

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

August 2, 2017

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center.

Members Present: Brian Artac, Melissa Schroeder, Dave Sukow, Jean Ravn

Members Excused Absent: John Burgener, Ben Debroux and Mike Willman

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Erik Pfantz, Kandy Peterson, Derek Woellner and Mary Ball

\*\*\*Motion by Sukow, seconded by Ravn to approve the minutes from the June meeting.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Ravn, to approve the claims from June and July

\*\*\*Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was the Outdoor Recreation Plan discussion continued. Wendorf went through some of the questions from the survey. No action was taken at this time.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the refund policy for Summer Playground. Wendorf stated that there has been a couple parents that would like a refund from the summer playground program. The policy states that no refunds will be given once a program is started including our summer playground program. After some discussion it was decided that the policy will not be changed – no refunds will be given.

The next item on the agenda was the Normal Park Restroom project update.

Wendorf stated that we are a little behind, due to June weather and County Concrete's block maker being out of commission for a stretch of time, but things are going good and if everything stays on track it should be done by the end of August.

**The next item on the agenda was the River Bend Trail project updates.**

Wendorf informed the Commission of the WDNR letter stating that work on the east trail extension would not be allowed to begin until after September 19<sup>th</sup> due to Wood Turtles. Evidence was discovered by the WDNR that the endangered Wood Turtles were in the area of the proposed extension, causing the pause in the construction schedule. Wendorf stated that everything will be ready to go for the work to begin at that time and hopefully the weather will cooperate this fall for start and completion. Wendorf also informed the Commission that work on the Agra Pavilion is progressing. The concrete aprons were finished a few weeks ago, work on the windows and garage doors have begun and it is starting to take shape. Wendorf thanked everyone who has been involved with this project and shared his excitement for the potential that it brings for the entire community. Wendorf also stated that his crew will be installing the trail marker posts within the next week or so along the trail to help people as well as EMS/Police identify key points in the event there is an emergency.

The next item on the agenda was monthly board reports.

Wendorf informed the Commission that summer has been going good up to this point and that after a rough month of June, the crew has finally been able to make progress on some projects. Wendorf stated they are hustling through what they can get done before the seasonal staff has to start going back to school. Wendorf stated that the Bierman Family Aquatic Center numbers will be a little down in June due to the consistently poor weather conditions for the entire month and into early July.

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

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6th, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center.

Public comment:

Erik Pfantz commented that he thought the Commission referenced the wrong parks during the Outdoor Recreation Survey discussion.

Alderson Ball said she hears a lot of nice comments about our beautiful parks in town and wanted to thank all of the staff members of the Parks & Recreation Department for the great job that they do.

\*\*\*Motion by Ravn, seconded by Schroeder to adjourn at 5:33p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith, Recording Secretary