

MEETING MINUTES
MACEC Committee on Aging
Wednesday March 18th, 2015
8:00 a.m.
Lower level of Merrill City Hall

Members Present: Eugene Simon (Chairperson), S. Peggy Jackelen, Diane Goetsch, Chris Malm (Alderpersion)

Minutes

1. Opening

- a. Meeting called to order by Simon

2. Consent Items

- a. Motion made by Goetsch, second by Malm to approve minutes from previous meeting as presented. Motion carried.
- b. Motion made by Malm to approve vouchers, second by Jackelen. Motion carried.

3. Newsletter Q&A

- a. A new section of our newsletter is a Q&A from Committee members. Malm wrote the Q&A for our April newsletter discussing our minimal \$2 fee
- b. Mary Ball stopped down on Thursday, March 12th, for lunch and discussion with people attending the meal. She shared the following information via email;

I wanted to share with you some of what Thursday's participants shared with me:

- i. Parking - By far, this was the most prominent concern by people. Which makes sense, but which I was surprised by. Some stated they have to park over a block away. For people with limited physical abilities, that really poses a challenge - especially in the winter. There is very limited handicapped parking as well.
- ii. Main Floor Access - This was probably the next biggest concern for people who use the facility. They would rather not have to use the elevator or the stairs. Concerns were also that if there were a fire or other emergency, the elevators may not work. How would people get up the stairs?
- iii. Food/Goodwill Offering - Most were comfortable with the goodwill offering and they know that there would be nowhere else, really, to get the meal they get for the price/goodwill offering suggested. A few stated that they come have the meal mostly because they don't want to eat alone :(I think this would really be an area that we could propose concrete changes if we have to like some of the ideas we briefly discussed Thursday....
- iv. Two or three people asked me about the 'rumor' that SFX wouldn't be having the soup kitchen anymore and that it was moving to St. John's

or St. Stephen's. I wasn't aware of this, but maybe you can shed some light on that at the next meeting??

- v. Several people mentioned they really liked you and Lori :) which is a real positive for you both and the program as a whole - which I agree.

4. Program updates

- a. Director discussed upcoming bus trips starting in April
 - i. We received numerous suggestions for bus trips for summer and fall
 - ii. We will *always* have our own drivers for all bus trips
 - iii. We are *sponsoring* a bus trip for the Red Hat group in May, we **are not** 'renting' the bus out.
- b. Director discussed new craft classes with Lorri – bringing in many people
- c. Our wreaths for the cemetery project will begin soon. Placement will be the week before Memorial Day.
- d. Bingo parties are a hit! Our last party had almost 50 people! We may offer bingo a few times a month. Using bingo as a fundraiser for our future Center was also mentioned. Director will contact Judy Woller for more information.
- e. Based on previous meetings and discussions, the Community Meal will be offered three times a month –four times when there are five Thursdays in a month – unless other special activities are planned. April will have three meals.
- f. Our Grief support (Life after Loss) will begin once a month starting first week April and continue through June. A 6-week program will be offered in the fall.

5. Capital Project Plan for New Center

- a. Director handed out and discussed the Project Overview Summary that was given to department heads at the meeting. Director needs to know if Committee is in support of this new plan.
Safety reasons are at the top of the list. Director informed the Committee of the fire alarm that happened here on Wednesday the 11th. There is significant risk being in the basement. First, we are not aware 'where' the fire is. This impacts our exit strategy. Second, we have many people down here with walkers, canes, or who simply shuffle or walk slowly. How do we get them out in a timely manner? In this recent alarm, Lorri ended up taking a lady out of the west end stairway – which happened to be where the alarm went off. The reason she did this was it seemed to be the least amount of steps for this person who has MS. We need some type of a system to let us know where the fire is and which way to exit.
- b. We need to begin to explore Grant and fundraising possibilities
- c. We will explore new vs existing buildings – old Lincoln House property and the Armory were discussed.
- d. We will need to determine estimated capital needs from city
- e. MACEC's strategic positioning - relative to new Center
 - i. Director has started gathering relevant data
- f. Generations Center correspondence – a fall conference is possible. Director would invite Committee members as well as City officials. This is the new Center in Plymouth Wi that opened 3 years ago.

6. ADRC Representative update – not in attendance

7. Correspondence

- a. S. Peggy stated she felt the new Center is a need for this community.

8. Public Comment – none

9. Adjournment

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

The next Committee meeting will be held on April 15th at 8am.

Vouchers will be available for review 15 minutes prior to meeting time.

Respectfully submitted,

TMrachek

Tammie Mrachek

MACEC Director

Merrill City Hall is handicapped accessible. Take the elevator to the basement level.