

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

February 3, 2016

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Troy Pieper

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Gene Bebel, Mayor Bill Bialecki, John Burgener, Diane form Kindhearted Home Care, Doleres Preisinger, Mary Ann Vandergeest, Erik Pfantz, Derek Woellner and City Administrator Dave Johnson

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Mike Willman stated that agenda item #7 would be the next item on the agenda that is discussed.

The next item on the agenda is a request form former Ministry Good Samaritan Wellness Program for space. Wendorf stated that he would have Mayor Bialecki talk about this item. Mayor Bialecki stated that he was approached by the group from Ministry Good Samaritan Wellness Program in need of some space to continue the Wellness Program after the service was discontinued by Ministry. Mayor Bialecki stated that after this became public knowledge Diane from Kindhearted Home Care approached the city with a possible solution, stating that she would be willing to move the program into her new facility if it would work out. Wendorf stated that there would be no room at the Smith Center to move the program in there. Diane will continue working on a solution for the program.

The next item on the agenda was a continued discussion and potential action on Bike Route Designation and Pedestrian Routes. Wendorf stated that he has come up with alternative routes and additional routes for the bike and pedestrian routes using the Bike Ped Plan. Wendorf stated that any new routes would need to be approved by the Board of Public Works. Sukow stated that even if they are approved there is no money in the budget for signage. Wendorf stated that at least if they are approved when money becomes available they can put signage up. Wendorf stated that they have \$10,000 to work with for signage on approved routes right now.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Sukow to road diet Center Avenue, to change 4 lanes to 2 lanes with a turn lane in the middle with designated bike lanes from the roundabout to Hwy G. Recommendation to send to Board of Public Works.

***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Schroeder to mark both sides of Grand Ave. from the Three Arch Bridge to Marc Drive for a bike route.

***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to designate a route on Theilman St. from Pine Ridge Ave. north to Memorial to East 6th west to Blaine Street, South to 2nd Street, which would take you to the route that is already established.

***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Sukow to go from East 6th Street to Park Street to meet up with the River Bend Trail.

The previous 4 motions are for those area to be designated as bike routes.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was an update on disc golf initiative. Wendorf stated that he has met with Eric Pfantz regarding cost of disc golf course and fundraising ideas. Wendorf stated that he will be meeting with Pfantz again to go over some more ideas with fundraising and sponsorship. Wendorf stated that they are looking at getting basket sponsors, hole sponsors and different level of sponsorships. Wendorf will bring back more information at the next meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss Park Rental Policies. Wendorf stated that every year this item is brought up on who pays for the parks and if there are any discounts for non-profit organizations. Wendorf stated that in the past every organization pays the same price. Wendorf stated that, according to Commission action from 2014 if it is a Merrill entity they do not have to pay but they still have to fill out all the paperwork. Merrill City Band does not have to pay to utilize Normal Park because they are funded by the City of Merrill but Gazebo Nights would have to pay to utilize the park. No action was needed.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Sukow stated that there was a tree on Jackson and John that needed some attention with a big branch. Ravn asked if any pool passes were sold. Wendorf stated a few have been.

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

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public comment: Gene Bebel stated that they will break ground for the Agra Building at the head of the River Bend Trail. Bebel asked if Willman would be able to bring the pictures of the new Agra Shelter to the next meeting.

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

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary