

- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 5, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

Members Present: Mike Willman, Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, Dan Novitch, Melissa Schroeder and Brian Artac

Members Excused Absent: Anne Caylor

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Kandy Peterson and MP3

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Schroeder, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss usage and prioritization of Memorial Forest Salvage Timber sale funds. Novitch stated that Wendorf has included lists that have been approved by the Park and Recreation Commission for items needed or wanted in the parks. Novitch also stated that Wendorf has a request to put a new plow at the top of the list for the three quarter ton truck. Wendorf stated that as of yesterday, Tuesday, March 4, 2014 the plow is no longer usable on the three quarter ton truck. Wendorf spoke with Mark Spoehr from the Street Department and Spoehr stated that if they repair the plow it will cost around \$4,000.00 to fix. Spoehr stated that parts alone would cost around \$2,700.00 and that would not include labor or any warranty on the plow. Wendorf stated that he spoke with T & T Auto Service in Minocqua and they stated that they could replace the plow on Friday for \$6,366.00, and would give us a rental car to drive back from Minocqua. Wendorf also spoke with APS in Tomahawk and they gave Dan a verbal amount of \$6,580.00 and thought maybe they could get the truck in sometime next week. Novitch questioned how old the plow was. Wendorf stated it was 5 1/2 years old, but has a lot of wear and tear on it.

**Motion by Willman, seconded by Schroeder, to purchase new Boss plow from T & T Auto Service for \$6,366.00, funds to be taken out of operating budget and to be reimbursed from the non-lapsing account from the Memorial Forest Timber Sale Funds.

**Carried unanimously.

City Administrator Dave Johnson stated that the transfer of funds has to be approved by the City Council because even if the money is in a non-lapsing account for the Park and Recreation Department, the City Council still has control of the money, it is the City of Merrill's money, not the Park and Recreation Commission's money.

Novitch stated that he would like to continue with the rest of items for approval from City Council. Novitch stated that Wendorf included a list of improvements to our parks and items from outdoor recreation plan and capital budgets. Novitch stated there is \$103,308.39 in a non-

lapsing account from the Memorial Timber Sale. Items approved by the Park and Recreation Commission are: Stewardship 50% match for Memorial Forest - \$13,000, Memorial Forest continued improvement - \$25,000, Contribute to Park Endowment Fund - \$20,000, Riverside Trail rehab work - \$15,000, Gebert Park Trail rehab work - \$5,000, and put \$18,000 aside for the start of funding for new bathrooms at Normal Park.

**Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Artac, to forward list of recommendations to the City Council and transfer funds as necessary.

**Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to update Stewardship Grants on River Bend Trail and Memorial Forest. Wendorf stated that Mike Willman and himself attended the Natural Resource meeting in Madison to speak on behalf of both grants that were applied for. Wendorf stated that both grants were approved for 50% of matching funds. Wendorf stated that they would receive \$75,666.77 for the River Bend Trail and around \$13,000 for trail improvements at the Memorial Forest.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf asked if there were any questions. Wendorf stated that enclosed in the packets was information regarding were other cities the size of Merrill, have chose to put up there aquatic centers. Wendorf stated that very few cities choose the center of town for location of their aquatic centers. Wendorf stated that he is not stating what favor he is in either way, just some information he wanted to pass along. Harris questioned what was going on with the hockey contract. Wendorf stated that City Administrator Dave Johnson, Attorney Hayden and himself were working with the hockey association and said hockey is willing to work with the city to make the contract work for everyone. Wendorf stated that he will bring the hockey contract to the next meeting to discuss and approve in closed session. Wendorf also stated that Merrill Youth Hockey has made considerable progress on the contract.

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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2014 at 4:15 p.m., at the Merrill City Hall in Council Chambers followed by a Public hearing @ 6:00 p.m. regarding location of the outdoor pool.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Artac, to adjourn at 5:05 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary