# Mayor's Special Skate Park Committee Meeting Notice

The Mayor's Special Skate Park Committee will have a meeting on Monday, September 10th, 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, Dakoda Branski

The following items will be included on the agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Approve minutes from the previous meeting
3. Public comment
4. Begin discussion on future skate park design
5. Public comment
6. Establish date, time & location of next meeting
7. 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 City of Merrill 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**

August 20th, 2018

The Merrill Skate Park Special Mayor's Committee met on Monday, August 20th, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Visitors Present: MP3, Dave Sukow, Mayor Woellner

The first item on the agenda was to review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

**Motion Baker, seconded by Gulke to approve the minutes from the July 31st meeting.

**Carried unanimously.

There was no public comment to begin the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to continue the discussion on the skate park location. Wendorf began with a summary on the results of the survey as well as the Facebook comments. Wendorf stated that he used Survey Monkey and was only able to view the first 100 results (there were a total of 286 responses to the survey but Wendorf said that it would cost $375 to upgrade to a paid subscription to view the remaining responses). Wendorf stated that 100 responses is a pretty good sample size to work with but also mentioned that it is difficult to determine how many people who took the survey are actually skaters. As was mentioned at the previous meeting when asking for public input on a special use area, you are going to get a lot of opinions just for the sake of opinions. Wendorf stated that the following were the results from the Survey: 63 votes for Streeter Square, 19 MARC, 18 Otts Park. Wendorf said obviously this is a pretty obvious choice according to public input. Baker said her observations after reading the Facebook comments showed three common themes: Parking was not a very big deal, bathrooms were not a big deal, and proximity to local businesses was a big deal. Baker also said that having the ability to be centrally located and near police/EMS would be positive to help monitor and keep it safe. She said there is an unfortunate stigma associated with skaters and by placing this prominently in a central location can help to show that there is no need to stereotype skaters. Wendorf asked the skater members of the committee what their opinion was because they are the ones who are actually going to be using it. Bartz said that he felt Streeter Square would be ideal but both Streeter and/or the MARC would work great. Bartz said that in talking with some of his friends in Weston, a lot of the trouble at their skate park was created by non-skaters. Baker asked the skaters if they talked to their local skater friends and they said that there are not many people in Merrill that skate but they talked with a lot of Weston Skaters and they like the fact that their skate park is near the aquatic center, as they have access to restrooms and concessions. It is also close enough to a few businesses to be able to shop if need be. Gulke said he is leaning towards Streeter Square and likes the idea of a more comprehensive development if it goes there. He mentioned skate park, water fountain, restrooms, possibly re-doing the basketball courts, and other improvements to make the park more inviting to people of all ages and families as well. Novitski also said he is leaning Streeter Square and felt that parking is not an issue and that the central location idea has many more benefits to not only the skaters but the local businesses. Novitski also shared that he thinks the MARC is a very good location and the

only thing he has heard is that it is too far away, but he also recognized that he heard the same argument with the Aquatic Center and it has been very successful. Wendorf, after hearing from each of the committee members, wanted to specifically ask all three skater members of the committee their true feelings before moving on a decision. All three of them stated that they felt Streeter Square would be a great location for a new skate park. All three also mentioned that the MARC would easily be their second choice, should Streeter not be approved.

***Motion Baker, seconded by Bartz to recommend to the Parks & Recreation Commission Streeter Square as the location for the new skate park.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was public comment.

Alderperson Sukow asked the Committee if, for some reason, the Parks & Recreation Commission were to not approve Streeter Square as the location this Committee was comfortable with the MARC as its second choice. Wendorf asked the Committee and they were all very comfortable moving forward with the MARC if Streeter Square was not favored by the Commission.

Mayor Woellner suggested that the Committee begin to compile a list of what they want as part of the skate park now and prioritize so that when discussion begins on design it will help facilitate moving things along.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 10th, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall.

***Motion Baker, seconded by Branski to adjourn at 4:53 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dan Wendorf
Recording Secretary