

5. ADRC

- a. Healthy Living with Diabetes class is scheduled in Merrill beginning in October. This will be an in-person class held on: Wednesdays, 10/26-11/30 from 9:30-12:00.
Location: ADRC Office. Cost: Free

6. Discussion

- a. Changes in the City
 - i. Director shared the library director position is open again.
 - ii. Bebel shared how great the Labor Day event was and provides an opportunity for marketing the city.
 - iii. Chantel discussed the new city logo should be decided upon in the next marketing committee meeting. She conducted a city feedback survey during Community Night Out and found that most did not understand "More to Life" slogan. She also informed us that the city may be considering a part time person for social media.
 - iv. Bebel brought up the displacement of the adults with disabilities now that Lincoln Industries is no longer and the whole program will dissolve. The MEC will try to accommodate this group with targeted activities. Blake mentioned that Kindhearted is also working with this group as well. However, they are not involved in working in the community as they had been in the past.

7. Adjournment

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

The next meeting date is **October 20th 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