

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

August 14, 2019

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Brian Artac, Kate Baker, Jean Ravn, Joan Tabor and Dan Novitch (came in late).

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Brad Gulke, Jim Wedemeyer, Eric Pfantz and Hunter Lane from MP3:

\*\*\*Motion by Tabor, seconded by Baker to approve the minutes from the July meeting.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

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

Wendorf stated that the bill from Horst Distributing will be paid by Merrill Baseball and the bills from Reinders will be split by Merrill Baseball, Merrill Softball and MAPS..

Baker questioned why tickets were purchased for Lobster fest. Wendorf stated that they were purchased for some of the main sponsors for the Black Squirrel Triathlon.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Eric Pfantz stated that he had 2 things he would like to talk about. First is he would like talk about the disc golf course at Stange Park. He would like to see the course finished and stated that the baskets are tilting. Eric stated he drew up some images on his computer on how he would like to see the course done, along with some landscaping. Eric stated that on #8 the tee box is on a slant and he would like to see that flat and also on #2 by Kitchenette there is a small incline and he would like to see that flat. Eric stated the second thing he would like to discuss is that he has heard that Alderperson Steve Sabatke is talking about putting the dam back in by Mill Street and re-flooding Prairie Trails. Eric doesn't think that is a good idea.

City Administrator Johnson commented that the DNR would have to approve putting the dam back in and since they are the ones that took it out Johnson doesn't think they will pay to put it back in and pay for operational costs.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve Lincoln Windows Easement proposal to allow for west expansion of River Bend Trail. Wendorf stated this is a great thing, it will allow the expansion of the River Bend Trail. It will extend the trail in a horseshoe fashion connecting with Chippewa Street.

\*\*\*Tabor made a motion, seconded by Baker, to approve the Lincoln Windows Easement proposal to allow for west expansion of River Bend Trail.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve 2020 Capital Budget. Wendorf stated that there was a couple of items that he would like changed on the 2020 budget request list that he has in the packet. Wendorf stated that for the Zero Turn Mower Replacement he would like to change it from \$25,000 to \$40,000 this would equal replacing two heavily used current zero turns, the replacement of large field mower he would like to move to next year's budget and would like to add Disc Golf improvements at \$10,000. Artac questioned if the solar panels are going to be a problem in the winter time. Wendorf stated that they would not be a problem; they will be on the ground and have been used in Wisconsin for many years without any issues.

\*\*\*Baker made a motion, seconded by Tabor, to approve the 2020 Capital Budget with the following changes: Zero Turn Mower changed to \$40,000, remove the replacement of large field mower and add the Disc Golf Improvements for \$10,000.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve 2020 Operational Budget. Wendorf stated that this will have to go back on the September agenda because the information was not ready and there has been no specific direction given.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the summer has been very busy, it was a good recreational summer, the aquatic center went good and park rentals were very good. Wendorf thanked the staff members and stated that they did a good job this summer.

\*\*\*Motion by Novitch, seconded by Ravn to approve the monthly board report given by Wendorf.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

\*\*\*Motion by Baker, seconded by Ravn to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary