

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

July 6, 2016

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center.

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

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Erik Pfantz, Derek Woellner, Gene Bebel, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Heather O'Neill, Kandy Peterson, Diane Goetsch, Tom O'Neill, Jacob Urierzba, Ryan Bartz, Jawave Wolner, Dwitt Ellis, Mary Ball, Charolette Peters

\*\*\*Motion by Artac, seconded by Burgner to approve the minutes from the March meeting minutes.

Dave Sukow stated that the minutes from June need to be amended to add Dave Sukow, Mary Ball, Derek Woellner and Eric Pfantz

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Motion by Burgner, seconded by Schroeder, to approve the claims.

DeBroux questioned why the water bill was so high for the Marc Concession stand. Wendorf explained that it was not the concession stand in the Smith Center, it was the one by the soccer fields.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The next item on the agenda was a Skate Park presentation by an interested citizen. Wendorf stated that he has been talking with a concerned citizen in regards to the skate board park. Wendorf introduced Heather O'Neil. Heather did a presentation on why a new skate park should be built. O'Neil suggested that a new area for the skate park should be a Stange Park where the old pool was located. O'Neil stated that she has been doing research on the project for 6 months and understands that the city will not be giving any money toward the project and she is willing to head up the fund raising for this event. Willman stated that they would have to discuss the location of the skate park and would have a answer for her by the September Park and Recreation Commission meeting. O'Neil thanked the commission for giving her the time to talk about this project. The commission thanked O'Neil for her time and effort into this. Willman suggested that O'Neil work closely with Wendorf on getting this project started.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss caregiver access to the pool. Wendorf stated that he has been in contact with Diane Goetsch from Kindhearted Home Care in regards to giving caregivers free access into the aquatic center with their clients, if their clients have a family pass to get in. Diane Goetsch stated that other businesses do this and basically the caregiver is there for safety, not for pleasure of enjoying the pool. Wendorf said he has talked with other Municipal

Aquatic Centers in the State and there are quite a few that do allow access. Wendorf stated that he does not have a problem with this but would require the caregiver to show some form of identification each time. Goetsch thought that was a good idea and would not be a problem, and would most likely be better to implement this next year. The Commission asked Wendorf to come back at a future meeting with a formal policy proposal so as to implement this for next year.

The next item on the agenda was to begin discussion on 2017 Capital Budget requests.

Wendorf began the discussion by referencing the packet enclosure that was provided by the finance director showing forecasted capital expenditures. Wendorf stated that due to an unexpected price increase from the pre-cast concrete restroom manufacturer the Normal Park Restrooms were going to fall short of the requested amount. Wendorf stated that he had numerous conversations with them during the budgeting process last year to get accurate numbers to construct restrooms like at Riverside Park and at the beginning of 2016 was notified that they increased their costs. The request from last year was for \$100,000 and with new pricing that would fall approximately \$25,000 short as the same restrooms now cost \$112,500 and that doesn't include site work, concrete pad, plumbing, or electrical to the site and hook ups when finished. There was discussion from the Commission regarding adding additional space for concessions that could be used during the summer and warming house for the ice rink in the winter. Wendorf stated that was ideal, as the City Band was very much in support of a bigger building and was about to kick off fundraising efforts to help with the park. Wendorf stated he has had numerous conversations with Linda Becker from City Band and they are in full support of the project. Commissioner Sukow asked about the \$150,000 that was originally budgeted for Park Maintenance building that he saw was recently reallocated to help with funding for the new Enrichment Center. City Administrator Johnson stated it was voted by City Council at the June meeting to reallocate, as the money wasn't going to be utilized for park maintenance. Wendorf stated that after meeting with contractors and referencing what the building would have to include \$150,000 would get them a space that was significantly smaller than what they are using at the current location. Sukow asked if it would be possible to reallocate an amount needed to completely fund the Normal Park Restrooms. Johnson stated that the Commission needs to understand that whatever money is removed from the Enrichment Center Building would need to be raised due to their current shortfall that exists. Commissioner Burgener asked Johnson if there was enough money in the General Fund to cover restroom shortfall, and Johnson replied that there was not sufficient funding to cover that cost. The commission asked Wendorf how much money it would take to cover the cost of the restrooms with the additional space (concession area/warming house included). Wendorf stated that the estimates for that style was \$146,550 but that again doesn't include site work, concrete slab, water & sewer laterals and stubs, as well as electrical, so an additional \$25,000 should be built into that cost if they wish to choose that route. Willman suggested there be a motion if the commission wanted to request any funding be reinstated for the project.

\*\*Motion Burgener, seconded by Artac to request reallocating \$75,000 out of the \$150,000 that was previously budgeted for Park Maintenance Shop project to Normal Park Restrooms.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously

Wendorf summarized the requests as follows:

Keep the requested \$43,000 in Smith Center Preventative HVAC maintenance schedule. He mentioned that the next round of replacements includes the radiant bleacher heaters and Zamboni pit heater replacement. Increase the front deck mower request to \$20,000 as these numbers are a

few years old. Keep the \$25,000 pit toilet request for Prairie Trails. Wendorf suggested “packaging” requests for Stange Park into one request for \$230,000 and those include: Restroom/Shelter construction, re-doing parking lot, removing tennis courts, and renovating the basketball courts. Wendorf suggested removing funding requests for existing skate park expansion in light of recent discussions related to potential new skate park. Continue request for \$15,000 for each of the next 3 years for MARC ball field improvements. Remove request for new pick-up truck, Wendorf stated that with the purchase of a designated used flower watering truck they have use once again of their truck. Wendorf asked that they leave in the \$10,000 request for Riverside Park Disc Golf, but Wendorf asked that they change the name to simply say Disc Golf in light of the recent disc golf initiative in other parks. Wendorf also requested an additional \$10,000 be added into the budget for 2017 & 2018 for continued bike route designation initiatives. For 2018 Wendorf requested \$43,000 be added into the budget for continued Smith Center preventative HVAC once again, as well as adding \$85,000 request to replace the Jacobsen large field mower as it is getting up there in hours and has been starting to show some signs of wear and repair. Wendorf would like to keep the remaining 2018 items on the list in tact as well as increasing the request for 1-ton dump truck to \$40,000 as those numbers are from previous years estimates; along with increasing the request for Stange Park Lagoon Bridges to \$50,000 due to old numbers. Wendorf also requested moving Athletic Park Parking Lot request up to 2018 at the requested number of \$50,000. Commissioner Artac stated that with Athletic Park playing host to this years Dairyland League State Tournament and next years American Legion State Tournament he would like to see the parking lot request moved to 2017.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center.

Public comment: Mary Ball asked what ages were appropriate to be dropped off alone at the Pool, Wendorf commented that children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by someone 14 years of age or older and that it was on all of the park signs and policies. Ball also asked if sunscreen was supplied for the lifeguards. Wendorf stated that it is their responsibility. She stated that she thought that it should be supplied for them. Charlotte Peters spoke about Emerald Ash Borer wondering why the City was cutting down all the trees. She stated that she was told that it was easy to treat ash trees and she has been hearing people in the community say they would rather wait and have EAB take their trees rather than the City. Sukow replied that it is not a matter of if but when and by waiting it will cost the taxpayers a lot more money to be re-active rather than pro-active. Peters questioned if there was a plan and Wendorf stated the Department executed a comprehensive plan a number of years ago that was highly publicized and has been available to the public. He said he would get a copy to Peters. Erik Pfantz asked what the status of the bike routes was. Wendorf stated next week was the start date for work.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at 4:15 at the City Hall.

\*\*\*Motion by Artac, seconded by Ravn to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary