



**CITY OF MERRILL**  
**FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES • THURSDAY JULY 12, 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
Michael Caylor	Food Vendor Rep.	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Tim Meehean	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Present	
John M. Van Lieshout	Aldersperson - Fifth District	Present	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Present	6:10 PM
Bryan Bloch	Rodeo Assn. Rep.	Present	
Brad Becker	Fair Assn. Rep.	Present	

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund, Alderman Paul Russell, Diane Wais, Kandy Peterson, Dave Buck, Darryl Barker, Bill Bialecki, George Henrich Jr., Bill Sorensen, Neil Christensen (arr. 6:07) and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A student was in attendance to tape the meeting for Merrill Productions.

II. Minutes of previous meeting(s):

1. Minutes of June 7, 2018 meeting

Motion (Meehean/Bloch) to approve, as amended, by adding language stating that information posted on Facebook was erroneous, and that the Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) had in fact payed the entire fee for Bierman Building rental for the prom.

**RESULT: APPROVED AS AMENDED**

III. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Rodeo debriefing report

Rodeo Association Rep. Bloch reported that everything went well at the rodeo. Proceeds were distributed as follows: \$5,000 has been given to the Never Forgotten Flight, and \$3,000 has been given to the Marshfield Clinic. Approximately \$5,650 will be given back to the community, to 12 different agencies (not including the Eagles Club).

The Rodeo Association would like to see electricity and permanent lighting installed in the ticket booths before the 2019 rodeo.

2. Tractor Pull debriefing report

Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund reported that 103 tractors participated in the pulls. Everything seemed to go smoothly. The estimated total attendance for the day was 2,500. In the future, attempts will be made to increase marketing of the event.

3. Fair update

Fair Association Rep. Becker reported that, to date, planning and preparation are running smoothly. Final planning for the grandstand shows is underway. Additional sponsors are being sought.

The fair this year will feature a different carnival (Spectrum Carnival).

#### 4. Calendar of Events/Feedback

The calendar of upcoming events was in the meeting packet.

Diane Wais reported that the group that hosted a gaming event at the Bierman Building will be returning in 2019. For now, they will not be doing any camping as part of their gaming events at the Festival Grounds.

The Good News recycling event is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup>. All weddings held at the Bierman Building to date have had positive responses.

Rodeo Association Rep. Bloch asked how people can get tables and chairs for various events. Although the City cannot “advertise”, it was suggested that Facebook could be an avenue to provide options, as well as to provide information on caterers, “beer” buses, etc.

#### 5. Recycling

Food Vendor Rep. Caylor had requested that this item be included on the agenda. The seven permanent stands would like to recycle as much as possible, and have the City recycling department pick up the recyclables. The frequent of pickup suggested was once during the fair and again on the Monday after the fair. The pickup would be for recyclables used by the stands only, and would not include any recyclables generated by fair patrons.

City Administrator Johnson agreed to try this arrangement at the fair this year, and then evaluate it after the fair.

#### 6. 2019 Capital Improvements/Budget Items

Information on the Festival Grounds 10 Year Capital Plan was in the meeting packet. City Administrator Johnson stated that he wants the committee to begin considering items they want included in the 2019 Festival Grounds Capital Budget. He stated that he would be seeking \$120,000 for the northwest restrooms.

Lighting on the grounds was discussed.

Discussion and consideration of capital budget items will continue at the August meeting. No action was necessary, requested or taken at this time.

### IV. Monthly Reports:

#### 1. Food Vendor Rep. Caylor

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Food Vendor Rep. Caylor reported that the “permanent” stands group would meet once more before the fair.

Rodeo Association Rep. Bloch questioned some of the language in #4 of the monthly report, related to the possibility the permanent stands having a “mobile” location under the grandstand during events held in the grandstand. He stated that there is waiting list of vendors who would like to sell at the rodeo. He also reminded everyone that, for the rodeo, all menus must be approved by the Rodeo Association.

## 2. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

The ground composition in the rodeo area was discussed.

Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund reported that two wrestling promoters are considering booking a wrestling show at the Bierman Building. Gross capacity would be about 500, and it is anticipated that tickets would sell for \$20. The promoters are somewhat hesitant to proceed due to the element of risk. To minimize the risk, Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund and his family are willing to donate \$1,000 to the promoters. He made clear that he is not “investing” or “buying” a piece of the show, but instead this donation would help to convince the promoter(s) to book a show.

## V. Public Comment Period

Bill Bialecki remarked that when he attended wrestling events at the fair 55 years ago, the cost of admission for wrestling was 25 cents.

Darryl Barker commented that, at Festival Grounds meetings, it is difficult to hear the speakers during meetings (no microphones).

Neil Christensen asked about the status of establishing a policy related to smoking on the grounds. He was told that this is a work in progress.

Neil Christensen inquired as to the status of the East Sixth Street project. City Administrator responded that the project would be starting soon.

Neil Christensen stated that he hopes for better communication to the public on items related to the Festival Grounds. City Administrator Johnson replied that several communication avenues, including social media, are currently being used to disseminate information to the public.

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

Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Bierman Building.

## VII. Adjournment

Motion (Meehean/Woellner) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:55 P.M.