

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

August 6, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Kandy Peterson, Mark Weix Jr., Melody Hamlin, Ryan Lamer, Keith Boyce, Josh Tayler, Roger Schamberger, Phil Valitchka, Jim Beam and Pastor Angie.

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was public comment. Pastor Angie from Christ Church requested that the Park and Recreation Commission reconsider the fee they charge for non profit organizations for the rental of Normal Park. Pastor Angie stated that the \$55.00 they used to rent the park would have been used to purchase food for the local food pantries and would provide a lot of food for the pantries. Pastor Angie stated that on August 23, 2014 all the churches are working together to "Fill the Gazebo" for a local food drive and would like the Park and Recreation Commission to reconsider the fee. Phil Valitchka from the River District Foundation spoke in regards to the River Bend Trail about a signage plan for the River Bend Trail. Phil Valitchka stated that signs along the road would be 18 X 18 and signage for the trails would be 9 X 9. Phil stated that he would leave a sample of what the signs would look like and would like to placed on the September Park and Recreation agenda to receive approval for the signs.

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve Smith Center HVAC bids. Wendorf stated that only one bid was received from Mechanical Incorporated in the amount of \$37,800.00. Wendorf stated that Mechanical Inc. has performed all maintenance on the building for the past 10 years.

***Motion by Willman, seconded by Sukow, to accept the bid from Mechanical Inc. in the amount of \$37,800.00 for Smith Center HVAC replacement.

Heyel stated that he would like to see more than one bid for items being put out for bid.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve the Stange Park roof bids. Wendorf stated that only one bid from Finnegan Construction Inc. came in for the amount of \$4,565.00. Wendorf stated that Finnegan Construction Inc. has done work for the city in the past.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Willman, to accept the bid from Finnegan Construction Inc. in the amount of \$4,565.00 for the Stange Park roof.

Heyel stated again that he would like to see more than one bid for the projects bid out. Wendorf stated that all projects put out to bid are advertised in both the Merrill Courier and the Merrill Foto News.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to request permission to seek quotes for Riverside Park Shelter sandblast and repaint (this was advertised for bids but none were received). Wendorf requested permission to seek out bids for this project. Harris stated that invites for bids should be sent to at least 3 or 4 local contractors. Wendorf would like to have this project approved at the September meeting. The Park and Recreation Commission gave Wendorf permission to seek out bids for the Riverside Park Shelter project.

The next item on the agenda was continued Outdoor Pool discussion – Flood Study Results. Wendorf stated Melody Hamlin and Ryan Lamer from Becher Hoppe were present to discuss the Flood Study Results. Melody stated that according to the results of the Flood Study there would be no possible way to build a new pool at the current site. Even if we use the existing footprint, code would require additional fixtures and ADA accommodations. Melody and Ryan explained how the study was completed and according to the FEMA regulations there would be no possible way to build there unless the pool was built exactly to the same size it currently is. Sturm stated that it would only be a quarter inch and there is a variance that could be used. Sturm stated that this is where the public wants it and this is where we should try and build it. Sukow stated because of the results from the flood study the Park and Recreation Commission should consider a different location. Sukow feels it is a waste of money to keep putting money into the site if there is no possible way to build the pool there. Sturm stated that a letter should be drafted and sent to FEMA requesting permission to build on the current site at Stange Park. After some discussion it was decided to have a letter drafted up and sent to FEMA in regards to the current site the pool is on and request permission to build there. A copy of the letter is to be sent to all Park and Recreation Commission members before it is sent to FEMA. A letter will also be sent to the DNR. A presentation was also given by Burbach Aquatics, Inc.

The next item on the agenda was to review Operational and Capital preliminary budgets. Wendorf stated that everyone has received a copy of the preliminary budget provided by Kathy Unertl. Wendorf stated that the operation budget is exactly the same as last year as there is no increase allowed. Capitol follows our list from previous years and now forecast out 10 years.

The next item on the agenda was to review request from Merrill Girls Softball to accept donation from Bierman Foundation for projects at MARC. Wendorf stated that Noel Bushar was present to talk about where and what the donation will be spent on. Noel stated that everyone should have received a copy of all the plans for the donation. Noel stated that two covered areas, 24 X 28 will be built with one going between fields one and two and another between fields three and four. Score boards and picnic tables will be purchased along with finishing the fencing around diamonds three and four. Diamonds three and four will also get new surface, the current concession stand will be expanded for more sitting area and there will also be a sidewalk that will go around the concession stand. Noel stated that all improvements would be completed sometime this year. Noel requested the money be placed in a non lapsing account with the city.

***Motion by Sturm, seconded by Sukow, to approve the donation from the Bierman Foundation and all improvements to be made by Merrill Girls Softball and to pass along to City Council to be approved.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the MARC Soccer parking lot. Wendorf stated that this item was requested by Dorwin Harris. Harris stated that he was a little confused on who gave Wendorf permission to make the parking lot smaller than what was discussed at the last meeting. Harris stated that the parking lot was supposed to be 250 X 150, big enough to park 80 cars in. The parking lot that was put in is only big enough to park 35 cars. Wendorf stated that at the meeting s smaller option was discussed in detail that would not interfere with existing soccer fields. Johnson stated that we should try this parking lot for a year and if it doesn't work we can add on. Harris stated that is not what the City Council nor the Park and Recreation Commission voted on and he feels the parking lot should be added onto now. Schroeder also stated that when she made the motion she was making the motion for the parking lot to be 250 X 150. Mayor Bialecki stated that this parking lot has been an issue for the last couple of years and from what he understood the parking lot was too built 250 X 150 that was the size that was approved by City Council.

***Motion by Harris, seconded by Schroeder, to finish the parking lot as proposed by City Council to original plan which is 250 X 150 East to West.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss Merrill Youth Hockey Contract interpretation. Wendorf stated that with the new language in the contract it was an oversight and he will be making an up a sheet stating what can and can not be done with rental and who is allowed to bring stuff in.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Athletic Park shelter project revisions. Wendorf state he was approached by Merrill Baseball to revise the sun shelter to be build at Athletic Park. Wendorf stated that they have been approved by the City Council last year but has decided to make the shelter a little smaller than what was approved. Artac stated that the City will see no expense for the sun shelter and the money has been raised through donations. Artac stated they will build on a deck with some picnic tables and sun shelter. Willman stated that the new plan will need to be sent back to City Plan for approval.

***Motion by Harris, seconded by Schroeder, to approve the new plan for the covered area at Athletic Park as proposed by Merrill Baseball.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf stated that reports from both June and July have been submitted in packets. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Sukow asked when the piece of playground would be replaced that was vandalized. Wendorf stated that it will be replaced when summer is over and things slow down a little bit. Sukow stated that it really is a shame about all the money spent on repairing vandalized equipment and trees. Harris questioned about the new playground that was set to go into Normal Park from the Optimist Club. Wendorf stated they are working very hard to raise the money for the playground. Schroeder questioned why bathrooms at Kitchenette Park were not locked at night. Wendorf stated bathrooms are locked every night just at different times.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Harris to accept the board reports given by Wendorf.

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2014 at 4:15 p.m., at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment:

Mayor Bialecki wanted to say that sometimes not enough credit is given to the Park and Recreation Department for all the hard work they do. Mayor Bialecki also stated that one location that should be looked at for the pool location is the Old Fox Point building. The City should purchase the land, tear the building down and place the new pool there. Mark Weix Jr. wanted to thank Wendorf for all the hard work the Park Department did on getting the diamonds ready for the tournaments held at the MARC. Artac stated the same thing.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow, to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary