



Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Dan Novitch, Brian Artac, Mark Weix, Jean Ravn, Joan Tabor, Kyle Gulke, Chad Krueger

Members Excused Absent: None

Department Staff: Dan Wendorf

Others: Eric Pfantz, MP3

Chairperson Novitch called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes from the previous meeting:

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

***Carried unanimously.

Claims:

***Motion Artac, seconded by Tabor to approve the July claims.

Artac asked Wendorf about the charges from Greenlawn. Wendorf stated it was for in-ground irrigation on MARC softball diamonds 1 & 2 and that the Merrill Fastpitch Association paid for it. Novitch asked about Silver Creek Services for portable toilet rentals with different invoice numbers but same date. Wendorf stated they rent additional toilets for the baseball tournament but have them invoiced separately so that they can bill baseball for those toilets. Kruger asked about water lateral charges from Greenlawn. Wendorf stated that was for the water line they ran to the dog park that is paid for out of a non-lapsing account using dog park donations.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Erik Pfantz, 5331 Brode Drive, Madison, WI talked about Disc Golf. He said he attended the US Women's Disc Golf Championships that were held in Madison this summer and mentioned the great crowd it drew from all over the country and said this was a glimpse of what Merrill could do. He said he was approached by others in the community to have longer courses in Merrill and we have the space for expansion. He said we have ARPA funding that is not ear-marked and to build a high end course would cost \$20,000 - \$25,000.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss a location for potential Pickleball Courts. Wendorf informed the Commission that he met with Pickleball enthusiasts to discuss their ideas for courts and their locations. Wendorf provided maps for the commission to reference. Wendorf said they were thrilled to be talking about the possibility of courts and that they arrived on two potential locations that they would be thrilled equally about. The first location discussed was Streeter Square. Wendorf said that was their "1A" due to its central location and convenience for use and direction. Wendorf said that Ott's Park was their "1B" location. Wendorf stated that Ott's Park is not centrally located but they liked that there were tennis courts nearby; it was a quieter location with parking and restrooms. Artac said he likes both locations but slightly favors Ott's Park because of the existing amenities (restrooms, parking, space, tennis courts, etc.). Krueger asked if there is enough room at Ott's to accommodate additional courts should they be requested in the future. Wendorf said that with the courts being smaller than tennis courts they could arrange them north/south and accommodate a few more if needed. Wendorf also stated that there may be a possibility of finding external funding and he would keep the Commission informed. Wendorf also said that he suggested to the Pickleball enthusiasts to try and organize themselves if possible and form a Pickleball Association, similar to the other sports associations. This would help them with leagues, tournaments, fundraising, and decision making moving forward. He said they were going to do that.

***Motion Artac, seconded by Ravn to approve Ott's Park as the site for the potential Pickleball Courts.

***Carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be on September 7th at 4:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. *The Commission will meet to handle business first, and then Wendorf will try to arrange transportation for the Commission to take a "Park Tour" after the meeting.

Public Comment: Krueger thanked the Park Crew for the amazing job they did with the MARC fields and grounds for their 53 team tournament they hosted on July 22-24. He said they received a lot of compliments on the fields and the facility.

***Motion Ravn, seconded by Weix to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dan Wendorf
Recording Secretary