

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

July 1, 2020

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Jean Ravn, Joan Tabor, Brian Artac, Amanda Groth and John Van Lieshout.

Members Excused Absent: Dan Novitch

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Christine Vorpagel

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

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Motion by Vanlieshout, seconded by Tabor, to approve the claims from June.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Dan Wendorf extended a welcome to our new Park and Recreation Commission member Amanda Groth.

The next item on the agenda was to COVID-19 updates. Wendorf stated that we are slowly seeing some progress in shelter reservations. Bathrooms will remain closed to the public and will only be opened when there is a shelter reservation by the reserving party. Soccer league will not be able to run this year. Some smaller activities are starting back up. The Park and Recreation Department have some smaller programs and baseball is starting to play some games with health guidelines. Lion's Car Show and the Dog Show are both cancelled for this year. Wendorf stated that he has still been working with the health department on everything.

The next item on the agenda was the 2021 Capital Budget discussion. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Gulke questioned how long crack sealing lasted. Wendorf stated maybe 3 years. Wendorf stated that he would like to keep this agenda item on for the next couple months to discuss.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that the department is working with only 3 seasonal staff this year. Wendorf stated that the department will be running some small programs in July and parks are available for rental, with some rules and regulations to follow.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment: Christine Vorpagel, N2227 Oak Ridge Ave. Merrill, WI. Christine stated that Recreation is more than just COVID-19. Christine stated that she is with great exception against canceling Gazebo Nights. She stated that there is a whole city block to sit. Christine stated that we need to think of the physical, mental and emotional stress that COVID-19 is causing. Christine also stated that she thought it was wrong how Gazebo Nights was cancelled, no one

personally called but sent an email. Christine stated tourism is at a dead stand still, small businesses are hurting, Easter Egg Hunts cancelled, and questioned if we were going to cancel Santa Claus next? Christine stated that people should have the choice if they want to attend, not be told they can't.

Dave Johnson, 1010 Johnson Street, Merrill WI. Dave Johnson stated that the City Council will continue to follow the guidelines set by the Lincoln County Health Department. Johnson also stated that the Merrill Park and Recreation did not refuse to rent them the park but stated that if could not keep the event under 50 people than they would be unable to rent them the park. Johnson stated that we should be happy having few cases here in Lincoln County, it means that what we are doing is working.

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

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary