

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

November 4, 2015

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hal.

Members Present: Mike Willman, Melissa Schroeder, Dave Sukow, Jean Ravn, Brian Artac and Ben Debroux

Members Excused Absent: Troy Pieper

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors:

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Ravn to approve the minutes from the October meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

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

Schroeder questioned if the half million dollars was a normal payment to Miron Construction for the pool. Wendorf stated it was.

***Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The first item on the agenda was a presentation on City Forest timber management from Rich LaValley (WDNR). Wendorf stated that Rich LaValley was unable to attend the meeting due to another meeting he had to attend. This item will be on the December agenda.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation from Merrill Youth Hockey related to Concessions agreement. Wendorf stated that Corey McCorkle was present to talk about the contract. Corey McCorkle stated that everything with the contract was working out very well. McCorkle stated that numbers for the hockey program were down a little. McCorkle also stated that he has been working with Wendorf in updates and improvements to the Smith Center including matting flooring for the multi purpose room and the main bathrooms. McCorkle also stated that summer events have been slow but hopefully things will start to pick up with the new contract in place. McCorkle also stated that Merrill Youth Hockey may start to require a down payment for weddings due to non-payments of wedding this past summer. McCorkle also stated that due to lack of events Merrill Youth Hockey has been doing some raffles which has been a big help financially for Merrill Youth Hockey Association. McCorkle will be getting an expense report to Wendorf to share with the Park and Recreation Commission. McCorkle asked if anyone had any questions and thanked the commission.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion/recommendations related to 2016 budget.(Operational and/or Capital). Wendorf stated that he attended the all day budget meeting in October and it was discussed that the flower watering truck, trailer and broom for the front of the lawn tractor could be purchased out of the money from timber sale revenue. Wendorf also stated that it was brought up that NTC may want to utilize the old outdoor pool at Stange Park for some training purposes. Schroeder asked if any revenue would be coming in from NTC

utilizing the pool. Wendorf stated that he did not know, the subject was simply brought up at the all day budget meeting. Wendorf also stated that they are not done or will not do anything to make the pool bathrooms ADA accessible. Willman stated that he recommends to the City Council that they continue to stay with original plans of demolishing the old pool and new Hutcuff bathrooms be erected at Stange Park. Wendorf also stated that another subject has surfaced since that meeting. Johnson said there was an alderperson wanting to put the park employees under the direction of the new Public Works Director along with the street department and utility. Wendorf stated that he felt this was not a good idea due to the different jobs performed by the park employees. Wendorf stated that the department is always willing to help out any department that needs help but it would be in the best interest to keep the employees separate. Johnson stated that the park employees will not be under the direction of the new Public Works Director, Wendorf will remain the director over the parks employee and he will report directly to Johnson.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Sukow to continue having park employees continue reporting to the Park and Recreation Director Dan Wendorf.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda is the discussion/recommendations of Aquatic Center Policies. After some discussion Willman suggested that Wendorf condense items on the list of recommendations and any other recommendations from Commission members be brought to the December meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss non-lasping revenues. Wendorf stated that the Finance Director Kathy Unertl wanted the Park and Recreation Commission to review accounts of reserved and non-lasping accounts. Wendorf stated that some accounts will be smaller once all the final bills are paid in 2015. Wendorf stated that balances on Athletic, Lions, Barleyfest and Smith Center will change after all bills are received. Wendorf stated that the balance on the Bike Route balance is incorrect and should be \$9,814.25. Sukow questioned why the bike trails have not been marked out yet. Wendorf stated that everything was approved through the Council and Board of Public Works but the Street Department has not started on any of the trails that were approved. There is a misunderstanding on procedures that is holding this back. Wendorf also stated that the balance in the timber sales is \$83,622.19 and some of that money was recommended to be used for equipment for the Park Department by the City Council.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Ravn, to take money from the City Forest Timber Sales and use it to purchase a watering truck, broom for snow blower and trailer.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was discussion regarding potential of disc golf expansion and/or improvements. Wendorf stated that Ravn requested this on the agenda. Ravn stated that she has been contacted by several people in regards to the disc golf course and some improvements or even a new course in the city. Ravn introduced Eric Pfantz and asked if he could share with the commission on some of the courses he has been at and how many people play the game. Eric stated that him and his buddies have been playing disc golf for a couple of years and travel all over for tournaments and stated that a lot of these tournaments bring in a lot of different people from different cities. Wendorf stated the best place to put another course would be the Merrill City Forest or MARC/Council Grounds area. Pfantz stated that he thought Prairie Trails would be a great place for a course and would be willing to sit down with Wendorf to discuss the

possibility and to help design the course. Wendorf and Pfantz will work on some designs and present them back to the Commission for approval.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated the ice is in and going smooth so far. Wendorf also stated that he is wishing Arena Specialist Joe Brown and his family best wishes after losing their house to a fire. Wendorf also thanked Brian Artac and everyone else who helped in getting the deck done at Athletic Park.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Artac to approve the monthly board report given by Wendorf.

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2015 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

No public comment

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Ravn to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary