

**- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

April 3, 2013

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall.

Members Present: Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, Dan Novitch, Steve Hintze, Anne Caylor and Mike Willman.

Members Excused Absent: Brian Artac

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Kandy Peterson, Phynette Conrad, Judy Woller, Mayor Bill Bialecki, Tammy Gruling, Willie Bialecki, David Sukow, Matt Waldvogel, Jeff Matzla and Maddy Natzke.

\*\*\*Motion by Caylor, seconded by Willman, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Motion by Hintze, seconded by Caylor, to approve the claims.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was the review of River Bend Stewardship Application from the River District Development Foundation. Wendorf stated that Judy Woller has completed the grant application and wanted to get approval from the commission so that the application can be submitted by May 1, 2013. The commission had no questions on the application so Judy Woller will submit the application.

The next item on the agenda was the review of Merrill Memorial Forest Stewardship Application. Wendorf stated that this application will also be submitted by May 1, 2013. Willman questioned where the matching funds would come from. Wendorf stated they would come from the Salvage Timber Sale. Mayor Bill Bialecki stated that the Sports Club and Pheasants Forever would probably put some funds towards the project and would probably also be willing to donate some time and labor to get the project completed. Mayor Bill Bialecki stated that he would bring it up at the next meeting with the Sports Club and also with Pheasants Forever and would report back to the commission. No other discussion was held. Wendorf will submit the Merrill Memorial Forest Stewardship Application by May 1, 2013.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Kitchenette Park re-roof bids. Wendorf stated two bids came in for the project. J & J Lee Construction, Inc. bid \$15,440.00 and Finnegan Construction, Inc. bid \$13,181.00. Wendorf recommended accepting the bid from Finnegan Construction, Inc.

\*\*\*Motion by Willman, seconded by Hintze, to approve the bid from Finnegan Construction, Inc. for \$13,181.00

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion on Dog Park. Wendorf stated he has been working with the friends of the dog park and out of all the locations the MARC is the most suitable location for the dog park. Wendorf inserted a map of where he would like the dog park to be and also a quote from Security fencing on the cost of the fence. Wendorf stated that he has also been working with Dawn Bishop from Council Grounds and they like the idea of having a dog park so close to Council Grounds and would like to partner with the city on the project. Wendorf stated that in order for part of the dog fence to be put on Council Grounds land the Master Plan would need to be changed and that could take up to a year for the Master Plan to be changed. Wendorf stated that they could run the fence line right next to the property line and if the Master Plan for Council Grounds would be changed at that time we could expand the park. Mayor Bill Bialecki stated that he could get the funding for the fence through a private donation and the money that the city gave towards the dog park could be used to purchase “toys” for inside the fence. Sturm stated that in order for the dog park to go at the MARC the Master Plan for the MARC would also need to be changed. Wendorf stated that it is easier to change our plan than it is for Council Grounds to change their Master Plan. Wendorf stated that any park within the city limits is covered under recreational immunity. The dog park discussion will be put on next months agenda to formally make a motion to have the dog park location at the MARC along with preliminary design.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion on MARC Varsity Soccer field fencing. Wendorf stated that he did speak with Shannon Murray from the high school and Mr. Murray stated that he would have to look into more detail with what is charged at high school games and who would get the proceeds from the gate entry. Wendorf stated that he will continue working with the high school on this project. Mayor Bill Bialecki stated that having the fence erected around the soccer field would allow Merrill to host WIAA tournaments and other soccer events. Mayor Bill Bialecki stated that there are only two schools in the valley that do not have their fields enclosed, us and Marshfield. Willie Bialecki stated that he has been head coach for the high school girl’s soccer team for the past 3 years and it would be very beneficial for Merrill to enclose the field so that we can start hosting WIAA tournaments. Willie Bialecki stated that without a fence around the soccer field you can not even be considered to host a tournament. Hintze stated that he does not feel that the city should pay anything for the fence; the city would not be getting anything back in return. Hintze also stated that anytime improvements are done to sporting fields it is up to that organization to raise the funds to make the improvements. Hintze stated that any improvements that were done to the ball fields were done by the organizations and if the city starts paying for the improvements it will set a bad precedent and who do say no to and who or which projects do you approve. Mayor Bill Bialecki stated that the city needs to start working together on improvements done. Mayor Bill Bialecki stated that if he came up with the money would the city build the fence. Novitch stated that a donation has never been turned down. Caylor stated that she did not feel the city should be responsible for the fencing. After some discussion it was decided that the soccer association would need to pay for their own fencing.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that until the weather starts cooperating it is hard to try and get anything ready for the spring.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., in the lower level in the conference room at City Hall.

Public Comment: None

\*\*\*Motion by Caylor, seconded by Hintze, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary