

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

January 6, 2016

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Troy Pieper and Ben Debroux

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Kandy Peterson, Gene Bebel, Jim Wedemeyer, Eric Malm, Erik Pfantz, Derek Woellner

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

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Motion by Sukow, seconded by Ravn, to approve the claims.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The first item on the agenda was a continued discussion and potential action on Bike Route Designation and Pedestrian Routes. Wendorf stated that this plan has been approved by Merrill Park and Recreation Commission and also Merrill City Council. Wendorf stated that the project has not been completed due to lack of action and it is now time to get this project going and get it finished so that there will be safe routes marked for pedestrians and bikers to get out to the MARC and throughout the city safely. Sukow stated that the money is there to complete the routes, they just need to be done. City Administrator Dave Johnson stated that all he needs is a phone call from Wendorf stating that the Park and Recreation Commission wants this done and he will call acting Supervisor for Street Department and the Public Works Director and tell them to get this project done. Willman questioned if a motion needs to be made with the description of the routes. Wendorf stated that the routes would be from the 2014 Bike Designation plan.

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow to have Dan Wendorf come up with some alternative additional routes from Center Ave to Grand Ave and from Grand Ave. to Taylor Street.

\*\*\*Amended motion: Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow to include all River Bend Trail feeders into alternative additional routes.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

This item will be on the February agenda.

The next item on the agenda was a update on disc golf initiative. Wendorf stated that he has been working with Eric Pfantz on some more ideas for additional disc golf courses in our parks. Wendorf stated that they decided to start with arranging a disc golf course in Stange Park connecting with Kitchenette Park. Wendorf stated he thought this would bring more people into

the business district of the city. Wendorf also stated the central location will be visible and easily accessible for everyone. These options will also be the most cost effective to begin with. Wendorf also stated they talked about cost and some ideas for raising money to complete the disc golf course. Sukow stated that he thought this was a great idea and its untapped potential to draw more people into the City. The best part is there is no age limit on disc golf. Wendorf will report more information in February.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Willman questioned if this was the first year his application for the American Transmission Company was rejected. Wendorf stated it was. Wendorf stated that a lot of communities applied for the grant this year. Willman also questioned how the Ash removal is going. Wendorf stated that the Street Department is slowly getting some trees down that have been marked for a while. Willman asked if new trees will be planted where the old ones will be coming out. Wendorf stated that new trees would be planted but will not happen right away due to budget restraints. Wendorf estimates about 2 or 3 years for all the replantings. Wendorf is hoping all the ice rinks will be up and ready to go by next week.

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

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public comment: Eric Pfantz questioned if bathrooms will be going in at Stange Park and Normal Park this summer. Wendorf stated that Stange Park will have porta potties but Normal Park will be getting new bathrooms.

\*\*\*Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary