

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

October 4, 2017

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

Members Present: John Burgener, Melissa Schroeder, Dave Sukow, Jean Ravn, Joan Tabor and Mike Willman

Members Excused Absent: Brian Artac

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Erik Pfantz, Kyle Gulke, Kandy Peterson, and Mary Ball, Fred Heider

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was to review and potentially approve 2018-2022 Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan. Fred Heider was present and went over a few items in the Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan. After some discussion a motion was made to accept the plan.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Jean to move to adopt the Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan and send draft to City Council to have approved.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve 2018 Operational Budget request. Wendorf stated that there would be 0% increase. The Commission reviewed the budget.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Burgener to approve 2018 Operational Budget.

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve 2018 Capital Budget request. Wendorf presented a list of 11 items that he has placed on the Capital Budget request list. Wendorf stated that he would really like to see improvement at Stange's Park, he indicated that Stange Park after new shelter is built could possibly be one of the most rented parks due to the location and beauty of park. Wendorf also stated he would like to see the parking lot redone and the old tennis courts removed. Wendorf stated that moving the basketball court further away from the water would also be a big improvement to the park. Wendorf stated that some of the bridges in the park are in need of some repairs and he would also like to see some lighting along the ADA path for pedestrian safety. Wendorf also stated that he would like to see new lights at Athletic Park and the driveway and parking lot there paved. Wendorf wrote a WPS Foundation Grant for \$100,000 and is waiting for results for athletic lights. Wendorf stated that the only two pieces of equipment he would like to see replaced is the dump box on 2002 GMC 1 ton and a new pull behind large field mower. After some discussion it was decided if things had to be eliminated

that they did not want any Stange Park renovation items taken off the list. Willman suggested maybe writing a Stewardship Grant for Stange Park. Wendorf stated grants are due by May 1, 2018.

***Motion by Tabor, seconded by Ravn to approve the 2018 Capital Budget Request,

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Bierman Family Aquatic Center 2017 season summary. Wendorf stated that it was not the best year considering all the bad weather but overall the season was not that bad. Wendorf stated that all Aquatic Centers were dealing with the same thing we were – bad weather! Looking forward to next year to continue working on some yearly events.

The next item on the agenda was to begin discussion on Agra Pavilion future usage. Wendorf stated that they are almost complete with remodeling the Agra Pavilion and it is really looking good. Wendorf stated that in the near future the commission will need to decide who will be taking reservations and collecting money for the reservations and maintaining and paying utilities. This item will be on the agenda for the next couple meeting.

The next item on the agenda is the update on River Bend Trail east expansion project. Wendorf stated that the trail is moving along good and that they are hoping to black top soon.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf stated that he is working with Badger Pool to figure out the problem with the light fixtures inside the pool. Hopefully soon they will have an answer.

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

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public comment: no

***Motion by Burgener, seconded by Ravn to adjourn at 5:32 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary