

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

August 1, 2018

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Brian Artac, Kyle Gulke, Dave Sukow, Mike Willman and Kate Baker

Members Excused Absent: Jean Ravn and Joan Tabor

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Brendon McKinney with MP3, Mayor Woellner, Carmen Klug and Mandy Schmidt

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

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Baker, to approve the claims from June 2018,

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Baker, to approve the claims from July 2018

***Carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was to summarize the Mayor's Special Skate Park meetings. Wendorf stated that the meetings have been very productive and a lot of positive feedback from community members. Locations have been narrowed down to MARC, Streeter Square or Ott's Park. Baker stated that she would like to see it be more of a community facility. Willman questioned what would happen with the current location. Gulke made a suggestion to turn it into skate able art park. You could sit down and enjoy the view of the water and it would be a great place for beginners to go. Wendorf stated that they would be putting up a poll on the Merrill Park and Recreation Facebook page to see what location the community likes. This item will be on the September agenda.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss request from Merrill Youth Hockey Association to help sell Smith Center Arena advertising. Wendorf stated that he thought it was a great idea to have both the Merrill Youth Hockey and Merrill Ice Reflections help promote the building by selling advertisement. Wendorf stated that he thought giving the organizations 80% of the profit the first year and 50% every year after that would work. This would only affect the banners they have sold.

***Motion by Baker, seconded by Artac to approve Merrill Youth Hockey Association to help with selling banners for the arena, with an 80% payback to associations the first year and every year after that it would be 50%.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to request to add 511 Logan St. open parcel to park property as part of Athletic Park. Wendorf stated that they have used this piece of property for parking for

years and it has been working great for that purpose. Wendorf is afraid if it is sold that parking will become more of an issue during tournaments. Gulke questioned if there were any other plans for that piece of property. Wendorf stated there was not, just leaving it grass and using it for parking. Wendorf stated it helps to have off street parking for Legion State Baseball Tournament bid applications.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Kate to add 511 Logan Street to part of Athletic Park property.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to begin discussion on 2019 Capital and Operational Budget. Wendorf handed out some suggestions for the 2019 Capital and Operational Budget and asked to commission to review it and to continue discussion on it at the upcoming meetings. Wendorf stated the Stange Park 2019 requests can be moved to 2018 as part of this year's project. Commission wanted to add \$15,000 to skate park for next year to cover potential engineering costs. Riverside Road rehab can be moved to this year, the Street Department will be fixing it within the next few weeks. Wendorf requested to add \$10,000 to tree planting in 2019 and hope fully subsequent years in order to plant more trees proactively. Also requested \$10,000 to establish gravel bed near park shop to stage trees in spring to be planted in fall to promote better root growth.

The next item on the agenda is monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that with the nice weather the numbers at the Bierman Aquatic Center have been good.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to approve the monthly board reports given by Wendorf from June and July.

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public comment: Mayor Woellner stated that he has had some people suggest that the city should look into getting some robotic mowers over commercial mowers. Another suggestion is to do solar panels on the shelter roofs. The final comment he wanted to make is that while he was disc golfing this weekend he spoke with a family from Wausau and showed them the new disc golf baskets that were recently installed and they thought it was a nice addition to the park.

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

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary