



CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES • THURSDAY JULY 13, 2017

Regular Meeting

Bierman Building

6:00 PM

I. Call to Order

Alderman Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Tim Meehean	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Excused	
Bill Bialecki	Mayor	Present	
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Excused	
Neal Christensen	Food Vendor Rep.	Present	
Dale Christiansen	Fair Assn. Rep.	Present	6:03 PM
Bryan Bloch	Rodeo Assn. Rep.	Present	

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund, Alderwoman Kandy Peterson, Dick Stoeckmann, Dave Buck, Diane Wais and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from the Cable Access Channel was in attendance to videotape the meeting.

II. Minutes of previous meeting(s):

1. Minutes of June 1, 2017 meeting

Motion (Bloch/Christensen) to approve.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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III. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Sales of alcoholic beverages in the Expo Center (City Attorney Hayden)

City Attorney Hayden reported that a user group is interested in an agreement with the City to sell alcoholic beverages in the Expo Center. City Attorney Hayden is not aware of any licensing or insurance issues. This user group will be preparing a proposal and submitting it for consideration at a future Festival Grounds Committee meeting.

2. Cattle barn electrical issues update (Mayor Bialecki)

Mayor Bialecki reported that several electrical issues have been resolved, although there is more work to be done. An \$800 memorial donation has been received, and is to be used to help pay for cattle barn wiring expenses. If there are excess funds remaining after the cattle barn electrical work is completed, they will be used to help fund lighting for poles on the grounds.

3. Rodeo debriefing report (Bryan Bloch)

Bryan Bloch reported that the rodeo went well. Attendance was exceptional on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, the start time was delayed by 30 minutes due to the weather. The attendance was somewhat disappointing on Sunday, but that can also be attributed to the weather.

There was some garbage-related issues at the rodeo, but they will be addressed and rectified before the 2018 rodeo. The rodeo group is already working on and looking forward to that event.

Discussion was held on the contractual procedures between the City and the permanent vendors, as they relate to certain events. Mayor Bialecki requested that the minutes include a notation that the entity that rents the grounds for an event determines which permanent stands can/cannot be open for that particular event. The City does not make that determination.

4. Tractor Pull activities update (Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund)

Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund reported that the tractor pull event was a success. He added that the Nicklaus family and their representatives did a stellar job on this event. The official name of the group that hosted this event is Merrill Tractor Pull, Inc. They have set a goal to ultimately make this a two-day event.

5. Fair activities update (Dale Christiansen)

Dale Christiansen distributed Fair booklets. The 2017 grandstand show lineup was reviewed.

This is Dale Christiansen's last meeting as a committee member. At this time, his replacement is yet to be determined.

6. Monthly report (Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund)

Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund reported that the Festival Grounds Committee is ready to help with the fair whenever and wherever help is needed. He expressed thanks for "economic angels" that help make events possible.

At this time, 8 or 9 people have expressed interest in renting the Expo Center. Two weddings have already been booked.

A "MASH" blood drive on the grounds is upcoming. No rental fee will be charged for this event.

Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund thanked the rodeo association for generously allowing the use of their equipment by other groups. Bryan Bloch then thanked the fair group for their cooperation.

IV. Public Comment Period

Bryan Bloch noted that the rodeo association owns several sign stands that can be used "for the asking" at various events on the grounds.

The Merrill Lions will be in charge of the annual Labor Day festivities on the grounds.

Mayor Bialecki thanked Neil Christensen and the Eagles for their efforts at various events.

V. Establish date, time & location of next meeting

Thursday, August 3rd, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. in the Bierman Building.

VI. Adjournment

Motion (Bialecki/Christiansen) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:48 P.M.