

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

December 4, 2019

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

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Kate Baker, Jean Ravn, Joan Tabor, Brian Artac, and John Vanlieshout.

Members Excused Absent: Dan Novitch

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Hunter Lane from MP3, Jon Krohn

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Vanlieshout to approve the minutes from the November meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Vanlieshout, seconded by Ravn, to approve the claims from November.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Jon Krohn introduced himself to the Park and Recreation Commission; he is the new president for the River District Development Foundation.

The next item on the agenda was the 2020 budget update. Wendorf stated the budget has been approved. There were a few items that have to be considered to be put back on the capital items for the 2021 budget. Wendorf stated he would like to start capital planning in February or March.

The next item on the agenda was update and discussion on trail to connect Prairie Trails to the River Bend Trail. Wendorf stated that he has spoken to both Weinbrenner and Fremarq about utilizing their property for entry and exit off the trails. Wendorf stated that both businesses are in support of the new trail. Wendorf will keep the commission updated on trail progress.

The next item on the agenda is to discuss connecting Merrill/River Bend Trail to the Bearskin/Hiawatha State Trail in Tomahawk. Wendorf stated that he has been in contact with the State of Wisconsin about connecting the trail and they are in full support. Wendorf stated that he will have to talk with Tomahawk and the townships between here and Tomahawk to get their full support also. Wendorf stated that the each township would be responsible for maintaining their section of the trail and that would be why everyone would have to be in support of the project. Wendorf will keep everyone updated on progress.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion on future projects and program ideas. Artac stated that there has been new fencing erected at Athletic Park for improvements. Vanlieshout stated that putting in some IP based security cameras at the parks might be worth looking into to try and prevent vandalism. Vanlieshout stated that they have installed them at the Lincoln County Landfill and there is an app that goes on your phone and you are notified if there is a problem with a break in at one of the parks. Vanlieshout stated that there is also a lot of data stored so you don't have to worry about running out of data. Vanlieshout will check on pricing.

Vanlieshout would also like to see cross country ski trails at the MARC. Wendorf stated that the Council Grounds normally runs some trails from the Council Grounds to the MARC.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if there were any questions. Wendorf stated that they were able to get all the trees planted. Wendorf stated that they will hopefully be working on outdoor rinks soon and the Park and Recreation Department is still looking for a second Zamboni driver. Wendorf also thanked all Parks and Recreation staff members and volunteers for helping make 2019 a great year.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Baker to adjourn at 4:50 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary