

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

November 6, 2013

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Anne Caylor, Melissa Schroeder

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dewy Pfister, Dave Johnson, Melody Hanlin, Tonia Speener and Kandy Peterson

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

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

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

Sturm had a question regarding the bills for the Barleyfest account. Sturm wanted to know if that event was Park and Recreation Department funded. Wendorf stated that all money was raised through sponsorship for the event; no money is used from the park department. Artac questioned the bill for Athletic Park. Wendorf stated it was for irrigation at Athletic Park. Novitch questioned about the new billing system. Novitch questioned if the commission felt the new format for the bills was easier to read. Novitch stated the only difference that he can see is that the new format uses 11 pieces of paper and the old format has everything condensed into 2 pieces of paper with the same information. Novitch requested that next month the bills are done in both formats for the commission to compare.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was a continued discussion on the outdoor pool. Wendorf stated since the last meeting the City was notified by Terry Cummings, DNR, that building the outdoor pool at Lions Park is completely out of the question because it is in the floodway. Wendorf stated for the pool to be built at the current location, which would be a flood fringe site, the City would need to provide flood protection to 2 feet above the RFE (flood protection elevation). Berms can be used. The berm itself would also need to be in the flood fringe. Wendorf stated that extra money would be involved in doing a flood study, rules and regulations. Wendorf stated that the commission may have to look at some different sites for the pool. Two sites that were voted out would have been Streeter Square and the MARC. Willman stated that the pool would be better at the MARC because there really is no room at Streeter Square, no parking and it is a residential area. Artac agreed with Willman and added that the MARC is Merrill's recreational center and the MARC is the only place where it should be. Dave Johnson stated that the MARC is not a central location and it is always windy out there. Sturm stated that transportation to get out there would be tough for kids to get there. Artac stated that there are a lot of events at the MARC and kids know how to get there.

\*\*\*Motion by Willman, seconded by Artac to have Wendorf put together some cost estimates to compare for the pool location at Stange Park and MARC for potential sites for the pool.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion on parking lot issue at the MARC. Wendorf stated that the estimate from the Street Department for putting in a new parking lot would be around \$36,000. Wendorf stated that there would be no TID or TIF money because the Council voted a lot of that money out. Harris stated that before any more discussion on the parking lot the new location of the pool should be decided first because if the pool is placed at the MARC there will be a new parking lot added.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss use of engineering services. Novitch gave Sturm the floor. Sturm stated that he is displeased with the amount of money being used for engineering services. Sturm stated he feels a lot of the work could be done without engineering services and he would like Wendorf to bring all requests for engineering services to the Park and Recreation Commission for approval. Johnson stated that from 2010 – 2013 the park department has used \$102,008 in engineering service out of that money 58.4% was paid by insurance, 12.6% in grants and 29% out of park. Willman stated that he would hate to have a project delayed because engineering services would have to be brought to the commission for approval. Sturm stated that no delays should take place because all Capital Improvements are done at the beginning of the year and Wendorf should know when a project is coming up.

\*\*\*Motion by Sturm, seconded by Harris, to have any engineering services brought before the Park and Recreation Commission or before the City Administrator for approval.

\*\*\*Motion defeated 3 -2, opposed – Novitch, Willman and Artac.

\*\*\*After the motion was defeated Novitch stated that from this meeting forward no mention of engineering services will be brought up unless it is on the agenda for discussion.

The next item on the agenda was a request for a plaque to be placed at Normal Park recognizing Lincoln County School. Wendorf stated that he was approached by several people requesting permission to erect a plaque at Normal Park to include the history of Normal Park and the school. Wendorf stated that the retired teachers association would pay for the plaque and the placement of the plaque.

\*\*\*Motion by Willman, seconded by Harris, to approve the plaque to be placed at Normal Park pending on the wording, location, size and installation of the plaque. All information will need to be brought before the commission for approval before the plaque is erected.

\*\*\*Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was a request to decorate the Gazebo at Normal Park for the holidays. Wendorf stated that he was approached by some citizens wanting to decorate the Gazebo for the holidays. All decorations would be donated from citizens and it would be a joint effort to decorate it. Wendorf stated that he did talk with electricians and the cost to have the lights up for a few holiday months would run about \$75.00. All commission members thought it was a good idea for the Gazebo to be decorated for the holidays.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions.

\*\*\*Motion by Artac, seconded by Willman, to approve the monthly report given by Wendorf.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2013 at 4:15 p.m., at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment: Kandy Peterson thought it was a great idea for the information plaque to be erected at Normal Park.

The next agenda item was to go into closed session:

Roll Call:

Novitch – yes

Harris – yes

Artac – yes

Willman – yes

Sturm – yes

\*\*\*Motion by Willman, seconded by Artac, to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary