

**City of Merrill  
Festival Grounds Committee  
Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.  
Bierman Building**

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

Committee members Present: Mayor Derek Woellner, Rob Norton, (Chairperson), Alderman John Van Lieshout, Alderman Tim Meehean, Bryan Bloch, Michael Caylor, Brad Becker

Other attendees included, City Administrator Dave Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund, Diane Wais, Bill Bialecki, George Henrich Jr., Dave Buck, and a MP3 representative.

Excused: City Clerk Heideman

II. Minutes of pervious meeting:

1. Minutes of the July 12, 2018 meeting.  
Motion (Meehean/Van Lieshout) to approve.

III. Agenda Items for consideration:

1. Fair Update  
Fair Association Rep. Becker reported that a couple groups who were helpful in the past are no longer able to do it. Fair volunteers will be covering, with himself taking two weeks of vacation to set up and prepare for the fair. Everything is on track with the City, supplies have been ordered, fencing going up. One problem, again with misinformation given, regarding karaoke, beer stands requested background music (c/d's), not karaoke, which was approved by the Fair Association. Monster Truck show will be Sunday, with a truck on display at Brickner's on Saturday for the public to get an up close and personal look. All is going as planned.
2. Calendar of Events/Feedback  
Diane reported all feedback again has been positive. This weekend will be busy with four events going on basically at the same time; Relay for Life, Good News Project, a funeral luncheon and the Fair Association setting up for the fair.
3. Skate Park Placement  
Chairman Norton reported that the Festival Grounds has been removed from consideration for the Skate Park. He indicated that no

non-fair developments should be considered on this site. Bryan Block indicated that the Festival Grounds should NOT be considered for anything except to GROW what we have started. When the City started this project, it was made known that we are one of the smallest grounds in the state and have become smaller with the Humane Society taking a larger piece. Also, nothing regarding the skate park came to our meeting, but we had to read it in the paper that the grounds were being considered for their site. We were blindsided.

4. 2019 Capital Improvements/Budget Items  
Chairman Norton asked for any comments. Meehean indicated to leave as is. Caylor proposed to move the pavement replace up for safety reasons. Dave indicated they are looking into this and working on plans with Engineer Akey on how best to design paving on the grounds. Grant options are being explored, which as in the past, could alter and move-up some of the projects. Motion (Caylor/Meehean) to approve the budget as presented.

#### IV. Monthly Reports:

1. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Bjorklund indicated he is looking into some grants offered by the State Department of Tourism. Also if anyone has some time or is available the Fair Association would use some help in lifting and toting.

2. Food Vendor Rep. Caylor

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Food Vendor Rep. Caylor indicated they will be changing the night of the meetings to Wednesday. Hopefully this will bring more of the Food Vendors to their meetings. Caylor indicated that the St. John and St. Francis food stands will once again be using the green space between the stands for a tented seating area and the tent has been donated at no cost to the stands for this purpose. Optimist had a water leak. He was asked, how many stands planned on recycling during the fair and he was not sure.

#### V. Public Comment Period

There were no public Comments

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

Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bierman Building.

VII. Adjournment

Motion (Meehean/Van Lieshout) to adjourn. Carried.  
Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Thomas N. Hayden  
Recording Secretary