



**CITY OF MERRILL**  
**FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES • THURSDAY APRIL 5, 2018**

**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	Present	
Bill Bialecki	Mayor	Present	
Paul Russell	Aldersperson - First District	Present	
Neal Christensen	Food Vendor Rep.	Present	
Bryan Bloch	Rodeo Assn. Rep.	Present	
Brad Becker	Fair Assn. Rep.	Present	

Other attendees included: City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund, Alderwoman Kandy Peterson, Diane Wais, Steve Hass, Darrell Barker, Carrie Cordova, Becky Meyer, Alicia Weix, Jan Tesch, Michael Caylor Jr., Bill Smith, Cindi Christiansen and City Clerk Bill Heideman

**II. Minutes of previous meeting(s):**

**1. Minutes of March 1, 2018 meeting**

Food Vendor Rep. Christensen noted that meetings held at the Bierman Building are frequently not videotaped. This is because Merrill Productions does not always send someone to tape the meeting.

Motion (Meehean/Russell) to approve the minutes.

**III. Agenda itmes for consideration:**

**1. VFW Post 1638 Auxiliary 75th Annivesary request**

VFW Post 1638 Auxiliary will be having a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Festival Grounds on August 11<sup>th</sup>. They are verbally requesting that the fee for this event be waived.

Alderman Meehean responded that, at a previous meeting, the Festival Grounds Committee took action to stipulate that no fees would be waived.

Alderman Russell suggested that it might be possible to obtain funding for this event via sponsor(s).

No action was taken.

**2. Continue discussion and reporting of alcohol licensing**

City Attorney Hayden reported that liability issues related to this are currently being examined. To date, no concrete proposal has been received.

This agenda item will continue to appear on future agendas.

### 3. Fair update

Discussions to establish dates for the 2019 fair are ongoing with Spectrum Carnival.

### 4. 2019 & 2020 Fair dates

If all goes well with the carnival in 2018, the dates for the 2019 fair will be July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Tentative dates for the 2020 fair are July 15<sup>th</sup> to July 19<sup>th</sup>.

### 5. Calendar of Events

The events calendar was in the meeting packet. Diane Wais provided additional verbal information.

## IV. Monthly Reports:

### 1. Food Vendor Rep. Christensen

Food Vendor Rep. Christensen reported that the "Permanent Vendor Group" had met recently. He then distributed a sheet providing information on the permanent vendors.

The permanent vendors that will be open for the 2018 rodeo are all planning for that event.

Alderman Russell requested that missing phone numbers be added to the permanent vendor information sheet.

### 2. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

The report was in the meeting packet.

Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund reported that he is holding discussion with people from Milwaukee regarding the possibility of holding a wrestling event at the grounds. He is also having discussions on other potential events.

It was noted that the lighting on the grounds has been dramatically improved.

The City has already achieved many of the recommendations included in a 2015 study of the grounds.

Work continues on a digital sign that will be installed on the freeway. It will help promote events on the grounds as well as other community events.

Fair Association Rep. Becker addressed some the fair-related issues included in the monthly report.

## V. Public Comment Period

Alderman Norton thanked Mayor Bialecki for his service and his knowledge of the Festival Grounds.

Carrie Cordova had questions regarding the possibility of the Optimist Club putting a shed behind their building. She was told to contact Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel to discuss this.

Carrie Cordova also reported that the Optimist Club was planning a paper "Shred Day". She was encouraged to try to have this event coincide with "Recycle Day".

Cindi Christiansen, a member of the Fair Association, thanked the committee for their efforts, but stated that she has concerns with trust and honesty. She added that she did not appreciate having her integrity being questioned. Alderman Russell responded to those comments by suggesting that a future agenda include an item to discuss the relationship between the Fair Association and the Festival Grounds Committee.

Mayor Bialecki thanked everyone for the service on the committee. He provided a verbal history of upgrades to the grounds since the City assumed ownership.

Alderman Meehean stated that the City has done outstanding work in upgrading the grounds since assuming ownership.

#### VI. Establish date, time and location of next meeting

Motion (Christensen/Russell) to hold the May meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers. Motion failed.

Motion (Bloch/Bialecki) to hold the May meeting at the Bierman Building. Carried.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Bierman Building.

#### VII. Adjournment

Motion (Bialecki/Bloch) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:55 P.M.