

Merrill Area Community Enrichment Center
Committee on Aging
February 20, 2014

Committee Members Present; Eugene Simon, Chairperson. Peggy Jackelen, Jack Ader, Diane Goestch, Chris Malm, Alderperson. ADRC - Erin Zastrow. Absent Art Lersch and Missy Holdorf.

Motion made by Jackelen to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Goestch. Motion carried.

Program updates:

One Stroke Painting Classes; Sharon Walsh is teaching three classes a week with 6-12 participants per-session. Very well received in the community with several new people each week.

Shuttle Van Outings; the van should be delivered sometime mid-March. Participants have been asked to share their ideas with Deau. A schedule will be created with outings to surrounding communities. The first one is scheduled for April 11th.

AARP Tax Assistance; Volunteers from the Wausau area are scheduled in February, March and April. All scheduling for appointments are done through Marathon County 211 with 50-60 people coming through on each scheduled day. They are searching for people from the Merrill area to take the training and assist with the tax preparation.

Computer Classes; Computer classes continue through the center with the help of NTC. This past month Excel classes have been offered as well. Deau shared with the committee that these classes are open to the public and anyone can attend. There is no cost for the computer classes, but there is a cost with the Excel if under the age of 60.

Breakfast Club; we have changed our monthly gathering to "Meet and Greet" with our first special guest being our City Administrator Dave Johnson. This will give people from the community the opportunity to visit the center and meet with Dave.

2014 Directory have been published and can be found throughout Merrill. Ads are sold through the Merrill Courier with no cost to the center. A total of 3,000 directories will be distributed throughout the year. Thank you letters will be sent to all sponsors to show our appreciation for their continued support.

New signage for the center; Deau has met with Custom Murals several times in the past three months to create a new sign for the center. The last sign made was in 2000 and with the new name it was felt that a new sign needs to be created. The sign will be completed mid and displayed in the front of Merrill City Hall by mid-April.

Several volunteers are working closely with Deau and Kathy Olson editing the "Ageless Wisdom" publication. Deau has met with Color Vision with hopes for the publication to be completed by mid-April.

Kitchen updates have begun. Deau has met Scott Voigt from Hargrave Appliances and the new appliances have been purchased. They should arrive sometime the first of March. All funding for this project is from the Bierman Family Foundation.

"Community Table" meal program is scheduled to begin on March 20th serving a meal at 12:00 noon. Reservations will begin on March 10th - 17th. A training will be provided for all volunteers prior to the first meal.

Strategic Planning meetings updates were shared with the committee. The meetings are all open to the public; members are encouraged to attend if possible.

ADRC Report; Erin shared with the committee that changes will be seen starting April 1st in regards to the number of people that will be eligible for services. There will no longer be a waiting list, but a 2 month process for screening and Medicare assistance.

Motion made by Ader, seconded by Malm to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Motion made by Malm, seconded by Goetsch to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Jane A. Deau, Director of MACEC.