



CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES • THURSDAY JUNE 13, 2019

Regular Meeting

Bierman Building

6:00 PM

I. Call to Order

The meeting began at 6:00 P.M. Food Vendor Rep. Caylor questioned the legality of holding a meeting, based on the fact that a quorum of members was not present. Alderman Norton responded that, rather than a regular meeting, an “informational” meeting would be held.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Michael Caylor	Food Vendor Rep.	Present	
Rob Norton	Aldersperson - Seventh District	Present	
Tim Meehean	Aldersperson - Eighth District	Excused	
John M. Van Lieshout	Aldersperson - Fifth District	Excused	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	Absent	
Bryan Bloch	Rodeo Assn. Rep.	Excused	
Brad Becker	Fair Assn. Rep.	Present	

Also in attendance: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Festival Grounds Manager Richard Bjorklund (arr. 6:14), Ron Liberty, Krista Mitchell, Diane Wais, Bill Bialecki and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A representative from Merrill Productions was present to videotape the meeting.

II. Minutes of previous meeting(s);

1. Minutes of April 4, 2019 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

Because there was no quorum, no action was taken on the minutes.

III. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Discussion on remodeling of bathrooms/showers

City Administrator Johnson reported that there are privacy and liability issues related to the shower area on the grounds. This has led to consideration of either removing the showers or renovating them.

There is funding from the Bierman Foundation available for a removal or renovation project. One suggestion was to install a door and make the present shower space into a locked supply closet.

Consideration of this will continue at the next meeting. No action taken.

2. Fair dates - 2020 and 2021

Fair Association Rep. Becker reported that the fair dates for 2020 and 2021 are not yet established. A carnival has not yet been selected, so the dates will be dependent on carnival availability.

3. Rodeo Update

Rodeo Association Rep. Bloch was not in attendance, so there was no rodeo update report.

4. Fair Update

Fair Association Rep. Becker reported that current plans call for the Merrill Wrestling Club beer stand to be relocated to across the midway from the VFW and Eagles stands. Also, plans are to remove the fencing at all beer stands. Instead, wristbands (\$1 per day) will be sold to those wishing to purchase beer. The three beer stands will operate the same as they have in the past, but will operate under one Temporary Class "B" (picnic) license, rather than three.

Next year, a group will be planting flowers on the grounds.

5. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events was in the meeting packet.

Diane Wais reported on the calendar.

6. Report on repairs to cattle barn

This item was not on the meeting agenda.

City Administrator Johnson reported that, due to the heavy snow last winter, beams in the cattle barn broke. The problem was only discovered recently.

Repairs were able to be completed in one day (12 hours). At the same time, a rotted column was also repaired.

The estimated bill total is \$2,700. Insurance will cover this, but the City will be responsible for the deductible.

It was noted that not many of this type of cattle barn still exist in Wisconsin. Preserving the barn is a worthy goal, but that does take work.

IV. Monthly Reports:

1. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

The monthly report was in the meeting packet.

Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund reported on the upcoming wrestling event on June 15th. The cost to the promoter for this show is approximately \$6,000. The goal of the promoter is to "break even". Ticket sales are "soft" right now, although increased advertising has helped sales. Setup (Merrill Aqua Jays Swim Team) will be the day of the event.

2. Permanent Stands Rep. Caylor

Food Vendor Rep. Caylor noted that the minutes of the last two Permanent Stands Committee were in the meeting packet.

V. Public Comment Period

Representing the Merrill Lions, Ron Liberty reported that there was water-related issues at the Lions Club Stand.

Alderman Norton reported that people associated with the rodeo, including the entertainment, expressed their pleasure on the conditions of the grounds and facilities. He then thanked Diane Wais for her work, and praised all others for their efforts from the time the City assumed ownership of the grounds.

Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund shared comments related to City leadership and the upcoming recall elections.

VI. Establish date, time & location of next meeting

Thursday, July 11th, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. in the Bierman Building.

VII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 6:37 P.M.