

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 1, 2017

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Mike Willman

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Heather O'Neil, Dave Johnson, Mayor Bill Bialecki, Erik Pfantz, Derek Woellner, David Johns, Rod Akey, Justin from Ott's Garage, Paul Russel from Housing Authority.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Burgener to approve the minutes from the February meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: Heather O'Neil addressed the Park and Recreation Commission in regards to the location of the Skate Park. She expressed concerns with the current location and the safety of the kids utilizing the park.

Justin from Ott's Garage also addressed the Park and Recreation Commission in regards to the location of the Skate Park. Justin explained that the kids that skate board and BMX biking take their sport very serious and it would be great to see a new park built for the kids.

David Johns also addressed the Park and Recreation Commission in regards to the location and current condition of the current skateboard park. Mr. Johns stated that his son skate boards and he doesn't even enjoy going to the Merrill skate park due to condition and location. He expressed that he would like to see some adults support the new skate park and would like to see it go in a better location.

Paul Russel voiced his opinion on the current condition and location of the skate park. Mr. Russel feels that the current location is a safety hazard and would like to see it somewhere else. He questioned why both the Skateboard Park and new shelter could both go into Stange Park. He believes there would be room to the new skateboard park was put where the current tennis courts are. Mr. Russel also suggested it going out to the MARC. He stated the current location doesn't work so the Park and Recreation Commission should do something about it.

The first item on the agenda was to potentially revisit proposed skate park sites that were previously eliminated by the Commission. Artac stated that because the Board of Public Works voted down the skateboard location that the Park and Recreation Commission recommended he was bringing it back to the commission to see if any of the previous locations would be reconsidered. Burgener stated that the only place he sees the skateboard park at is the current location. Sukow stated that even if they would reconsider Stange Park by the tennis courts that

the park floods and Heather O'Neil stated the skateboard park should be in a location with no flooding. Schroeder stated that this skate park would be bigger than any in the state and really didn't think we needed one that big. Schroeder also stated that she thinks raising money for the skateboard park would be hard to do. Discussion on location.

***Motion by Burgener, seconded by Schroeder to leave Skateboard Park in current location with no other considerations to a different location.

Sukow stated that the Park and Recreation Commission is in favor of a new skateboard park but until someone donates a piece of land to build it on, there are no other locations to consider.

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***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was an update on ADA Lawsuit project progress. Wendorf stated that a big thank you to the street department and Rod Akey for getting all the paths finished and was happy to say there are only a few smaller items that need to be addressed. Wendorf stated that by June/July there will be total completion on the projects.

The next item on the agenda was an update on Normal Park Restroom project. Wendorf stated that everything was moving forward and should be ready to put out for bids in two weeks. Project should be completed by June or July if everything continues as scheduled.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potential hiring of Aquatic Center summer manager and clarification of supervisory duties and relationships at the Aquatic Center. Wendorf stated that the person he is referring to has not been hired yet, but wanted to let the Park and Recreation Commission know that an employee's daughter applied for the position and was being considered for position. Sukow questioned who would interview. Wendorf stated that he would interview the people for this position and whoever is hired would report to him. It would only be a seasonal employee.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that there has been some damage done at Ott's Park by someone tearing up one of the ice rinks, but thankfully the suspect was caught and will pay for damages.

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

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public comment: none

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Schroeder to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary