

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 5, 2018

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Hunter Lane with MP3, Mayor Woellner, Susan Williams, Rich McCullough and Jim Wayda

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Susan Williams, 201 North Mill Street. Susan stated that she lives right across the road from Streeter Square and she and most of the neighbors are concerned with the thought of putting the skate park at Streeter Square. Williams stated that Streeter Square is a family park and feels once the skate park is put there it will take that away from being a family park. It is a quiet neighborhood and she would like it to stay that way. Williams is also unhappy on how the situation is being handled. She stated that no one in the neighborhood was made aware of the idea of relocating the skate park to Streeter Square. In Williams opinion she would like to see Streeter Square remain green space.

Jim Wayda, 212 Scott Street. Jim agreed with Williams, it is a quiet neighborhood and he would also like it to stay that way. People like to utilize the green space at Streeter Square and feels by bringing the skate park there it will take that away. Wayda stated that he is not against the new skate park but feels it would serve better at a different location. Wayda stated that parking now is an issue and bringing the skate park there is going to create more of an issue.

Kate Baker, 203 North Mill Street. Kate Baker is in favor of having the skate park at Streeter Square. She feels that with it being out in the open and centralized it will better serve the community. Baker feels that parking will not be issue because most skate boarders do not drive so parking will not be an issue. Baker feels that a new skate park should be built so the skaters are able to do what they love best – skate!

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve bids for Athletic Park lighting project. Wendorf stated the only bid that came in was from Van Ert for \$272,475.00. Wendorf stated that the bid is a lot higher than what was given for funding but he said he spoke with Finance Director Unertl and they are going to transfer Capital money that was supposed to be used for Smith Center Maintenance to make up the difference. That shortfall is \$27,475 (\$200,000 was budgeted for capital and \$45,000 in grants were received). Sukow questioned if they would lose the \$45,000.00 in grant money if they didn't use it this year. Wendorf stated that they probably would lose that money if not used. Artac questioned why only one bid would have come in. Wendorf stated because the size of the job.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to approve the bid for \$272,475.00 from Van Ert for Athletic Park lights.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion and potential action on new skate park location. Wendorf stated that Streeter Square was the chosen location for the new skate board park. Wendorf stated the between the survey that was on Facebook and by talking with skate boarders, the Mayor's special skate park committee members decided that Streeter Square would be the best location. City Administrator stated that along with raising money for the skate board park, money would also have to used to build bathrooms and to put up a retaining wall. Tabor stated that the MARC is used for more recreational events and Streeter Square is more of a neighborhood park. William stated that if the decision is to have the skate park at Streeter than there should be a public hearing but if it is at the MARC no public meeting would be needed.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Tabor to build the new skate park at the MARC.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve park shelter reservation rates. Wendorf stated that he would like to suggest that the rates for Stange Park are increased to match the rates at Kitchenette Park. Stange Park will be finished and ready to start renting next summer. The rates would be to increase from \$55.00 resident to \$65.00 resident and \$65.00 non-resident to \$75.00 non-resident, with a \$50.00 security deposit. Wendorf also suggested that for the Agra building it should be \$85.00 resident and \$95.00 non-resident with a \$100.00 security deposit. Sukow suggested we try the rates for a year and make changes next year if necessary.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Tabor to approve the changes for the rental on Stange Park and also the new rental charges for the Agra building. Stange Park will be \$65.00 resident, \$75.00 non-resident with security deposit remaining at \$50.00. Agra building at \$85.00 resident and \$95.00 non-resident with a \$100.00 security deposit.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve 2019 Capital Budget requests. Wendorf went over all the requests and asked if anyone had any questions or concerns or would like to see some changes. Gulke stated that he would like to see Athletic Wall restoration put on this year's Capital improvements in the amount of \$20,000.00

***Motion by Baker, seconded by Gulke to add the Athletic Wall restoration for \$20,000.00 onto the list for Capital improvements.

***Motion by Baker, seconded by Artac to approve 2019 Capital Budget request.

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve 2019 Operating Budget. Wendorf reviewed the budget for the commission and stated that there really weren't any changes, and the budget remains at a 0% increase.

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Baker to approve the 2019 Operating Budget.

The next item on the agenda is monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the Park and Recreation Department had a good summer and thanked his staff for all the hard work.

***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, October 3, 2018 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public comment: Rich McCullough stated that he also thinks the MARC is a great place for the skate park. He stated that him and his family moved here from Denver and is so impressed with all the things that Merrill has to offer. He said that he sees and talks with people that fly into Merrill and how impressed they are by what Merrill has to offer with bike trails and the small amenities. McCullough finished by saying how unique Merrill is and a great place to live.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Baker to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary