

**CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, September 7, 2023 MINUTES**

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

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

Others Present: City Clerk Anderson-Malm, City Attorney Hayden, City Engineer Akey, Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund, Facilities Maintenance Manager Wszalek, David Buck and Merrill Community Media video operator.

- I. **Call to Order** - Chair Hass called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Minutes from previous meeting** – Alderperson Sabatke made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 3rd 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 the fair went well. The Fair Board is discussing possible changes and entertainment for 2024. He thanked the City for all the help that was received from employees. The dates for the fair are August 7 – August 11, 2024.
 2. **Rodeo Update** – Rodeo Association Rep Bloch gave an update.
 3. **Permanent Vendor Update** – Permanent Vendor Rep Meyer gave an update and stated everyone had a good year. She mentioned the Fair Board was very responsive with any requests. No final numbers were available yet. She also mentioned moving the fair to earlier in the month may help with getting volunteers.
 4. **Calendar of Events** – City Attorney Hayden gave an update.
 5. **Discussion on promoting the Festival Grounds** – The list was provided in the packet. Mayor Hass mentioned if there are any additional ideas/suggestions, they should be emailed to Hallie Savall or himself.
 6. **Discussion on Capital improvements for the Festival Grounds** – Facilities Maintenance Manager Wszalek discussed barn/roof improvements and suggested finding a way to complete a wing each year. He also mentioned additional capital improvements such as; fans for wings, additional lighting, electrical updates and adding showers to a bathroom.

The Committee discussed the capital improvements and decided electrical updates would be the number 1 improvement with fans being second. Mayor Hass and PWDCE Akey will meet and create a list of capital improvements to forward to the budget.

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.

Aldersperson Sabatke made a motion to place his report on file. Mayor Hass 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, October 5th at 6:00 PM.

VII. Adjournment – Bryan Bloch made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Sabatke seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm City Clerk