

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

November 2, 2016

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Draco Fink MP3, Heather O'Neill, Mary Ball, Gene Bebel and Kandy Peterson

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

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

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

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: Heather O'Neill questioned if the commission members have had any more thoughts on the skateboard park. Willman stated that it is on the agenda for tonight.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and finalize potential skate park locations to be considered at future public hearing. Sukow questioned if Dan Wendorf had a chance to speak with the county in regards to building on the current ice rink location at Memorial rink. Sukow also stated that he did not think the location where the old Legion building stands would be big enough for a skate park. Schroeder stated that they really need to analyze different locations for the skateboard park. Schroeder stated that parking needs to be considered so that would take both the Legion and Streeter Square out, since there is no parking at either location. Sukow suggested that at this time he doesn't feel a discussion can be made on location without having answers on the Memorial property and also without hearing from the DNR on the Stange Park Location.

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow to put skate park locations on the agenda for December. Would also like to know what the agreement with the county and city is on the Memorial Rink area.

Heather O'Neill stated that the reason she chose a large size is so it can be divided up into beginners, moderate and advanced skaters. She wants this skateboard park to be special and it will be a big draw for a lot of people.

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was River Bend Trail project(s) update(s). Willman stated that City Administrator Dave Johnson has some information on the River Bend Trail. City Administrator Johnson stated that Mayor Bialecki, Gene Bebel and himself met last week in regards to the city taking over maintenance responsibilities for the River Bend Trail and no longer bill the

foundation. Johnson stated that when the original agreement for maintenance was made the trail was not a linear park as it is today and it only included Park St. on the east to Highway 64 on the west. The City will also seek approval to self-perform or pay for the base work for the trail from Kyes St. to Cooper St. with the Foundation paying for the paving. The City will also recommend that some amount of operational donation be made to the River Bend Foundation. City Administrator Johnson also stated the Housing Authority is applying for a grant to build a Veterans Home by the River Bend Trail which also has a great potential to bring in some small shops to the Merrill Community. This will be the only housing in Central WI for Veterans. City Administrator Johnson stated that they are looking for approval from the commission and also from the Council. Willman stated that on the agenda for December we will need to vote on the items brought before the commission. Willman stated for the agenda for December we will need all three items listed: 1. Motion to approve to take over maintenance responsibilities for the River Bend Trail, 2. Motion to approve city to self-perform or pay for the base work for the trail from Kyes St. to Cooper St. with the foundation paying for the paving. 3. Motion to approve an operational donation made to the River Bend Foundation. Sukow stated that when the council first brought up the River Bend Trail to the community the biggest concern was that it was going to be a burden on the tax payers and we the council at the time told them it would be at no cost to the taxpayers, but now we are going to change that and it will be a cost to the taxpayers. City Administrator Johnson stated that we will be getting more tax dollars back from the Veterans home so in the long run it will not be a burden on the tax payers. All three items will be put on the agenda in December.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. No questions.

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Ravn to approve the monthly board report submitted by Wendorf.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

Public comment: none

\*\*\*Motion by Sukow, seconded by Burgener to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary