



CITY OF MERRILL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES • THURSDAY OCTOBER 3, 2019

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	
Steve Sabatke	Alderman - Eighth District	Present	
John M. Van Lieshout	Aldersperson - Fifth District	Excused	
Derek Woellner	Mayor	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 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 August 1, 2019 meeting

The minutes were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Becker/Woellner) to approve.

RESULT: APPROVED

III. Agenda items for consideration:

1. Cattle barn exterior

City Administrator Johnson reported on two potential options to maintain/rehab the exterior of the cattle barn. One option would be to replace the wood, at an estimated cost of \$40,000. However, repainting the wood frequently would be necessary. The other option would be cover the wood with metal, at an estimated cost of \$67,000. This would eliminate the necessity of frequent repainting.

Alderman Sabatke stated that he would not favor the second option, as he is fearful that could lead to moisture which could damage the wood and thereby compromise the entire structure. He noted that the building seems to be in remarkably good shape considering the age of it.

Mayor Woellner agreed with Alderman Sabatke on the potential moisture problems that could occur as a result of the second option.

Rodeo Association Rep. Bloch suggested demolishing the barn and rebuilding one in the same style. The new barn could then be used for more shows/events.

No action was taken at this time.

2. Calendar of events

The calendar was in the meeting packet.

Alderman Norton reviewed the calendar.

Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund provided a verbal update on a wrestling show held recently and then shared information on another wrestling show scheduled for December.

IV. Monthly Reports:

1. Festival Grounds Manager Bjorklund

The report was in the meeting packet.

2. Food Vendor Rep. Caylor - No report, because Food Vendor Committee did not meet.

Food Vendor Rep. Caylor reported verbally that sales at the fair this year were stable. There were some price increases (first in five years), but the increases did not appear to have a major impact on sales.

V. Public Comment Period

None.

VI. Establish date, time & location of next meeting

The next meeting will be at the call of the chairperson.

VII. Public Comment Period (continued)

A second public comment period then occurred.

Alderman Sabatke inquired as to the possibility of relocating the fair office to the Bierman Building.

Alderman Sabatke then asked about the status of a pending ordinance that would amend the composition of the Festival Grounds Committee. He was told that the ordinance will be on a future Committee of the Whole meeting for consideration.

Several additional items that were not on the agenda were discussed during this portion of the meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion (Woellner/Caylor) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:37 P.M.