

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

November 12, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Jeremy Ratliff from Merrill Courier, Dean Mueller from Water Technology, Inc. Carrie Cordova.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2014 and October 8, 2014 meeting.

Willman stated that he did attend the October 8, 2014 meeting, his name was omitted. A correction will be made to the minutes.

***Carried unanimously.

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

Harris questioned the two bills from Horst Distributing, stating that they were both for the same amount of money and wondering if they were the same bill. Smith stated that both invoices had a different invoice number. Wendorf stated they do order a lot of parts from Horst Distributing. Sturm questioned the bills from Becher Hoppe asking how we could have a bill for over \$12,000.00 from them on the pool study. Sturm also questioned why we would pay Becher Hoppe for all of the false information. Sturm also questioned who ordered all the services from Becher Hoppe. Sturm questioned if Becher Hoppe or Wendorf ever contacted FEMA in regards to the flood study.

***Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: Carrie Cordova from Merrill Optimist stated that the Merrill Optimist Club has been working very hard on getting money put together for the playground that is to be installed at Normal Park. Carrie handed out a diagram of the playground that the Optimist is going to be installing at Normal Park. Carrie stated that the entire playground is handicap accessible including the rubber matting for wheel chair usage, stating that someone in a wheel chair is unable to get through woodchips and rubber pieces, so the rubber matting is a very costly part of the project but one that the Merrill Optimists are not going to overlook. Harris questioned Cordova on the cost of the playground. Cordova stated that the entire cost of the project will be around \$250,000.00. The Park and Recreation Commission stated they are very happy about the playground and to keep them updated on future progress.

The next item on the agenda was the election of Chairperson. Dave Sukow nominated Mike Willman stating that his longevity and knowledge with the Park and Recreation Commission would be a great asset. Willman agreed. Artac seconded the nomination.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and update the progress on the Aquatic Center. Dean Mueller from Water Technology, Inc. was present to discuss how progress is coming along. Dean stated that they took 10 Soil Boring samples and also did 5 test pits. Dean stated that they did not find anything unusual but at 4 feet they did find some perched water near the existing drainage ditch. Dean stated there was also some clay they ran into but nothing major. All in all Mueller was pleased with results from soil tests. Willman questioned if there is going to be a public input on the pool design. Wendorf stated that the preliminary drawing will be posted on the City Website for the public to view. Wendorf also stated that the Aqua Jays coach is requesting that six lanes be put in the pool so that at some point Merrill could host tournaments and would be a good draw for the community. Sturm was not in favor of this because he said once you give to one user group ten more are going to follow with requests. Harris suggested that another exit driveway be put in for smoother traffic flow. After some more discussion Dean Mueller from Water Technology, Inc. stated that he would like to meet with a sub commission on pool designs and bring them back to the Park and Recreation Commission at the December 17, 2014 meeting. Dorwin Harris, Dave Sukow and Keven Cohrs have offered to be on the sub committee for the design of the pool. The sub committee will be meeting next week with Dean Mueller from Water Technology, Inc.

The next item on the agenda was an update on Lions Park grant projects. Harris questioned what progress has been done at Lions Park with the grant money given by the Bierman Foundation. Wendorf stated that he is putting together some bids to be put out for new fencing, score boards and bleachers. Partial funding was given towards lighting and fundraising will need to match before lights can proceed. Sukow questioned if the project was supposed to be done by the fall since the grant was awarded in June of 2014. Wendorf stated that he is only one person and since the elimination of the park maintenance he can only do so much. Wendorf stated that he has been working with the Baseball Association in regards to utilizing some local help for some of the projects. Wendorf stated that everything will be bid out this winter so work can start in the spring.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if there were any questions on his board report. Sukow asked about the Emerald Ash Borer and Wendorf stated that the City of Merrill does have a plan in place and has been working very close with the Street Commissioner on this project. Wendorf stated that he would also like to welcome Kevin Cohrs to the Park and Recreation Commission.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2014 at 4:15 p.m.

No public comment.

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

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary