

- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

February 5, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Anne Caylor

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Dewy Pfister, Charles Phelps, Don Heyel, Chris Marlow, Kandy Peterson, Pat Baily, Cory McCorkle, Nancy McCorkle, Melody Hamlin, Tonia Spener

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

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sturm, to approve the claims.

Wendorf questioned if the commission wanted the bills to come in Microsoft Excel or have the Merrill City Hall continuing to do the bills in their format. Harris stated that it is easier to read the bills when they are in Microsoft Excel. The commission would like the bills done in Microsoft Excel.

***Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was continued discussion of outdoor pool design and location. Wendorf explained that in the last month he has had several discussions with Becher/Hoppe and City Administrator Dave Johnson on pool location, size and cost. Wendorf introduced Melody Hamlin from Becher/Hoppe, Melody went over the choices, cost and location of pool. Three options were given to the Park and Recreation Commission. Concept A with a Bather Load/Occupants of 550 and water S.F. of 11,200: Stange Park - \$7,230,725, MARC - \$6,036,350 a difference of \$1,194,375. Concept B with a Bather Load/Occupants – 250 and water S.F. of 5,000: Stange Park - \$4,259,725, MARC - \$3,604,475 with a difference of \$655,250. Concept C with a Bather Load/Occupant of 300 and water S.F. of 6,000: Stange Park - \$5,076,550, MARC \$4,117,100 with a difference of \$959,450. Novitch questioned how much it would cost just to tear down the existing building at Stange Park. Melody stated around \$120,000 with demo and excavation. Schroeder stated that the people she has talked to they want it any place but the MARC. Schroeder stated that it would be too difficult for families to get out there during the daytime and some families can not afford the bus fair. Schroeder stated that the cost difference to her does not matter; she did not want to see the pool go to the MARC. Schroeder wants a central location. Harris recommended another Public Hearing. City Administrator Dave Johnson stated that he does not recommend the pool being built at the MARC. City Administrator Dave Johnson feels it is too windy at the MARC for the pool. Harris stated that he doesn't think it would be a problem to have the pool at the MARC. Harris stated that every day of the week people and kids are out there, some walk, some ride their bikes and some get there by their parents. Schroeder stated that the parents would not be able to get the kids out there during the day. City Administrator Dave Johnson stated that people are not going to like it out there because of the wind and they will get chilled. Sturm thought that the \$7 million pool was a bit too much for the

community. Sturm questioned if the city would be contributing anything toward the pool. City Administrator Dave Johnson stated that he would recommend to the City Council not to because of recent borrowing and decreased capacity.

****Motion by Harris, seconded by Schroeder, to hold a second public hearing in regards to where and what concept the public would be interested in. Also, to eliminate Concept A.**

****Carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to discuss usage of timber sale funds. Novitch stated that there is \$103,000 in the Timber sale account and the money should be put toward something that is needed in the park system. Sturm questioned why the money was not put into the general fund. Wendorf stated that a non-lapsing account was made for that money. Harris stated that maybe it could be used for the second entry/exit driveway at the MARC. Novitch suggested that some ideas would be: Normal Park bathrooms, bathrooms built by the other set of ball fields at the MARC, Prairie Trails bathroom, pool fund or the Park Endowment fund. Wendorf stated that another option would be putting it towards a new Zamboni. Novitch suggested to all Park and Recreation Commission members to put some thought into it and at the March meeting a decision could be made where to start investing the money.

The next item on the agenda was for permission to request proposals for concessions at Smith Center. Wendorf stated that he has been trying to work with hockey on contract items. Wendorf stated that he would like to see the Smith Center more user friendly. Competing with the Merrill Town Hall and Corning Town Hall is tough when for every event you have to cater all your food in and purchase all the drinks from Merrill Youth Hockey. Wendorf stated that this turns away a lot of business. Wendorf stated he was contacted by the hockey and informed of their willingness to be more flexible and would like to speak to the commission.

****Motion by Willman, seconded by Artac, to grant floor privileges to Merrill Youth Hockey.**

****Carried unanimously.**

Chris Marlow spoke on behalf of hockey. Marlow stated that the hockey numbers are growing which will allow them to work at more events. Marlow stated that there are about 70 families involved in the hockey program. Marlow stated that the concession stand is their life line, without it they would have no way of paying for their ice time. Marlow stated that they bring in tournament, games and practice 3 to 4 nights a week. Marlow stated that hockey was also good for the community; it brings business into the gas stations, restaurants and hotels. Marlow stated that Merrill Youth Hockey is willing to work with the city in coming up with a contract that would be acceptable to everyone involved. Marlow requested the Park and Recreation Commission to table this agenda item until April, in that time Merrill Youth Hockey will work with the city in getting an agreeable contract in place.

****Motion by Willman, seconded by Artac, to work with the hockey association on re-negotiation on the existing contract to address concerns with existing contract for potential action no later than the April meeting with an update at the March meeting.**

****Carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf asked if there were any questions. Stated that the outdoor rinks have been open since the end of December and have been

shut down more times due to cold weather than he can remember in years past. Wendorf stated that he is starting to work on summer events and looking forward to a good summer.

No motion was made to accept the monthly reports given by Dan Wendorf.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2014 at 4:15 p.m., at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment: Don Heyel stated that the pool in Fort Atkinson is not located in the center of town and people utilize the pool all the time. He stated that he would like some people to think about that. Heyel stated that the nearest home is a quarter mile away.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Artac, to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary