

## - PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 6, 2013

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

Members Present: Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, Dan Novitch, Steve Hintze, Anne Caylor and Brian Artac – came in at 5:15p.m.

Members Excused Absent: Mike Willman,

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Kandy Peterson, Phynette Conrad, Vincent Conrad, Sharon Anderson, Judy Woller, Mile Wilson, Gene Bebel, Mayor Bill Bialecki, Steve Sabatke, and a few walked in after the meeting started.

\*\*\*Motion by Caylor, seconded by Hintze, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Motion by Hintze, seconded by Caylor, to approve the claims.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was to review/approve request to place monument in Cenotaph Park. Wendorf turned the floor over to Steve Sabatke. Mr. Sabatke explained that right now the plaque is hanging in the old American Legion Building on the wall and no one ever has a chance to honor this plaque or the people who served in World War 1. Mr. Sabatke stated that the plaque is 7 feet tall and weighs about 400 pounds. There are 39 veterans honored on the plaque. Mr. Sabatke explained that there would be a sidewalk leading up the plaque and there would also be an additional plaque below this one honoring an additional 15 veterans. Mr. Sabatke stated that all the money needed to complete this project will be done through fundraising and all the work would be volunteered by different organizations.

\*\*\*Motion by Sturm, seconded by Caylor, to approve the request to place the monument in Cenotaph Park.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review Memorial Forest salvage timber sale revenue. Wendorf stated that Finance Director Unertl recommends waiting on any expenses until settlement is completed with Crawford Insurance related to all tornado claims. Wendorf stated at this time there is 121,820.69 left from the revenue of the timber sale at Memorial Forest. Sturm had some questions regarding where some of the money went and how much the concession stand cost. Wendorf stated that those questions will be able to be answered when Finance Director Unertl returns to work. Wendorf stated when everything from the tornado was paid he can report back to the Park and Recreation Commission.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss varsity soccer field fencing possibilities. Wendorf stated that there was some interest on enclosing the varsity soccer fields. Wendorf stated that this would allow for soccer to host tournaments and WIAA games admission can charge at the gate.

The cost of the fence will run about \$12,000.00. Mayor Bialecki stated that erecting a fence around the soccer fields would bring in a lot of revenue for the soccer association and the school. Harris stated that we should check with WIAA and see what rules would all apply to putting up a fence around the soccer field. After some discussion it was decided to put this on the agenda for next months meeting. It was suggested that someone from the school and Merrill Youth Soccer be present at the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Kitchenette Park roof proposal. Wendorf stated that he would be working with Becher Hoppe to put together the specs for the new roof at Kitchenette Park. Sturm suggested that Becher Hoppe is not needed to put together the specs for Kitchenette Park. Sturm stated that Wendorf can put the specs together and send it out for bids since the only thing being replaced is the roof. It was stated that Wendorf could bring all bids back to next months meeting so that all work can be done before the rental of parks begins.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Resolution of support for WDNR Stewardship Grant with River Front Development Foundation for the River Bend Trail acquisition. Wendorf stated that this would need to be approved because the City is the only one who can apply for the grants and so that the City Council can approve it at the March meeting.

\*\*\*Motion by Sturm, seconded by Caylor, to approve Resolution of support for WDNR Stewardship Grant with River Front Development Foundation for the River Bend Trail acquisition with a change in wording on paragraph 5, should state: Whereas, the City of Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission at their meeting on March 6, 2013, authorized Dan Wendorf, Park and Recreation Director for the City of Merrill to act on in corporation with Park and Recreation Commission and forward to City Council.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Resolution of support for WDNR Stewardship Grant for Memorial Forest trail improvements. Wendorf stated that there is a grant that can be applied for to help enhance and add some new trails at Memorial Forest and to also adjoin with some county trails. Wendorf stated the grant that they are applying for would be for \$50,000.00 and the City would need to match the grant. Hintze questioned what if the City did not have the funds to match the grant. Wendorf stated that if the money was not available an extension could be requested or we can wait until the following year.

\*\*\*Motion by Sturm, seconded by Hintze to approve the Resolution of support for WDNR Stewardship Grant for Memorial Forest trail improvements with a wording change in paragraph 5, should state: Whereas, the City of Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission at their meeting on March 6, 2013, authorized Dan Wendorf, Park and Recreation Director for the City of Merrill to act on in corporation with Park and Recreation Commission and forward to City Council.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to continue discussion on Dog Park. Wendorf stated that the "Friends of the Dog Park" would at least like to see 3 acres for the dog park. Wendorf also stated that having some rules and regulations would help enhance the park. Hintze stated that a concern he has had is why you would want to put a dog park in one of our parks where families are going to have picnics in the park. Hintze did not feel that this would be a good idea and suggested putting the dog park someplace where it would interfere with families already utilizing the parks. Wendorf stated that he received a email from Jeremy Thompson stating that the land behind Zastrows, owned by the Merrill Area Development Corp., is non useable for building so he felt

that this would be a perfect location. Wendorf stated that land would have to be purchased if we wanted to go that route with the dog park. After some discussion the commission felt that purchasing land would not be a good idea for the dog park. The commission requested that at the next meeting Wendorf narrow the sites down to three and bring it back to the commission on locations.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss Parks and Recreation Commission meeting times. Novitch stated that at one meeting the idea of us running our meetings a little later would be nice for the public. Caylor stated that very few city meetings are run before 5:00 p.m. Artac suggested that maybe rotating the meetings would be a good idea.

\*\*\*A motion by Artac, seconded by Caylor to rotate meeting times for the Park and Recreation Commission meetings.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the ice will be out as of March 17 and dry floor events will begin shortly after that. Wendorf stated that the guys are getting ready for spring/summer for the parks.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., in the lower level in the conference room at City Hall.

Public Comment: Gene Bebel thanked the commission. Sharon Anderson stated the Brenda Mamer is doing a cross county bike ride and hoping to raise some funds for the River Bend trail. Vincent Conrad thanked the commission for the effort in getting the dog park going.

\*\*\*Motion by Caylor, seconded by Artac, to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary