

**CITY OF MERRILL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 4:15 PM**

I. Call to Order: Roll Call:

Present: Gulke, Alderperson Weix Jr., Krueger, Novitch, Ravn, Tabor

Excused: Rebecca Rutkowski

Absent:

II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting:

1. **Minutes from February 7th meeting** - Ravn made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7th meeting. Tabor seconded the motion.
Approved

III. Approval of Claims:

1. **Approve February claims** - Weix made a motion to approve the claims from the February 7th meeting. Ravn seconded the motion.
Approved

IV. General Agenda Items for Consideration:

1. **Continued discussion and potential decision on connector trail name**
- Ravn made a motion to name the connector trail "Prairie Way Pathway". Wiex seconded the motion.
Gulke stated that he thought the name was a little redundant considering we already had the name Prairie Trails.
Motion was approved.
2. **Updated 5-year capital plan discussion** - Wendorf stated that he updated the 5 year capital plan as requested by Park and Recreation Commission. Krueger suggested that from this point on we should leave all completed projects on the capital plan so the commission can see what was completed. Weix would like to see a sidewalk going to Riverside Park on the capital plan. Ravn would like to see a splash pad added to the capital plan.
3. **Review/approve 2024 Bierman Family Aquatic Center operating hours (request to change slightly)** - Wendorf requested that the hours at the Bierman Aquatic Center be changed from 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 - 6:30 p.m. Wendorf stated that the evenings are a lot slower and opening earlier would be more beneficial. Operating days would be same as last year, Tuesday thru Sunday, closed on Monday's again.
Gulke made a motion to change hours at the Bierman Aquatic Center to 11:30 - 6:30 p.m., Tuesday thru Sunday. Ravn seconded the motion.
Approved.

4. **Review/potentially approve request from Merrill Fastpitch to write a grant for potentially placing lights on fields and playground upgrades at the MARC** - Wendorf stated that fastpitch has requested to write a grant for potentially placing lights on fields and playground upgrades at the MARC. Wendorf stated that if there are lights on the fields, fastpitch would be able to invite more teams for their tournaments, which would bring more people into our city. A discussion was held. Gulke made a motion to approve fastpitch to write a grant for potentially placing lights on fields and playground upgrades at the MARC. Weix seconded the motion. Motion approved.

V. Monthly Reports:

1. **Review Director's Report** - Wendorf summarized his report. Discussion was held.

VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 4:15 in Council Chambers

VII. Public Comment: No public comment

VIII. Adjournment: Ravn made a motion to adjourn at 5:05 p.m. Novitch seconded the motion .