

## **SKATE PARK SPECIAL MAYOR'S COMMITTEE**

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Merrill Skate Park Special Mayor's Committee met on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Dan Wendorf, Kyle Gulke, Dakota Branski, Ryan Bartz

Members Absent: Shawn Molley, Justin Novitski, Kate Baker

Visitors Present: Heather O'Neil, Jon Kurth, MP3

Wendorf called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

\*\*Motion Gulke, seconded by Bartz to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was public comment.

Heather O'Neill addressed the committee by saying she was very pleased with the site at the MARC. She mentioned that it is the best spot and it puts skating in the same category as other sports, and she said the MARC is the only spot that meets the criteria for a new modern skate park and can handle hosting competitions as well as already having necessary amenities. She handed out design information for the Committee to use moving forward. She said she has researched skate parks for a number of years already and that there are very useful websites (Tony Hawk Foundation) to help guide us through this process.

The next item on the agenda was to continue discussion on future skate park design. Wendorf began the discussion by summarizing the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting from 10/3/18 in which the Skate Park location was on the agenda. Wendorf stated that after very good and positive discussion the Commission elected to stick with the MARC as the site for the future skate park. Wendorf asked the skaters if they still feel good about the MARC as the site and they said they are very comfortable with the site. Gulke mentioned that he was comfortable as well and felt that when the decision was made in September from the Skate Park Committee, everyone was happy with a 1A and 1B site(s) moving both potential sites forward for consideration. Wendorf mentioned that he has the designs that were requested for review and mentioned they were done by Spohn Ranch Skate Parks pro bono. He said this should give us something to begin with but further design will cost money. He said he has requested funding in the 2019 budget to allow for a complete design to be used for fundraising. Wendorf then began the discussion on design, using the Option A and Option B designs provided by Spohn Ranch Skate Park Designs. Gulke mentioned that he noticed that Option B didn't have any stair sets. Branski stated that he likes both designs and would like to see some features of each combined into the same design. Bartz stated that he likes Option A better because it looks like it is more open than Option B and it looks like it will flow better. Branski agreed and said he felt B looks more like a bike park. He also would like to see the bowl feature more open, but thinks it is unique and would bring skaters into town. Jon Kurth, owner of Central Board Shop in Wausau, commented that plaza style skating is more popular today and

suggested a smaller bowl as well as blending skateable benches and walkways to/from the skate park and parking areas. Kurth suggested to the members to study the designs carefully and circle features that they really like, as well as take notes on suggestions good and bad. Wendorf suggested to the skaters to share the designs with as many other skaters as possible to capture as many ideas and thoughts as possible (good and/or bad) because we have a great opportunity right now to do this the right way – even if it takes extra time. We want this to be the best possible skate park it can be. Kurth agreed and offered a few other technical ideas as well, including: making sure that all features flow properly, incorporate local flavor or components into design, make sure that all features are truly what we want to name a few. Gulke shared an idea of recreating some of the skaters favorite “street spots”. He said it might be unique to make that area in the skate park look like it does in the actual area. Kurth said that was a good idea and he has even seen that work in some skate parks as advertising potential. Wendorf concluded by thanking O’Neill and Kurth for their time, input, and expertise, as well as the committee members. Wendorf stated that it is great to see this much involvement and experience helping with the initiative and will help to create a destination park.

There was no second option public comment.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall.

\*\*Motion Gulke, seconded by Bartz to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dan Wendorf  
Recording Secretary