

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

May 2, 2018

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Brian Artac, Dave Sukow, Jean Ravn, Joan Tabor, Kate Baker, and Kyle Gulke

Members Excused Absent: Mike Willman

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Erik Pfantz, Bill Heideman and Carrie Cordova

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

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Tabor, to approve the claims from April 2018

***Carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was to an update on Normal Park Playground project. Carrie Cordova from the Merrill Optimist was present to speak about the playground. Carrie Cordova stated that the Optimist has about \$60,000.00 raised for the playground but are hopeful that phase 1 of the playground will be able to be installed by next summer. Donations for the playground have been coming in pretty steady and every little bit helps. Peterson Sand and Gravel will be donating all the fill for the playground and the City will be doing the excavating. Tabor questioned how much the entire project would cost. Cordova stated that it would be around \$300,000.00 total, \$175,000.00 for phase 1 of the project. Sukow questioned if they have done a grant through the America's Disabilities Grant. Gulke stated that if the rendered drawings for the new playground are available he would be more than happy to share them on social media.

The next item on the agenda was to review the purpose and process of 5 year Outdoor Recreation Plan for new Commission Members. Wendorf explained the purpose of the 5 year Outdoor Recreation Plan is so that the City is able to apply for Stewardship Grants, and State and Federal funding as well as guide the department using public input. Gulke stated that in the 5 year plan is the skateboard park and he would really like to see that happen for the younger kids. Sukow stated that he would still like to see more than pit toilets at Prairie Trails.

The next item on the agenda is monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Sukow questioned if the DNR was able to get into the City Forest this past winter to do some tree cutting. Wendorf stated they were not due to weather conditions. Wendorf stated that the parks opened as May 1st and so far so good. Wendorf stated that they are also getting ready to start with getting the pool ready. New LED lights are being put in and the opening date is June 8. Wendorf talked about the planting for Arbor Day and it will be held Friday, May 11. Baker questioned if some of the trees could be planted on the Riverbend Trail. City Administrator Johnson stated that it is a Linear Park and so the City is able to plant trees there.

***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, June 6, 2018 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center.

Public comment: Eric Pfantz stated that Earth Day was April 22 and he went to the Riverbend Trail and picked some garbage up. Pfantz stated it would be nice if more garbage cans were on the trail. Mayor Woellner also spoke and stated that once the Park and Recreation Commission finds a spot for the skateboard park he will be putting together a committee to do the planning and fund raising for the park.

***Motion by Tabor, seconded by Sukow to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary