

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

April 4, 2017

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

Members Present: John Burgener, Brian Artac, Melissa Schroeder and Mike Willman

Members Excused Absent: Dave Sukow, Jean Ravn and Ben Debroux

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Erik Pfantz, Derek Woellner, Kyle Gulke and Fred Heider NCWRPC and Mary Ball

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

Public Comment: Eric Pfantz commented about the shape that the basketball nets are in at both Streeter Square and Stange Park. Eric was also wondering if some line could be painted on the courts so the three point line is visible and also the free throw lines.

Derek Woellner stated that since Heather O'Neil no longer will be working on the skate board park he would like to pick up that "torch" and continue the progress that Heather worked hard on. Derek would also like to see this brought to a public meeting so people can discuss the location of a park. Mike Willman stated that this will be something to look at in the 5 year Outdoor Recreation plan.

Kyle Gulke requested that more permanent trash cans be put in the parks.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss upcoming 5 year Outdoor Recreation Plan. Dan Wendorf stated that Fred Heider was here from NCWRPC to discuss a timeline for the 5 year Outdoor Recreation Plan. Mr. Heider stated having the Recreation Plan done will allow the recreation department to apply for Stewardship funding, give the big picture of what recreation projects need to be done or could be done with proper funding. Mr. Heider stated that in April he will do an overview of the 5 year Recreation plan, May will be a summary of the plans, in June he will do a draft of the Outdoor Recreation Plan and have a public meeting, July will be looking at the feedback from the public meeting and hopefully in August or September it will be the final plan to be okayed by the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council

The next item on the agenda was an update on the Normal Park Restrooms. Wendorf stated that he and Rod Akey have been working on the project and will hopefully be able to approve bids on the project at the May 3 meeting. Wendorf stated that the Street Department will be helping with the project and whoever is awarded the project will be told that the project will need to be completed in a timely matter. Wendorf stated he would like to see the project completed by end of June beginning of July.

The next item on the agenda was an update of River Bend Trail east extension project and Pavilion. Wendorf stated that they met with Agra on where the project stands, since this is year #2 and work has not been started. Agra stated that their engineers is about 2 months behind in their work so the RDDF will be hiring an engineer to get progress going. Agra stated that they would also like to see a few more donations from local businesses. Wendorf stated that the east trail is coming along and it will be fully funded through the Stewardship grant.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the parks and ball diamonds are getting ready for spring sports and for parks to be open by May 1.

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

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public comment: Mary Ball said thanks for all the hard work.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Burgener to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary