

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

May 7, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

Members Present: Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, Don Heyel, Melissa Schroeder, Dave Sukow and Mike Willman.

Members Excused Absent: Brian Artac

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Kortney Pike and Cory McCorkle

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

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Schroeder, to approve the claims.
Sturm questioned how Lamers charge for trips. Wendorf stated that they charge by millage.

***Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was public comment. Cory McCorkle President Merrill Youth Hockey stated that Merrill Youth Hockey would like to resolve the contract between the City of Merrill and Merrill Youth Hockey. Cory stated that both the City and MYH can benefit from getting the contract resolved. Cory stated that if he is not allowed in closed session he would like to sit down with the commission and talk about the contract. Willman stated that he thought it would be appropriate to allow Cory McCorkle in closed session. It was agreed by the commission to allow Cory McCorkle into closed session by roll call. Willman also stated that he wanted to update the commission on a grant that the River Bend Trail wrote. Willman wanted to clarify because last meeting it was stated the grant was going to be \$390,000. Willman stated that the grant was written was for \$120,000 and the River Bend Trail would meet half that amount to do the area from Polk Street to Hwy 64 next year.

The next item on the agenda was to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Park and Recreation Commission. Sukow nominated Mike Willman for Chairperson, Mike respectfully declined his nomination. Schroeder nominated Don Heyel for Chairperson. Harris seconded the nomination for Heyel as Chairperson. Don Heyel nominated Harris for Vice Chairperson. Harris accepted. Sturm seconded the nomination. Carried.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Harris, to nominate Don Heyel as Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Commission.

***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Heyel, seconded by Sturm, to nominate Dorwin Harris as Vice Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Commission.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was discussion and recommendation on location of future outdoor pool. Wendorf stated that a decision has to be made on location so that we are able to move forward with getting the new outdoor pool started. Wendorf stated that once a location is decided and approved a more specific drawing can be done and progress can be begin. Sturm questioned what the old bather load was in the old pool. Wendorf stated it was 250, with about 100 – 150 people attending regularly. New bather load would be 300, using the mid-range hybrid option.

***Motion made by Sukow, seconded by Schroeder, to build the new pool at Stange Park, per public input on the pool location.

Willman stated that there was people at the first public hearing wanting the pool out at the MARC. Willman stated he felt that would be a better location for the pool and more people at the MARC would utilize it. Willman also suggested the vote to be taken on roll call vote.

Sukow – Stange
Heyel – Stange
Schroeder – Stange
Harris – Stange
Willman – MARC
Sturm – Stange

***Motion carried for the new pool to be placed at Stange Park.

The next item on the agenda was discussion on Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Grant with Fred Heider from NCWRPC. Fred Heider stated that he has been working with Wendorf and a committee on the bike pedestrian planning grant in the Merrill Community. Heider went over some of the concerns from the group and some ideas on resolving the concerns of the group. Heider stated that he would like to put a group together to do a walk/bike audit and send them out to some concerned locations and then discuss how to resolve or reroute around some of these concerned locations. The groups will consist of about 4 people per group and will be sent out during the peak hours of driving and when schools are dismissed. Locations that will be looked at is Scott and 1st, Center Ave. and 6th St. and the Bridge by the 3 way stop on Hwy 64. Heider will work with Wendorf on a date and time. When the observation is done Heider will report back to the Commission.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss bike route designation. Wendorf stated that there is money that was awarded in 2011 by the City Council to complete some bike lanes with signage and road stripping. Wendorf stated after the money was given the City Council did not approve the bike routes. After some discussion it was decided to change some of the routes in the downtown area. The map that was provided was changed by the Commission eliminates the bike route portion from Mill St. to Cleveland St.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow, to approve the Bike Route with changes made that the bike route does not pass Skippers in the downtown area.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was discuss potential Optimist Playground at Normal Park. Wendorf stated that the Optimist Club is putting the funding together to build a all ADA accessible playground at Normal Park. Wendorf stated the playground would be a great asset for

the park and visible for the public. Schroeder wondered if this would cause a problem for the Farmers Market. Wendorf stated it would not.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow, to give the Optimist their blessing on the new playground and to keep the commission updated.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potential sale of “Ranger Station” property. City Administrator Dave Johnson stated he wanted this item on the agenda. Johnson stated that the city was approached by a business about selling the building. After looking into the deed the city can sell the building as long as there is not remodeling done on the front of the building. Johnson stated that it would be nice to put the building back on the tax roll. Wendorf stated that the only thing the building is used for is storage and the summer playground program and both can be relocated. Sukow questioned how the sale would take place. Johnson stated the sale can take place by a set price, public auction or sealed bids with the right to reject any bid, but the sale would have to be posted publically giving anyone option to bid. Schroeder questioned if it would effect the neighbors there. Johnson stated it would not.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow to make a public sale on the “Ranger Station” with an exceptional offer.

***Sukow, Harris, Heyel, Sturm, Schroeder, in favor of the sale, Willman voted no.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf stated that a considerable donation was made to Lion’s Park by the Bierman Foundation. Wendorf stated the donation would allow for elimination of almost all capitol requests for many years. Sukow questioned Wendorf on the Ash Trees in town. Wendorf stated all the bad trees have been removed and as the trees deteriorate they are being removed and no Ash trees are being planted. Harris questioned if progress has been made on the parking lot at the MARC by the soccer fields. Wendorf stated there has not been any progress made. Harris stated that the grounds around the building need some repair as it is wet by the soccer building and also something has to be done with the bench that people are using as a bridge to get to the soccer fields. Harris stated someone is going to fall and get hurt. Wendorf stated that it is not a walking path through there and when they take the bench away that is being used as a bridge someone puts it back.

***Motion by Willman, seconded by Heyel to accept the monthly reports given by Director Wendorf.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2014 at 4:15p.m., in the lower level in the conference room at City Hall.

Public Comment: None

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Willman to go into closed session allowing Corey McCorkle in closed session.

Willman – yes
Schroeder – yes
Sturm – yes

Harris – yes
Heyel – yes
Sukow - yes

***Motion by Schroeder, second by Heyel to move out of closed session.
***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Willman, second by Sukow to amend Hockey Contract language in section 4(1) to reflect closed session discussion.

***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Schroeder, second by Sukow to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

***Carried Unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary