



CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE

AGENDA • THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

6:00 PM

- To attend remotely call
- I. Call to Order
- II. Consider placing the minutes from the previous meeting on file:
 - August 3, 2023 minutes
- III. Agenda Items for Consideration:
 - 1. Fair Update
 - 2. Rodeo Update
 - 3. Permanent Vendor Update
 - 4. Calender of Events
 - 5. Discussion on promoting the Festival Grounds
 - 6. Discussion on Capital improvements for the Festival Grounds to forward to the budget
- IV. Monthly Reports:
 - 1. Monthly Report - Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund
 - 2. Consider placing monthly reports on file
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday, October 5 at 6:00 PM
- VII. Adjournment

**CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, August 3, 2023 MINUTES**

Regular Meeting City Hall Council Chambers 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Steve Hass, Alderperson Steve Sabatke, Alderperson Mike Rick, Bryan Bloch, Brad Becker and Becky Meyer. Alderperson Michael Caylor was excused.

Others Present: City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Attorney Hayden, City Engineer Akey, Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund and Merrill Community Productions video operator.

- I. **Call to Order** - Chair Hass called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Minutes from previous meeting** – Alderperson Rick made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 6th meeting. Bryan Bloch seconded and the motion carried.
- III. **Agenda Items for Consideration:**
 1. **Fair Update** – Fair Association Rep Becker gave an update. He stated all should be ready for the fair. The prices for soda increased a bit; the other prices remained the same. There will also be added security this year. Following discussion regarding the bathrooms and lighting, Mayor Hass asked to come up with a list of Capital improvements for the Festival Grounds to be provided at the September meeting. This list would then be forwarded to the budget meetings.
 2. **Rodeo Update** – Rodeo Association Rep Bloch gave an update. He stated the rodeo was a success and thanked the city and employees for their help.
 3. **Permanent Vendor Update** – Permanent Vendor Rep Meyer gave an update and stated the stands are anticipating another big year.
 4. **Calendar of Events** – This was handed out at the meeting. There were no questions.
 5. **Discussion on promoting the Festival Grounds** – Social Media Specialist Savall provided a list of possible events which was provided at the meeting. This item will be included on the September agenda for further discussion.
- IV. **Monthly Reports:**

Monthly Report – Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund – The report was provided at the meeting. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund highlighted some of the items on his report.

Alderperson Rick made a motion to place his report on file. Alderperson Sabatke seconded and the motion carried.
- V. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

- VI. Establish date and time of next meeting** – The next meeting will be Thursday, September 7th at 6:00 PM.
- VII. Adjournment** – Alderperson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Bryan Bloch seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk

Attachment: 2023-08-03 FGC Minutes (10327 : August 3, 2023 minutes)

Festival Grounds Committee Meeting
August 3, 2023

Hallie Savall
Social Media Specialist
City of Merrill

Here are some ideas that were mentioned at the July meeting along with a few ideas and thoughts I have about bringing in attractions to the Merrill Festival Grounds and the Bierman Building/Expo Center.

Food Truck Festival -
Motorcycle Rodeo -
Outdoor Flea Market -
Concert events indoor/grandstand/under a tent -
Regional Cornhole tournament
Regional Dart Tournament
Regional Pool Tournament
Snowmobile/atv/utv swap meet
Continued Quad Race events
Auctions indoor/outdoor
Community Pig Roast and concert
Sportsmans showcase Expo (hunting, fishing, camping) maybe Fall or Spring to be able to have boats/campers stationed outside.
City Fundraisers and events (Catered, Bartenders)
Block Party Weekend/Music festival, food trucks, open food buildings on midway, 2 days/evenings of music and fun with local bands.
Early summer car show
Stand alone tractor pull
Comedy show
Dueling pianos
Trunk or Treat - (Halloween event)

Some ideas are great with correct posting and marketing strategies.

I also think that if we start doing music and evening events within the expo center, we should think about having bartenders included/available with the event. (I do have a select few bartenders that would be open to do this.)

In my opinion, anything we would/could do for the fall ride should be something we plan thoroughly for 2024. I don't think there is enough time to spread the word to have a decent turnout.

Thoughts on creating a survey to see what events people in Merrill would like at the Festival Grounds.