



## **Mayor's Special Skate Park Committee Meeting Notice**

The Mayor's Special Skate Park Committee will have a meeting on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall.

Voting members of the committee are: Dan Wendorf, Kyle Gulke, Kate Baker, Justin Novitski, Shawn Molley, Ryan Bartz, Dakota Branski

The following items will be included on the agenda:

1. Approve minutes from the previous meeting.
2. Public Comment.
3. Continue skate park location discussion.
4. Public Comment.
5. Establish date, time & location of next meeting
6. Adjournment

Note: The Skate Park Special Committee is a special committee created by Mayor Woellner.

Submitted by,

Dan Wendorf  
Parks & Recreation Director  
City of Merrill

The Merrill City Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations are required, please contact the Merrill City Hall at 715-536-5594.

## SKATE PARK SPECIAL MAYOR'S COMMITTEE

July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

The Merrill Skate Park Special Committee met on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Presents: Dan Wendorf, Kyle Gulke, Kate Baker, Justin Novitski, Shawn Molley, Ryan Bartz, Dakota Branski

Visitors: Dave Sukow, Mayor Woellner, John VanLieshout, Ryan Schwartzman, Angelo Gonzales, Kimberly Gonzales,

The first item on the agenda was to review and approve the minutes from the previous two meetings. Gulke mentioned that there were a few spots where the names might have been incorrect. Wendorf stated that he caught that as well and will make the necessary changes.

**\*\*Motion Baker, seconded by Gulke to approve the minutes from the July 17<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings.**

**\*\*Carried unanimously.**

There was no public comment to begin the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to continue discussion on location of potential future skate park. Wendorf began the discussion by summarizing the great discussion that was had at the previous meeting that has led to narrowing down the search. Wendorf mentioned that every site we have discussed in the past and any site that we discuss in the present will have pros and cons, but it is important to remain focused on the end goal and ensure that the users are in agreement with the site that we choose. Wendorf stated that after the conversation at the last meeting he favors the Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC). He said the skaters were in favor of that location and it checks all of the boxes (parking, restrooms, pedestrian access, highly visible, surrounded by supporting amenities/activities, aquatic center, and the MARC was designed for exactly that purpose – to house active recreation). One of the skater members of the committee agreed that the MARC would be a good location and he said it feels as if it was meant to be. Baker concurred with the MARC and said that she also thinks that with the space that is available there it would also lend itself to the possibility of expanding to a four season facility if it ever came to that. A few of the skater members stated that they did talk with their friends about the MARC after the last meeting and they were all positive about the MARC, saying that it had many more pros than cons. Floor privileges were granted to Angelo Gonzales, who traveled to attend the meeting. He stated that Merrill has been gaining a good reputation around the State and beyond for being more progressive and accepting too many types of people, events, and initiatives. He said that after hearing of the Recreation Complex as a potential location that it might be a good idea because the skaters would have a sense of pride by being put front and center at a complex such as this. It would show that the community cares about this initiative and is not just going to stick a new skate park out of sight and forget about it. He mentioned that it would all but eliminate the temptation for unlawful activity and it would be “seen and celebrated” and viewed as another family activity at a family complex. Novitski agreed that this would certainly support the vision for the new skate park. Alderman VanLieshout was granted floor privileges and urged the committee to brand the new skate park more inclusively and possibly incorporate other amenities with it such as a splash pad

and small playground. He stated that he feels that Streeter Square would be his preferred location because of its proximity to downtown and accessibility. Alderman Schwartzman also supports Streeter Square as he feels the park is under-utilized for a lack of better terms. Baker agreed with the notion of this being a community facility and being inclusive and family oriented, wherever we chose to locate it. Gulke agreed that both Streeter and the MARC are great locations and maybe Streeter would be a good location to do a "skatable art plaza" style area and the MARC would be a good location to do a more traditional competition style skate park. Novitski suggested removing the current location for consideration so that it doesn't turn into the "fall back" option. He said safety has been a concern and will most likely continue to be one at that location, whether safety is or isn't a viable concern, it is still viewed that way. One of the skater members did say the current location is still a good spot because of familiarity and central location and if still considered would like to see fences removed to improve visibility and to make it feel less like skating in a cage. One of the skater members suggested the former Fox Point location as a strong possibility. Wendorf agreed, but mentioned that it is not park property and it might not be supported because of efforts to re-purpose the property into another taxable parcel. Schwartzman concurred with that statement saying that he is not answering for the RDA but the City has invested a fair amount of capital into that property and would like to see something developed there that would generate some taxable income. Mayor Woellner agreed with that statement agreeing that it would be a great potential site but would be a tough sell to the RDA. Mayor Woellner suggested asking the public what they think of the locations via Facebook. He suggested listing three locations and some distinguishing information and site maps to show everyone exactly where we were talking about. Wendorf said he would put it on the Parks & Recreation Facebook page, and monitor the feedback for the next meeting. Wendorf summarized the conversation to ensure that everyone was on the same page, stating that the MARC and Streeter Square seemed to be the top two choices discussed. The committee initially suggested including Fox Point for consideration but after hearing the hurdles that spot may possess, decided to leave it off. It was then decided to include Ott's Park with the other two, as Ott's Park would be a strong possibility and good potential location as well. Wendorf was instructed to include the MARC, Streeter Square, and Ott's Park as the three locations for consideration moving forward. One of the skaters then mentioned that he had a few discussions with some of his friends in Weston (where they have a skate park right by their Aquatic Center) and they felt the MARC was a great idea because in Weston they can cool off on hot days right there at the Aquatic Center and have many of the amenities right there built in around their skate park and it works great.

The next item on the agenda was public comment. Alderman/Parks & Recreation Commissioner Sukow mentioned that he was the one who made the motion for the skate park to be located in the municipal lot near the Center Avenue Bridge that was voted down by the Board of Public Works. He suggested keeping three viable options on the table for consideration. Alderman Schwartzman said he was always told to go for the "no's" and if there is a location that is outside of the box don't be afraid to ask, the worst that could happen is you are told "no." Schwartzman then voiced his support for Streeter Square as his first choice but mentioned that the MARC is a very good location as well. Mayor Woellner commented that he was very impressed with this committee. He said that it was refreshing to see 6 new individuals that have never been involved in City government be active and part of great conversation and commended the Committee for their great progress and dialogue.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 20<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall.

\*\*Motion Baker, seconded by Gulke to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

\*\*Carried unanimously

Dan Wendorf, Recording Secretary