

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

April 6, 2016

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, April 6, 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: Erik Pfantz, Derek Woellner, Gene Bebel, City Administrator Dave Johnson

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Ravn to approve the minutes from the March meeting minutes.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

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

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The next item on the agenda is to review/approve Resolution of Support for River Bend Trail Stewardship Grant. Wendorf stated that this is standard procedure to apply for grants for the Stewardship Program through the WDNR.

\*\*\*Motion by Sukow, seconded by Schroeder to approve Resolution of Support for River Bend Trail Stewardship Grant.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation on Agra Pavilion on River Bend Trail. Wendorf started that work will begin on the Trail Head next week. Slide show was presented to the Park and Recreation Commission. Artac questioned if building will be turned over to the Park and Recreation Department. Wendorf stated it will when all work is finished on project.

The next item on the agenda is a request from Merrill Gardeners to move Totem Pole from Normal Park to River Bend Trail. Wendorf stated that he was approached by Merrill Gardeners to remove the Totem Pole from Normal Park and place it down on the River Bend Trail. Merrill Gardeners would like to do more work on flower beds at Normal Park. Schroeder stated that the Totem Pole was originally at the Courthouse and when it was moved to Normal Park it was cemented into the ground so it may be tough to remove from Normal Park. Bebel stated that the Totem Pole will be place where the first Native American crossing was down by Park Street. Bebel stated that the pole is very meaningful to some people. Willman questioned when the pole would be moved. Wendorf stated that it will be moved this summer.

\*\*\*Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to grant permission to move the Totem Pole from Normal Park to the River Bend Trail.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the Bierman Family Aquatic Center. Wendorf stated that everything is going smooth and right on target to finish in time for opening in June. Willman questioned if the bike routes would be completed and marked by summer. Wendorf stated he is working with Rod on getting everything done.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Willman questioned the remodel on the concession stand at the MARC by the girl's diamond. Wendorf stated that is part of the Bierman Foundation Grant and there will be more room for picnic tables for tournaments. Wendorf stated that this will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Year that the City of Merrill is Tree City USA. Our Arbor Day observation will be on May 12 and Wendorf stated that he would like to see a lot of commission members there on the day of the planting.

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

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center.

Public comment: Eric Pfantz stated that he has been walking out where the disc golf will go and he has concerns about there being no cross walks going from Stange Park to Kitchenette Park and also from Lions to Stange Park. Eric was also concerned about signage. Wendorf stated that he will put this on the agenda for next month and from there the commission can forward to Board of Public Works.

Wendorf stated that he would like to thank Dave Sukow for the years of service that he has donated to the Park and Recreation Commission. Willman also thanked Dave for his years of service on the Park and Recreation Commission. Dave Sukow stated that he is happy with all the changes that are going on in the Park and Recreation Department.

\*\*\*Motion by Artac, seconded by Ravn to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary