

SKATE PARK SPECIAL MAYOR'S COMMITTEE

November 26th, 2018

The Merrill Skate Park Special Mayor's Committee met on Monday, November 26th, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Dan Wendorf, Kyle Gulke, Ryan Bartz

Members Absent: Shawn Molley, Justin Novitski, Kate Baker

Visitors Present: Heather O'Neill, Jon Kurth, MP3, Paul Russel, Dave Sukow, Dave Johnson

Wendorf called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Wendorf also noted that there was not a quorum present so the Committee will only have discussion.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss minutes. There was no discussion on the minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes will be approved at the next scheduled meeting.

The next item was public comment. Heather O'Neill asked what the status was of the skate park due to the potential budget veto and uncertainty throughout the community. Wendorf stated that he would clarify that question on the next agenda item.

The next item on the agenda was to update the Committee on the 2019 Budget process as it relates to skate park design funding. Wendorf began the discussion by saying the 2019 Budget was approved, then vetoed so all projects were not finalized yet. Mayor Woellner was in attendance and Wendorf asked him if he would mind summarizing where things were at for the 2019 Budget. Mayor Woellner then confirmed the 2019 Budget was vetoed and would be discussed at a Special Meeting on 11/28. He said that he didn't have any concerns with the Skate Park Design as it relates to being funded because he has not heard any issues from anyone on it. Wendorf mentioned that it was important to keep the funding for the project because of the momentum that has been achieved, as well as the popularity of the skate park. Wendorf said it was one of the top 2-3 items mentioned on the survey when we went through the Outdoor Recreation Plan a year ago.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss feedback and receive direction on the design options that were provided at the previous meeting from Spohn Ranch. Wendorf began the discussion by reminding everyone that these were the designs that were offered for free by them to get us started on design discussion and the ideas were provided by the Committee. Wendorf also asked if anyone had the opportunity to study it further and talk with other skaters for their feedback. Bartz said that he will begin reaching out to skaters in our community and other communities to discuss things they like about the plan as well as things they would like to see added/changed. He said personally he would like to see a few things added to the design. He would like some of the features to have more than one purpose as well as be able to be skated different ways by skaters of different ability levels. Wendorf asked Jon Kurth what he had gleaned from his experience and discussions with the skaters he deals with on a daily basis. Kurth said that designs are trending to 75% plaza style blended with 25% transition style. He stated that by designing mostly plaza and having the natural/street look, and designing the transition portion around that it makes for a more well-rounded skate park. O'Neill agreed with Kurth and said she would

like to see a skate path surrounding the park with curved banks. She said it would be more inviting to advanced and beginner skaters and would blend the park nicely for a better experience for all. Kurth also mentioned that parks are going with smaller obstacles because of their multi-use capabilities. Gulke said that Merrill is also known as the cordwood capital and it would be nice to try to incorporate some type of cordwood features into the design as well to honor that heritage here.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss design process and timeline. Wendorf stated that he has talked with the representative from Spohn Ranch to keep him informed of our progress and would like to begin working with them once the 2019 Budget is finalized. He said even though it appears everything will be fine, he was not comfortable moving forward until our funding is 100% confirmed. Wendorf also stated that the way he sees it moving forward is to meet one more time after funding is approved to make sure that everyone's vision is captured as best as possible before starting conversations with designer. He also said he would like as much experience as possible in the room when the conversation begins and invited Kurth and O'Neill to join the design team. Wendorf said once the design team has its first discussion with the designer, it will take them some time to develop a first draft and deliver that to the Committee. When that is in hand, we will reconvene to review and discuss and share with the public to see what everyone thinks. After having that discussion and receiving feedback, the design team will go back to the designer and request changes to the design (as many drafts as it takes) until we have exactly what we want. The one thing that is going to come into play, obviously, is going to be having a design that meets our needs/wants as well as what we feel we can afford to pay for and maintain. O'Neill suggested that once the design is at its final stage we have it reviewed by the Tony Hawk Foundation. She said they have a group of professional skaters that are extremely knowledgeable and will review the plan for free. Everyone on the Committee felt that was a very good idea.

The next item was public comment. Wendorf thanked everyone on the committee for their hard work as well as Kurth and O'Neill for sharing their passion and expertise for this project. Wendorf said we are all very fortunate to have them involved in this.

The next item on the agenda was to establish date, time, and location for the next meeting. Wendorf asked the Committee what they thought and that the budget could/should be finalized at the 12/11/18 Council meeting and suggested having the meeting on 11/17 to begin information collection for the design discussion with Spohn Ranch. Everyone agreed with that so the meeting is scheduled for 11/17/18 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall. Wendorf said that if something changes, or the 2019 Budget is not approved for some reason at that point, they will adjust the meeting accordingly.

Due to lack of quorum, the meeting was not adjourned – just finished discussion at 4:52 p.m.

Dan Wendorf
Recording Secretary