

City of Merrill
Festival Grounds Committee
Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.
Bierman Building

I. Alderman Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Committee members Present: Mayor Bill Bialecki, Rob Norton,(Chairperson), Alderman Paul Russell, Alderman Tim Meehean, Neal Christensen, Bryan Bloch, Brad Becker (Arrived 6:15)

Other attendees included, City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund, Alderwoman Kandy Peterson, Diane Wais, Pete Annis, Cindy Christenson, Jim Krueger, Henry Grefe, MP3.

Excused: City Clerk Heideman

II. Minutes of pervious meeting:

1. Minutes of the August 3, 2017 meeting.
Motion (Bialecki/Meehean) to approve.

III. Agenda Items for consideration:

1. Non-profit/charitable Policy
City Administrator outlined various uses of the buildings and grounds. A lengthy discussion was held on a proposed policy. More information will be gathered and brought back to the committee next month.

No action was necessary, requested or taken at this time.
2. Request to use Expo Center for District II Meeting – Assoc. of Fairs
Representing the Fair Association, Brad Becker, reported that the Fair Association will be hosting the District II meeting on October 5th, with up to 17 Counties participating, and would like to showcase the Bierman Expo Hall for this day long meeting. Mr. Becker is asking that the fee for the building be waived and that this is a great opportunity to share ideas on how to make our fair better. After a discussion, motion (Meehean/Bialecki) to reduce the fee to \$100.00, for one time only.
Carried
3. Alcohol Licensing Report
City Attorney Hayden reported that the entity, who had showed an interest in handling sales of alcohol in the Expo Center, has changed

their mind. He indicated that this should probably be sent out for proposals.

No action was necessary, requested or taken at this time.

4. Food Vendor Report.

Neil Christiansen reported that five of the seven vendors met recently and most were generally pleased with the year. The VFW and Eagles stands were disappointed with the limited hours they were allowed for music and are hoping that this will be better next year.

No action was necessary, requested or taken at this time.

5. Fair Report

Brad Becker reported totals are not finalized yet as they are still receiving bills. They are in the process of looking at various carnivals and no dates have been set yet for 2018, hopefully in the next couple of weeks. On request would be additional water hookups/T's west of the grandstand so they would not need to run hoses. Dave Johnson will look into this with the City Engineer.

No action was necessary, requested or taken at this time.

Mayor Bill Bialecki was excused at 6:55 p.m.

6. Monthly Report from Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

Rick Bjorklund distributed several packets of pictures with the layout of the VFW event, Fair and the Labor Day event. He indicated that most events now until year end will be in the Bierman Center

No action was necessary, requested or taken at this time.

IV. Public Comment Period

Brian Bloch from the Rodeo indicated they had the opportunity to sponsor a "chute" for the Minnesota Fair over the Labor Day holiday.

Brad Becker, indicated 6 fans were purchased and are currently in the cattle barn.

Jim Krueger, Badger Motel, regarding non-profit rates queried: "Is the demand for non-profit rates going to affect our profitability?"

V. Establish date, time and location of next meeting.

Thursday, October 5th , 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bierman Building.

VI. Adjournment

Motion (Russell/Meehean) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Thomas N. Hayden
Recording Secretary