

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

June 3, 2020

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Hunter Lane from MP3, Mark Weix

\*\*\*Motion by Artac, seconded by Ravn to approve the minutes from the May meeting.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dan Novitch stated that the minutes from the Special May 13 meeting were not included in the packets and should be included in next month's packets.

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

Gulke questioned what the cornerstone cost was for. Wendorf stated it was for the drain tile and straw. Gulke also questioned why they are paying Jumpline for a website and not doing it themselves. Wendorf stated it was for Barleyfest and someone donates their time to keep the website updated. Novitch questioned what the charge for the meter install was. Wendorf stated it was for the water department. We rent all the meters and they install them when we need them.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The next item on the agenda was to discuss Lions Park Stairs. Wendorf stated that he was contacted by Alderperson Osness in regards to the shape of the stairs. Wendorf stated that the cost to repair or replace those stairs would be over \$100,000 and in his opinion aren't used enough to put that much money into repairing or replacing them. Wendorf also stated that they are not ADA accessible so they would probably need to be ADA accessible. Wendorf stated that he did not think the stairs were a worthy investment to replace or repair. Artac questioned the cost to remove and Wendorf stated they would do the work themselves. Novitch suggested that Wendorf do a drawing of a path up Lions Hill with ADA assessability and bring it back to the commission. Artac suggested putting a sign up to use stairs at your own risk. Will revisit the agenda item in August or when a plan is ready for another path.

The next item on the agenda was discussion and update on COVID-19 issues or updates. Wendorf stated that he has been talking with Shelly from the Health Department at least every other day. Wendorf stated that he will open bathrooms and shelters when the Health Department feels it will be safer for large gatherings and when we will not need to clean every hour or two hours. Wendorf stated that we don't have the staff for that. Wendorf stated that the Health Department will update accordingly and change recommendations accordingly. The Merrill Park and Recreation Department will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the Health Department.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the summer crew has been working on some park projects and trail projects. Wendorf also stated that the much needed projects at the Smith Center are also being completed. We will be running some smaller programs in July and August with a limited amount of kids, as well as starting a YouTube Channel for alternative programming.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment: Mark Weix stated that he is very supportive of the Park and Recreation Department and looks forward to being a Council person.

\*\*\*Motion by Ravin, seconded by Artac to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary