

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

December 17, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Kevin Cohrs

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dean Mueller from Water Technology, Inc., Dave Johnson, Gene Bebel, Jay Cordova, Bruce Lee, John Lee, Dewy Pfister, Daniel Ayala from Water Technology, Inc., Tonia Speener from Clark Dietz

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Schroeder to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2014 meeting.

Sturm questioned Wendorf on the questions he asked last month and stated he still has not received an answer back on why Becher Hoppe is being paid so much and what the payment was for. Sturm also requested information that he asked Wendorf to get from FEMA. Sukow questioned Wendorf if he ever obtained the information from FEMA. Wendorf stated that he has not but tried contacting them twice by emails and phone calls. Wendorf stated he never received a reply back from either. Sturm asked why we are paying Becher Hoppe for false information.

***Carried unanimously.

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

Harris questioned the bills from Merrill Youth Hockey for beer. Wendorf explained that it was for Barleyfest and Merrill Youth Hockey has to purchase all the beer and they are reimbursed. Harris questioned how Barleyfest made money and Wendorf explained through ticket sales. Smith stated that she accidentally entered the Northwoods bill twice and it will remove one.

***Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The next item on the agenda was the discussion and recommendation from design team for Aquatic Center design. Wendorf stated that himself, Dave Johnson, Dorwin Harris, Kevin Cohrs, Mark Zulligar and Dave Sukow have been working with Water Technology Inc. on a design for the pool. Wendorf stated that they have the pool design completed and are working on the final designs for the building. Dean from Water Technology Inc. went through the design of the pool and answered any questions from the commission. Wendorf stated the team met on 3 occasions for 2 hours each time to finalize the design. The team feels very good about what the design has to offer to everyone.

***Motion from Schroeder, seconded by Sukow to approve the pool site plan with more input on bath house and chemical house.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion and recommendation to designate River Bend Trail as a Linear Park. Wendorf stated that the intent for the River Bend Trail has been to turn it into a Linear Park. City officials have been working with the River Bend Trail committee on the design of trail and the Park and Recreation Department has also been helping with tree planting and clean up of the trail. Bebel stated that they have a lot of volunteers but sometimes because of safety reasons they have to utilize the Park and Recreation employees because of more experience with equipment. Sturm asked about lighting the trail. Bebel stated that they would in the future put lighting on the trail. Sturm questioned who was paying the Park and Recreation employees for working on the River Bend Trail. Dave Johnson stated that they are receiving payments from the River Bend Trail through the Cell tower which will cover all the maintenance cost for the trail. Sukow questioned if the Park and Recreation Department is going to have to hire more employees to keep up with all the work that will have to be done in all the parks. Wendorf stated they will not have to hire a full time employee. Harris voiced his concern over this creating budget drains on the department.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Artac to make a recommendation to make the River Bend Trail a Linear Park and send motion to City Council for approval.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if there were any questions on his board report. Sukow questioned when they would start flooding rinks. Wendorf stated that as soon as the weather cooperates.

***Motion by Sturm, seconded by Sukow to approve monthly reports.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2015 at 4:15 p.m.

No public comment.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Sturm, to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary