

**City of Merrill
Committee of the Whole
(joint meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission)
Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.
City Hall Common Council Chambers
1004 East First Street**

Committee of the Whole members present (9 of 9): Mayor Bill Bialecki, Alderman Chris Malm (First District), Alderman Peter Lokemoen (Second District), Alderman Ryan Schwartzman (Third District), Alderwoman Kandy Peterson (Fourth District), Alderman John Burgener (Fifth District), Alderman Dave Sukow (Sixth District), Alderman Rob Norton (Seventh District) and Alderman Tim Meehean (Eighth District).

Parks and Recreation Commission members present: Don Heyel (Chairperson), Alderman Dave Sukow, Brian Artac, Mike Willman, Ralph Sturm and Dorwin Harris. Melissa Schroeder had an excused absence.

Call to order

Mayor Bialecki called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Public Comment

None.

Discuss anticipated costs and funding sources for new swimming pool project

Mayor Bialecki introduced Becher-Hoppe representatives Melody Hamlin and Maryjean Hoppe.

Becher Hoppe representatives advised that they were requested to move forward on pool design concept #3, and were assisted by STAN-TECH.

A pool of equivalent square footage would cost \$1.5 million constructed at the MARC, and \$1.725 million at Stange Park. Consideration in the pool design included site development costs, concrete required for the deck, foundation construction, protection of site utilities, and the utility building and bath house. There is a \$644,350 difference in materials between the MARC and Stange Park sites. A 15% contingency, flood plain requirements, and miscellaneous costs make the cost differential between the MARC and Stange Park of about \$959,000. It was explained that site development includes de-watering, scouring, electrical design, utility protection, low grade vaults when necessary, engineered fill, walks and ramp ways.

Costs difference is between a flood plain and a non-flood plain site. Representatives indicated that soil borings and related work need to be done at the MARC.

Mayor Bialecki commented that the cost difference between the two sites is substantial and pointed out that the new pool will be 15 feet deep in contrast to the existing pool, which is 10 feet deep. He also noted that up until two weeks ago, construction of a new pool was anticipated to be a five year process including fund raising. Mayor Bialecki cautioned against using capacity gained from the Charter Ordinance change, and using it on a swimming pool. He pointed out that the pool benefactor wanted the pool construction to start next year.

City Administrator Johnson advised that 3 contractors will be making design proposals at the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. It was pointed out that the pool will have amenities such as zero entrance, play structures, lap lanes, four foot deep water aerobics area, climbing wall, slides and will be not just a pool but an aquatic center. Alderman Meehean indicated that it would cost a substantial amount of additional money to build the pool at a site other than the MARC,

Jill Schmunk inquired about transportation to the pool for children. Mayor Bialecki indicated that bus service is planned for pool transportation. Alderman Schwartzman suggested selling special bus passes for pool transportation.

There was inquiry as to the annual number of visitors to MARC. Commissioner Sturm made comments and inquires relative to the engineering possibilities at both sites. Administrator Johnson pointed out that a MARC location would not require the same ADA ramps or retaining walls which would be required at the Stange site. Commission Sukow stated that since it would cost more to construct the pool at Stange Park the donor would not be well served. Alderman Meehean stated that it will cost substantially more to build the pool at Stange Park, and he felt it was an act of bad faith to the donor to consider another site.

Adjournment

Motion (Burgener/Norton) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 6:45 P .M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Thomas Hayden
City Attorney