

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

May 1, 2019

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center.

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Brian Artac, Dave Sukow, Kate Baker, Jean Ravn and Dan Novitch.

Members Excused Absent: Joan Tabor

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Mayor Derek Woellner, Judy Sukow, Sharon Anderson, and MP3:

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Artac to approve the minutes from the April meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Ravn, to approve the claims from April.

Wendorf stated that the water bill for Normal was an overcharge for a running water order and money will be credited back.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Sharon Anderson, 1200 A Johnson Street. Sharon stated that she is happy to see that the Park and Recreation Department is looking at expanding the trails in town. Sharon stated that when the River Bend Trail Committee applied for grants there was a proposal to extend the trail over to Prairie Trails. Sharon also stated that she would like to see the Aquatic Center start up lap swim for adults in the morning prior to the pool opening.

The next item on the agenda was to elect City Plan Commission Representative. Gulke questioned how long the term was to be the City Plan Commission Representative. Mayor Woellner stated you could set the term for however long you wanted to.

***Artac made a motion, seconded by Baker, to have a 1 year term set with a renewal yearly.

Sukow stated he did not think that would work because the City Plan Commission does not meet every month and it takes a while to familiarize with how things work. Sukow stated that he feels you should remain on the City Plan for a three year term.

Baker withdrew her second and agreed with Sukow.

Sukow made a motion, seconded by Baker to nominated Kyle Gulke to the City Plan Commission for a three year term ending May 1, 2022.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss idea of potential pedestrian path to connect Prairie Trails to the River Bend Trail. Wendorf stated that he had come up with this idea pre River Bend Trail back in 2005-2006. Wendorf stated that with all the trails in Merrill, none of them connected to each other, he thought it would be a good idea to kind of create a “green circle” like the Stevens Point area had. Wendorf explained that it would not cost a lot to complete this part of the trail since the city owns a lot of the land where the trail would be going. After some discussion Novitch requested that Wendorf keep the commission updated on any potential progress.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion on 2020 Capital & Operating Budgets. Wendorf stated that they will be finding out soon when the final requests need to be handed in for the budget. Wendorf reviewed the Capital Items again for everyone and went through, in detail, the 2020 requests. Baker asked if the form could be organized differently and volunteered to lend a hand to show her idea. Wendorf suggested keeping all of the items the commission has discussed in the 2020 request. Ultimately its up to the City Council to approve/not approve. Gulke suggested giving the trail from Prairie Trails to Riverbend trail a higher priority & potentially moving it up the timeline.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that today was the first day of park opening.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Baker to approve the monthly board report given by Wendorf.

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center, Wendorf requested that this be a joint meeting between the Skate Board Park Committee and Park and Recreation Commission because there will be a representative here from Spohn Ranch for the design of the skate park.

Public comment: Dave Sukow stated that all the meeting after the June meeting should be held at the Merrill City Hall. Sukow feels that without the use of microphones it will be hard for people to hear the meeting when they look back online at them. Anderson stated that she could not hear most of the meeting and she was only sitting a little ways away from the table. Anderson also commented that if you want people to bike at the Prairie Trails park the paths should be blacktopped otherwise they are hard to ride on.

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Artac to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary