

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 3, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

Members Present: Dave Sukow, Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, Brian Artac, Don Heyel

Members Excused Absent: Melissa Schroeder, Mike Willman

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Tonia Speener from Clark Dietz, Jeremy Ratliff from Merrill Courier/Foto News, Jon Gartman and Candy Peterson

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Ralph Sturm questioned if there was a motion made at the August meeting regarding the pool study. There was not.

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

No Public Comment

The next item on the agenda was the continued discussion on the pool. Wendorf stated that a donor is willing to donate \$4 million towards the pool. Wendorf stated that they would like a design of what the pool would look like and also a location. Wendorf stated that they need this decision by September 12, 2014. Sturm stated that he would still like to see the pool built at Stange Park and we should continue trying to work with FEMA on getting a variance so it can be built at Stange Park. Sturm also suggested cutting down the hill and still putting the new pool in the same location as the old one. Harris stated that the pool could be built where the current parking lot is and the pump houses could be built on the hill. City Administrator Dave Johnson stated that if it would flood all the flood water would go into the pool and in the long run causing more clean up of the pool, if it would flood. After some discussion a motion was made.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to approve building the new pool at the MARC.

***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Sukow to move forward on the preliminary design on the pool contingent upon potential funding approval from the donor.

***Carried Unanimously.

Heyel suggested that at the October meeting 3 – 5 pool designers should be invited to the Park and Recreation Commission to give a short presentation on a pool design.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Operational Budget. Wendorf stated there are no changes from last years budget.

***Motion by Sturm, seconded by Sukow to approve the Operation Budget for 2015.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Capital Budget for 2015. Wendorf stated that there are a few changes to the Capital Budget. Wendorf stated that \$15,000 would no longer be needed for the Varsity Softball Scoreboard due to a donation made from the Bierman Foundation. Wendorf stated that instead of the Scoreboard the Smith Center is due for a new floor scrubber. The one being used now has lost a wheel, the scrubber part does not stay attached and it does not work very good. Wendorf stated the cost would be around \$5,000. Heyel stated that he would like to see some bathrooms being built at some of our heavier used parks, like Normal and also some by the baseball diamonds at the MARC. Sukow stated it would be nice to see a building with bathrooms and also a small concession stand be built at Normal Park.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Sturm to approve the Capital Budget for 2015.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to revisit Park Rental policy for non-profit organizations. Heyel stated that he requested this agenda item. Heyel stated that he would like to see the non-profits maybe only pay half of what the rental fee is for the parks. Sturm stated that if we do that for non-profits we will have every organization coming to us asking to pay only half for a park rental. Sturm was not in favor of changing the pay rate for the parks for non-profits. After some discussion it was decided to keep the prices at the what they are for park rental.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Riverside Park bids for sandblast/repaint. Wendorf stated that he received one bid back from the 5 or 6 places he called to have them bid on the project. Wendorf stated the K51 Sales, LLC has done some work for the department in the past and has done a good job in a timely manner.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Sturm to approve the bid from K51 Sales, LLC for \$2,975.00 to sandblast and repaint the shelter at Riverside Park.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the Labor Day celebration went good. Fair grounds was busy, car show turned out great and it seemed everyone had a good time. Wendorf stated that the crew of 2 is busy mowing grass with all the rain we keep getting the grass keeps growing. Wendorf stated that the next couple of months will be very busy at the MARC with all the events coming up.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to approve the monthly report.

***Carried Unanimously

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2014 at 4:15 p.m.

Kandy Peterson stated that she is very grateful for the donation of money for the pool but does not like the idea of the pool being at the MARC. Kandy Peterson also stated that she does not think we need any slides or the rock climbing wall, she stated that just the pool would be good

enough. Kandy also stated that she would like to see some money set aside for the families who don't have money so they can get out to the pool.

***Motion by Sturm, seconded by Artac, to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary