

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

May 1, 2013

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall.

Members Present: Dan Novitch, Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, and Mike Willman.

Members Excused Absent: Brian Artac and Anne Caylor

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Kandy Peterson, Phynette Conrad, Tammy Gruling. Ninette Candler and Esther Johnson came into the meeting about half way through.

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

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Motion by Sturm, seconded by Harris, to approve the claims.

Willman questioned the water bill from the old DNR station. Wendorf stated that a leak was found in one of the bathrooms. Next year either the building will have to be completely winterized or the building will have to be more closely monitored through the winter months especially because other departments have keys and access to the building. Novitch questioned the bill from Custom Murals. Wendorf stated that the sign from Stange Park was vandalized last fall and the sign had to be redone. Sturm questioned the bill for curtains for the Ladies Lifestyle Expo. It was stated that the money used to pay for the curtains was raised through the rental for the booths for the Ladies Lifestyle Expo.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was the presentation on the history of Merrill Memorial Forest Management. Rich LaValley from the DNR did a presentation on the Merrill Memorial Forest. Rich also suggested that the Merrill Memorial Forest should be maintained with scheduled timber sales every 2 years and Rich said he would set up the next timber sale if approved by the Park and Recreation Commission. This item will be on the June Park and Recreation meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potential Summer Playground family rate. Wendorf stated that he has been approached by several families asking if a Summer Playground family rate would be considered. Wendorf stated that we have multiple families. City Administrator Dave Johnson stated that the kids would still be utilizing all the equipment and all the supplies so giving some families and not others may cause a problem. After some discussion it was requested to bring back numbers about how many families were multiple families. This agenda item will be put back on the agenda for the June meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to review/discuss dog park. Wendorf stated that he did change the size of the dog park from 3 acres down to 2.5 because of how the fencing will be placed. Wendorf did not want to cut into the trails out at the MARC or get to close to the ball fields. Sturm questioned if anyone checked into getting a road put in from Council Grounds road over to the dog park. Sturm thought this would be something maybe the DNR could help pay for since the dog park would also be benefitting the Council Grounds. It was requested that Wendorf talk

with Dawn Bishop from the Council Grounds regarding the road, and put this item on the agenda for the June meeting. Harris stated that he is not in favor of spending all the money on a dog park when there are so many other things in the city that need work. Harris questioned about the Master Plan to have it changed for the dog park. Wendorf stated that the Master Plan for the MARC does not need to be changed, that the Master Plan is basically a wish list for the MARC.

\*\*\*Motion by Sturm, seconded by Willman, to utilize the area at the MARC for the dog park and for Wendorf to put out bids for the fencing and bring the bids back to the June meeting.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss outdoor pool. Wendorf passed out some plans for the outdoor pool and some locations where it could be placed. Some of the locations that the pool could be placed would be Streeter Square, MARC and Stange's Park. Novitch questioned when the fund raising could begin on the pool. City Administrator stated that first a drawing has to be made up and approved before fund raising can begin, people need a visual. Johnson also stated that we need to get some big donors and than the smaller ones will come. After some discussion Wendorf stated that he would like the pool agenda item to be on the next couple agenda's until a location and drawing on the pool can be decided on. Wendorf stated that he would like fund raising to begin this year on the pool. Wendorf also stated that this may be a good item to have as an advisory question to the public.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that it has been a very unusual year for the parks but they are open and ready for usage. Wendorf stated that the first girls high school softball game was played at the MARC on Tuesday evening and the boys are at Athletic playing tonight.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2013 at 4:15 p.m., in the lower level in the conference room at City Hall.

Public Comment: Ninette Candler and Esther Johnson had some concerns regarding the Merrill Ice Reflections and would like to be put on the agenda for the June meeting. Ninette also stated that Merrill Ice Reflections use the Smith Center and pay a considerable amount for the ice bill and would like a locker room and also some storage space, which she would like to discuss in more detail at the June meeting. Ninette and Esther both have some concerns with the cost of the TV that was purchased at the Smith Center and would like some more detailed answers on that. Merrill Ice Reflections is also wondering since the hockey contract is up for the concession stand the Merrill Ice Reflections would be interested in being part of the concession stand. Ninette stated that they have over 100 families in Merrill Ice Reflections that could help run the concession stand. Wendorf informed both he would contact them before the next meeting as most of their concerns can be worked out without needing commission involvement.

\*\*\*Motion by Willman, seconded by Sturm, to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary