



# CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

1100 Marc Drive - Merrill, WI 54452

Rec. Dept. Telephone (715)536-7313 \* Smith Center (715)536-6187

Fax (715)539-2790

## JULY MEETING NOTICE

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will have a meeting on **Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall**. Phone info: Phone: 218-301-2416  
PIN: 600 685 298 #

Voting members of Commission: Jean Ravn, Brian Artac, Kyle Gulke, Joan Tabor, Mark Weix, Chad Krueger and Dan Novitch

The following items will be included on the agenda:

1. Approve minutes from previous meeting.
2. Approve claims.
3. Public Comment
4. Review and approve 2023 Capital Projects and Equipment.
5. Continued discussion on seasonal and hourly wages.
6. Update on Bierman Family Aquatic Center staffing and operations.
7. Monthly reports.
8. Set date for next meeting.
9. Public comment
10. Adjournment

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Novitch". To the right of the signature are the initials "dms".

Dan Novitch, Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation Commission

The Merrill City Hall is accessible to the physical disadvantaged. If special accommodations are required, please contact City Hall at 536-5594

## **Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes**

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

The Parks & Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Absent: None

Department Staff: Dan Wendorf

Others: Draco Fink – MP3, Dave Johnson

Minutes from previous meeting:

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

Carried unanimously.

Claims: Novitch questioned Lincoln County Health Department charges. Wendorf said it was annual permits for the pool. Weix asked about RTL invoice for the pool, Wendorf explained it was wiring in the new chemical feeder system for the aquatic center.

\*\*\*Motion Weix, seconded by Tabor to approve the May claims.

Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Summary of Outdoor Recreation Survey: Wendorf provided a summary outline as requested by the Commission and gave a verbal explanation from the department's view. He said he was pleased with the survey and it provided a lot of very helpful data. Including reassuring the Department and Commission that many of our recent developments and investments are still ranked at the top of people's current recreational uses and interests. Wendorf explained that this is a powerful tool to utilize when capital budgeting and it is important to invest in things that our citizens want and actually use consistently. By comparing our current Outdoor Recreation Survey to our past Outdoor Recreation plan it is powerful confirmation that these trends are longer lasting and not just a flash in the pan type fad.

Discussion on Bierman Family Aquatic Center staffing levels and future recruitment and retention: Wendorf asked chairperson Novitch if we could blend the next item on the agenda into this one to allow for free flowing conversation on related topics. The Commission agreed. Wendorf began the discussion by talking about up to date staffing levels. He said they have just enough lifeguards and other staff to open the pool during weekdays and select weekends when staffing allows. Wendorf stated that they have done literally all they can do to recruit employees from the area and beyond but there is simply not enough interest at this time. He said he is continuing to work with MAPS and they have a Lifeguard

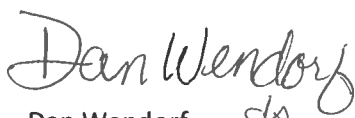
Training Course set up for the weekend of June 10-12<sup>th</sup> and hopefully that will help. Wendorf informed the Commission that MAPS recently approved a rate increase for their lifeguards. MAPS guards will now get paid \$15/hr. for their first two years, then move up to \$16/hr. They will also pay their head guards \$17/hr. to start. Wendorf stated that even with our last increase for our guards, we are still \$2.00/hr. less than the newest MAPS increase. Wendorf stated that we literally share all of our guards between our two entities and requested that we at least match what MAPS is offering their guards. Equity for the same duties and responsibilities is important for continuity and for retention. Ravn asked if we had ever considered referral bonuses for guards who help recruit other guards. Wendorf said that is a great idea but they would have to make sure to have funding to allow that and would have to look into the legality of it as we are not a private entity. Johnson said it can be done under certain circumstances (a community to our south did it recently – but for a higher profile hire). Krueger asked if it might be a good time to not only match wage rates but potentially slightly exceed so that it is more enticing and so that we are not chasing others with rates. Wendorf continued the discussion by talking about compaction within seasonal and full time hourly employees. He said another concern we should all have is the issue of needing to adjust seasonal wages in order to recruit and retain good seasonal employees, but we cannot forget about our full time hourly employees. If we increase wages for our seasonal employees we should be increasing wages for our full time employees proportionally. Failing to do this in today's market could be catastrophic because of the number of job openings in our area that are paying more than what we currently are. We can only speak to our own department but we are extremely fortunate to have amazing full time hourly staff members and we want to do everything we possibly can to retain them for their entire career. Our full time hourly staff goes way above and beyond each and every day, taking on a lot of additional responsibilities. The ripple effect of adjusting seasonal wages too close to full time could have consequences with lasting effects. This is a very real issue and needs to be looked at much more holistically than just seasonal. Novitch suggested keeping this discussion going and coming up with a proposal as we get to our 2023 budget request. Johnson mentioned that there might be a savings in the pool wages budget due to our limited operational hours that we won't be able to run that we had intended on being open that we might be able to use at the end of the season.

Monthly report: Wendorf informed the Commission that almost all of their seasonal help has started and that High School spring sports have come to a close and youth recreational leagues are in full swing. He said the pool is open now for the season and so far has been good – with the exception of the staffing issues. Wendorf said that many of the recreation programs will be starting next week and continuing through the summer months and that everyone is looking forward to another great season in Parks & Recreation.

Next meeting will be on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

\*\*\*Motion Artac, seconded by Ravn to adjourn at 5:15pm.

Carried unanimously.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Wendorf". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dan Wendorf  
Recording Secretary

**JUNE**

|                           |                                  |           |              |             |                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| AJ CONTRACT SERVICES, INC | NEW CHEM FEEDING SYSTEM          | 5/20/2022 | 35641        | \$23,300.00 | AQUATIC CENTER NON LAPSE |
| AJ CONTRACT SERVICES, INC | CHEMICALS AQUATIC CENTER         | 5/26/2022 | 35640        | \$3,236.00  | 55420-03-40000           |
| ALL AMERICAN SWIM         | LIFEGUARD SUITS                  | 5/26/2022 | 300619658    | \$778.96    | 55420-03-40000           |
| AMAZON                    | PROGRAM SUPPLIES                 | 6/7/2022  |              | \$85.94     | 55300-03-415000          |
| AMAZON                    | PROGRAM SUPPLIES                 | 6/7/2022  |              | \$143.94    | 55300-03-41500           |
| AMAZON                    | CHEESE MACHINE                   | 6/1/2022  |              | \$289.99    | AQUATIC CENTER NON-LASPE |
| AMERICAN WELDING          | CYLINDER RENTAL                  | 5/31/2022 | 8544535      | \$1,031.90  | 55420-03-40000           |
| AMERICAN WELDING          | CYLINDER RENTAL                  | 06-31-22  | 8561514      | \$80.30     | 55300-03-41500           |
| AMERICAN WELDING          | CHEMICALS AQUATIC CENTER         | 6/22/2022 | 8561071      | \$58.82     | 55200-02-150000          |
| AMERICAN WELDING          | CHEMICALS AQUATIC CENTER         | 6/10/2022 | 8581313      | \$471.47    | 55420-03-40000           |
| APPLIED                   | CARRIAGE BOLTS                   | 6/22/2022 | 7024555981   | \$39.20     | 55200-03-50000           |
| ATCO INTERNATIONAL        | CENTURION                        | 5/25/2022 | 123383       | \$295.10    | 55400-03-40000           |
| ATCO INTERNATIONAL        | CENTURION                        | 6/13/2022 | 132383       | \$295.10    | 55200-03-40000           |
| BADGER SWIMPOOLS          | OPENING PREP                     | 5/13/2022 | 52332        | \$1,715.00  | 55420-03-50000           |
| BADGER SWIMPOOLS          | SURFACE IGNITOR                  | 5/24/2022 | 52858        | \$137.54    | 55420-03-50000           |
| BAJA'S                    | SHIRTS AQUATIC CENTER            | 5/27/2022 | 18241        | \$342.30    | 55300-03-41500           |
| BAJA'S                    | SHIRTS FOR SUMMER PLAYGROUND     | 6/3/2022  | 18243        | \$220.05    | 55300-03-41500           |
| BAJA'S                    | T-BALL AND STARTER T-BALL SHIRTS | 6/7/2022  | 18244        | \$929.10    | 55300-03-41500           |
| BAJA'S                    | SHIRTS                           | 6/13/2022 | 18250        | \$222.45    | 55420-03-40000           |
| BAUMGART WASTE REMOVAL    | GARBAGE HAULING                  | 6/14/2022 |              | \$330.08    | 55200-02-15000           |
| BEIN CRAFTY               | BLACK BEANIES                    | 6/1/2022  | 7344         | \$1,000.00  | BLACK SQUIRRELL          |
| BRITNEE FEAR              | SECURITY DEPOSIT                 | 6/22/2022 | VOUCHER      | \$100.00    | 10-21-7200               |
| CARQUEST                  | JBWELD                           | 5/24/2022 | 10846-233669 | \$7.35      | 55420-03-5000            |
| CINTAS                    | UNIFORMS                         | 5/26/2022 | 4120552011   | \$209.57    | 55200-03-460000          |
| CINTAS                    | MOP/MATS                         | 6/2/2022  | 4121157126   | \$197.21    | 55400-02-23250           |
| CINTAS                    | UNIFORMS                         | 6/2/2022  | 4121157243   | \$142.79    | 55200-03-46000           |
| CINTAS                    | UNIFORMS                         | 6/9/2022  | 412191432    | \$142.79    | 55200-03-46000           |
| CINTAS                    | UNIFORMS                         | 6/16/2022 | 4122587155   | \$142.79    | 55200-03-46000           |
| CINTAS                    | UNIFORMS                         | 6/23/2022 | 4123260859   | \$142.79    | 55200-03-46000           |

|                             |                          |           |          |             |                         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| COLOR CREATIONS             | BARLEYFEST TICKETS       | 5/31/2022 | 229      | \$69.00     | BARLEYFEST              |
| COURTNEY KRUEGER            | REFUND ON SUPPLIES       | 6/25/2022 | VOUCHER  | \$14.77     |                         |
| DAIRY QUEEN                 | TREATS                   | 6/3/2022  |          | \$37.78     | 55300-03-41500          |
| DAIRY QUEEN                 | TREATS                   | 5/15/2022 |          | \$37.78     | 55300-03-41500          |
| DARRIN GILL                 | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/22/2022 | VOUCHER  | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200              |
| DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET        | ICE                      | 6/28/2022 |          | \$2.39      | 55300-03-41500          |
| DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET        | RIT DYE                  | 6/28/2022 |          | \$17.80     | 55300-03-41500          |
| DONNA MATTHIAE              | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/25/2022 | VOUCHER  | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200              |
| GREEN LAWN                  | SPRING START UP          | 0708-22   | 22-25188 | \$132.12    | 55200-02-15000          |
| HAWKINS                     | CHEMICALS AQUATIC CENTER | 5/19/2022 | 4506692  | \$1,456.00  | 55420-03-40000          |
| HAWKINS                     | CHEMICALS AQUATIC CENTER | 5/18/2022 | 4504554  | \$3,370.66  | 55420-03-40000          |
| HAWKINS                     | CALCIUM CHLORIDE         | 5/25/2022 | 6198306  | \$26.00     | CREDIT MEMO             |
| HAWKINS                     | CHEMICALS AQUATIC CENTER | 6/14/2022 | 6215020  | \$3,756.44  | 55420-03-40000          |
| HEATHER SCHOTZ              | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/25/2022 | VOUCHER  | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200              |
| HOLIDAY WHOLESALE           | AQUATIC CENTER SUPPLIES  | 6/21/2022 | 1124602  | \$854.60    | 55420-03-40100          |
| ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC | MEMBERSHIP FEE           | 6/15/2022 | 2749     | \$2,500.00  | CITY FOREST TIMBER SALE |
| JENNIFER HEISINGER          | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/7/2022  | VOUCHER  | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200              |
| JERRI WENDT                 | REFUND PROGRAMS          | 6/7/2022  | VOUCHER  | \$90.00     |                         |
| JESSICA NOFSINGER           | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/15/2022 |          | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200              |
| JULIE LOSEE                 | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/7/2022  | VOUCHER  | \$100.00    | 10-21-7200              |
| KARI RADDATZ                | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/7/2022  | VOUCHER  | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200              |
| KAYTLYN STENBERG            | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/7/2022  | VOUCHER  | \$100.00    | 10-21-7200              |
| KEITH KORMAN                | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/7/2022  | VOUCHER  | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200              |
| LEAH ZASTROW                | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 06-22-220 | VOUCHER  | \$100.00    | 10-21-7200              |
| LEE RECREATION              | NUGGET MULCH             | 6/22/2022 | 14184    | \$9,000.00  | CAPITAL - RUBBER MULCH  |
| LEE RECREATION              | NUGGET MULCH             | 6/22/2022 | 14183-22 | \$23,900.00 | CAPITAL - RUBBER MULCH  |
| MARILY SCHMIDT              | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/14/2022 | VOUCHER  | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200              |
| MARY JO DIELS               | SECURITY DEPOSIT         | 6/7/2022  | VOUCHER  | \$100.00    | 10-21-7200              |
| MENARDS                     | ENDURANCE FLOOR          | 5/23/2022 | 30160496 | \$509.94    | 55400-08-82000          |
| MENARDS                     | TRASH CAN                | 6/7/2022  | 5298     | \$101.04    | 55400-08-82000          |
| MENARDS                     | GARBAGE CANS             | 6/15/2022 |          | \$101.04    | 55200-03-40000          |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE        | CORD BUNGEE              | 5/27/2022 | 216093   | \$59.97     | 55200-03-40000          |

|                       |                                      |           |          |          |                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | WEEK AND FEED                        | 6/3/2022  | 216296   | \$54.99  | 55200-08-91000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | PLUNGER                              | 5/26/2022 | 216054   | \$8.99   | 55200-03-40000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | FASTENERS                            | 5/27/2022 | 216086   | \$4.49   | 55420-03-50000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | SCREWS                               | 5/25/2022 | 16027    | \$2.97   | 55420-03-50000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | WATERWELD EXPO                       | 5/24/2022 | 2159870  | \$23.97  | 55420-03-50000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | PVC PIPES/TEST PLUG                  | 5/21/2022 | 215898   | \$38.82  | 55200-03-40000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | LED LITE                             | 5/21/2022 | 215902   | \$5.99   | 55200-03-40000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | WALL SCRAPER/SCREWDRIVERS/SUPER GLUE | 5/21/2022 | 215906   | \$74.95  | 55200-03-40000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | TRASH BAGS                           | 6/13/2022 | 216577   | \$59.98  | 55400-03-44000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | LIGHT BULBS                          | 6/13/2022 |          | \$21.97  | 55200-03-40000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | BIBB HOSE                            | 6/7/2022  | 216404   | \$15.99  | 55200-03-40000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | GARDEN HOSE                          | 6/15/2022 | 516631   | \$19.99  | 55200-03-40000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | FANS AQUATIC CENTER                  | 6/20/2022 | 216799   | \$60.97  | 55300-03-41500  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | CAULK                                | 6/22/2022 | 216887   | \$55.92  | 55400-03-40000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | SANDBELT/CAULK                       | 6/18/2022 | 216751   | \$104.95 | 55400-08-820000 |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | AIR FILTERS                          | 6/24/2022 | 216942   | \$48.93  | 55400-03-50000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | SCREWS                               | 5/14/2022 |          | \$26.99  | 55400-03-40000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | CHASE LOUNGE                         | 5/16/2022 |          | \$89.99  | CREDIT          |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | HOSE HANGER                          | 5/2/2022  |          | \$74.95  | 55420-03-50000  |
| MERRILL ACE HARDWARE  | TRASH BAGS                           | 6/27/2022 | 217024   | \$41.36  | 55200-03-40000  |
| MERRILL COUNTRY STORE | CORNERSTONE PLUS                     | 7/31/2022 |          | \$354.95 | 55200-08-91000  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | KETCHUP/MUSTARD AQUATIC CENTER       | 5/27/2022 | 1614582  | \$62.20  | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | SUPPLIES FOR AQUATIC CENTER          | 5/31/2022 | 1614820  | \$608.00 | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | GLOVES                               | 0602-22   | 1615364  | \$123.43 | 55200-03-40000  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | PRETZELS                             | 6/7/2022  | 1616102  | \$100.90 | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | AQUATIC CENTER SUPPLIES              | 6/9/2022  | 1616584  | \$68.50  | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | AQUATIC CENTER SUPPLIES              | 6/13/2022 | 1616805  | \$343.40 | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | AQUATIC CENTER SUPPLIES              | 6/14/2022 | 1616962  | \$241.70 | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | AQUATIC CENTER SUPPLIES              | 6/15/2022 | 16173202 | \$347.85 | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | AQUATIC SUPPLIES                     | 6/2/2022  | 1617849  | \$231.15 | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | AQUATIC CENTER                       | 6/28/2022 | 1618937  | \$393.85 | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING  | AQUATIC CENTER                       | 6/21/2022 | 1618086  | \$56.70  | 55420-03-40100  |

|                             |                                    |            |             |             |                 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| MERRILL DISTRIBUTING        | AQUATIC CENER                      | 6/21/2022  | 1618054     | \$421.05    | 55420-03-40100  |
| MERRILL FOTO NEWS           | WI JOURNEYS MINI BOOK              | 6/2/2022   |             | \$279.00    | 55400-03-41000  |
| MERRILL FOTO NEWS           | EMPLOYMENT LIFE GUARD              | 6/2/2022   |             | \$894.00    | 55400-03-41000  |
| MERRILL PIZZA HUT           | EMPLOYEE TREAT                     | 6/27/2022  |             | \$29.50     | 55300-03-415000 |
| MERRILL PIZZA HUT           | EMPLOYEE TREAT                     | 6/22/2022  |             | \$45.57     | 55300-03-41500  |
| MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT   | CRACK SEALING                      | 5/18/2022  |             | \$1,000.00  | 55400-08-79000  |
| MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT   | CRACK SEALING                      | 5/18/2022  |             | \$2,375.00  | 26-31-5368      |
| MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT   | P-13                               | 5/19/2022  | 18251       | \$124.20    | 55200-03-50000  |
| MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT   | P-12                               | 5/10/2022  | 18240       | \$517.02    | 55200-03-50000  |
| MID WISCONSIN BEVERAGE      | SODA                               | 6/27/2022  | 2853535     | \$629.00    | 55420-03-40100  |
| MOSINEE BREWING COMPANY LLC | BARLEYFEST                         | 10/12/2021 | 1590        | \$175.00    | BARLEYFEST      |
| NAPA AUTO PARTS             | CORE DEPOSIT                       | 5/19/2022  | 963309      | \$124.51    | 55200-03-50000  |
| NAPA AUTO PARTS             | BATTERY                            | 5/25/2022  | 96434       | \$12.52     | 55200-03-5000   |
| NASSCO                      | TOWELS                             | 6/27/2022  |             | \$471.38    | 55200-03-40000  |
| O REILLY                    | PARTS FOR SHOP                     | 5/26/2022  | 2327-147131 | \$39.96     | 55420-03-50000  |
| O REILLY                    | JBWELD                             | 5/26/2022  | 2327-147130 | \$19.98     | 55420-03-50000  |
| O REILLY                    | JBWELD                             | 5/26/2022  | 2327146540  | \$28.96     | 55420-03-50000  |
| OFFICE PRODUCTS             | SUPPLIES FOR SHOP                  | 5/26/2022  | 112246-001  | \$22.46     | 55200-03-10000  |
| PAM MOHRLAND                | SECURITY DEPOSIT                   | 6/25/2022  | VOUCHER     | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200      |
| PAUL WAID                   | SECURITY DEPOSIT                   | 6/25/2022  | VOUCHER     | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200      |
| PERMAR                      | MONITORING SERVICES                | 6/8/2022   | 1203870500  | \$525.84    | 55400-02-16500  |
| RTL ELECTRIC                | RIVERBEND TRAIL ELECTRICAL SEETING | 6/20/2022  | 65246       | \$42,323.09 | RDDF            |
| RTL ELECTRIC                | STANGE PARK                        | 6/21/2022  | 65244       | \$113.40    | 55200-02-15000  |
| RUTH KLEINSCHMIDT           | SECURITY DEPOSIT                   | 6/25/2022  | VOUCHER     | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200      |
| SAMS CLUB                   | AQUATIC CENTER                     | 6/13/2022  |             | \$301.66    | 55420-03-40100  |
| SAM'S CLUB                  | AQUATIC CENTER                     | 6/18/2022  |             | \$320.92    | 55420-03-40100  |
| SAM'S CLUB                  | SUPPLIES FOR AQUATIC CENTER        | 6/27/2022  |             | \$949.92    | 55420-03-40100  |
| SANDY KRUEGER               | SECURITY DEPOSIT                   | 6/7/2022   | VOUCHER     | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200      |
| SHANNON CORTWRIGHT          | SECURITY DEPOSIT                   | 6/7/2022   | VOUCHER     | \$50.00     | 10-21-7200      |
| SHOPKEEP                    | POINT OF SALE                      | 4/17/2022  | 1907772     | \$1,176.00  | 55300-03-41500  |
| SILVER CREEK SERVICES       | PORTABLE TOILET RENTAL             | 5/31/2022  | 168536      | \$125.00    | 55200-02-15000  |
| STEPHANIE PAJTASH           | SECURITY DEPOSIT                   | 6/7/2022   | VOUCHER     | \$100.00    | 10-21-7200      |



---

---

---

---

---

|



### **Bierman Family Aquatic Center Operational Summary – through June 2022**

The Bierman Family Aquatic Center has been open for a little over a month now and I was asked to provide an operational summary. This is intended to give you a brief overview of how things have been going thus far.

We began with some very sketchy weather at the end of May and early June, along with the height of our staff shortage. Our patron numbers reflected that as we were slow on the 60 degree cloudy days. Once we started seeing more summer-like conditions, our numbers rebounded immediately. Our first few upper 80, low 90 degree days it was packed out there and we even had some days where we had well over 500+ people through the gates. That trend continued through the month of June – 80+ degree sunny days we had great numbers while upper 60's/low 70's and chance of rain we were slow. That is no different than any other year under those same conditions (and that is the same for every outdoor pool anywhere in the upper Midwest).

As we transitioned into early June, we did start to see a few new lifeguard applications come in and we hired them to help with scheduling flexibility during the week. We had enough guards on a few occasions to open on the weekend. After the Lifeguard Training Course that MAPS hosted the second weekend in June, a few more guards became certified and applied and were hired. This was outstanding in that it provided even more flexibility and has led us to be able to open every weekend in July so far. Now that we are closing in on being fully staffed with lifeguards (number-wise) our trick is to make sure that we retain them. Our goal all along has been to attract and retain guards and only time will tell if we can be successful with that.

Our new chemical control system is finally 100% operational, including remote access from our phones. This is nice because we can see what our chemical levels are at without needing to constantly go to the pool and monitor. Thus far, things have been mechanically operating out there fairly smooth.

We have just over a month left and we are hoping for some warm weather, sunny skies, and large crowds every day until we have to close it down!!

Respectfully Subitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Wendorf".

Dan Wendorf  
Parks & Recreation Director  
City of Merrill



## **2023 Parks & Recreation Department Draft Capital Request**

| <b>PROJECT/EQUIPMENT REQUESTED</b>                                  | <b>PRIORITY</b> | <b>ESTIMATED COST</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Replace dock at Riverside Park</b>                               | 1               | \$20,000              |
| <b>Replace dock &amp; repair boat landing at Ott's</b>              | 1               | \$40,000              |
| <b>Security Camera's at Normal, Stange, &amp; Kitchenette Parks</b> | 1               | \$25,000              |
| <b>Replace John Deere 1445 Front Deck Mower &amp; Attachments</b>   | 2               | \$70,000              |
| <b>Construct Pickleball Courts</b>                                  | 2               | \$100,000             |
| <b>Re-do Streeter Basketball Courts</b>                             | 2               | \$25,000              |
| <b>Construct small playground near the Agra Pavilion</b>            | 2               | \$25,000              |

\*\*This is in draft format right now. I am still working on better pricing (for those who will give me pricing). The difficult part about estimates and quotes in today's economic climate is that some won't even do it because nobody knows what prices are going to look like next month, so it's difficult to forecast next year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Wendorf  
Parks & Recreation Director  
City of Merrill



## July 2022 Parks & Recreation Director's Report

**Parks:** Amazingly, June has already come and gone and another holiday has passed us by. The rainfall slowed down quite a bit towards the end of June which has slowed our grass down quite a bit. Obviously things look much more lush when the grass is green and growing but for us it is a nice little break that allows us to get some other things done besides constantly mowing grass and weed trimming. We hosted the Merrill Baseball Association Youth Tournament on June 10-12 at Athletic Park, Lion's Park, Athletic Park, and the MARC. We had to cancel all games on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> due to rain but we were able to get all of our games in on Sunday by flexing games to the High School baseball field and moving an age division to Ott's Park. We are very fortunate to have the number of ball fields that we have, not a lot of communities have those capabilities. We finally received shipment of our rubber mulch to fill in the playground areas at the MARC and Kitchenette. Those two playgrounds combined for 60 tons of rubber mulch. It really looks good and has been met with many compliments as well due to how soft it is compared to woodchips. I also heard from Huffcut that our pit toilets for Prairie Trails that were originally scheduled for September and moved to early July are now moved back to end of July/early August so we will wait a bit to prep the site for delivery. Our vandalism issues continued well into June this year and it is really unfortunate to continue to see people have such little respect for our beautiful park/public spaces. At a few locations we had to begin locking the restrooms before we left for the day around 4:00 pm and it has worked out so far. The bad part about that is that it doesn't allow good people to use those facilities as they were intended. We have been working with Merrill PD a lot lately and they have been great as always and from what I gather are making some good progress on figuring out who is behind this. One request on my Capital list will reflect these issues – I would like to get security cameras at Normal, Stange, and Kitchenette Parks. The Merrill Optimist Club has informed us they have funding to pay for security cameras at Normal Park so we would need funding for the other two locations. I feel it is a very worthwhile investment to be able to have camera's to help preventatively decrease people's urge to damage things, knowing they are being recorded. We will be gearing up for the Merrill Softball Association tournament on July 22-24 at the MARC. The Association has over 50 teams coming from all over the State of Wisconsin and beyond to our community for that weekend and we always try and make sure that things are all set for them to run their tourney. The Softball Association used their funding to invest in underground sprinklers for Diamonds 1 & 2 at the MARC and that project is now finished and operational. It will help keep the fields softer and safer for athletes, as well as keep the dust down and allow the rain to pass through the soil profile quicker than sitting on the hard pan, which is typical for most hot/dry July days. We also hosted the Fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup> out at the MARC and it went very well as usual. We always draw a very big crowd because our space at the MARC is perfect for hosting an event like community fireworks. The Aquatic Center has been doing well, especially on the very warm days. Hopefully it will all average out as the summer goes on, as it seems like we have either been either hot or close to the chilly end of the spectrum.

**Forestry:** I am almost caught up on all tree calls and inspections for the time being. I will continue summer inspections as time allows or as requested by citizens especially to observe during summer conditions. I was unable to attend the Urban Foresters Networking meeting in June, as things were just too busy in our department at that day to take an entire morning but I did speak with my colleague in Stevens Point and will schedule a visit with him to see his tree walk and other things yet this summer. I will be starting very soon on plans for our fall tree planting. I am hoping to try and set up our planting a bit earlier this fall (and still plan for dormancy so our trees are healthy).

**Recreation:** Our summer programs are all off and running at full speed at this point in the summer. They are all off to a great start and surprisingly some of them have come to an end. We have had great numbers in our programs and all of our participants have really been enjoying their experience, which is a great thing. T-ball and starter T-ball have wrapped up and they were both good and we had enough for 4 teams in each program. We still have a few months left of programs and I am anticipating those programs to be really good as well. Our bus trips are starting to fill in nicely also. We got off to a slow start with them after announcing and promoting them but it seems like people are starting to have a little more confidence in wanting to get out and experience a few things like this. Hopefully over the next few weeks we can sell them out. If nothing else, we do need to start offering these things for people again like this year and continue it into the future.

**Smith Center:** We had a great month of June with some good events in our building. Once again we hosted the June Dairy Breakfast and it was very well attended. We also had a number of smaller rentals in the arena and community room, as well as having some of our recreation programs and summer playground program in the arena a few of the rain days. We prepared the arena in time to turn the floor down on June 27<sup>th</sup> to begin getting ready to put in summer ice for Merrill Youth Hockey Association. We need extra time to install ice this time of year because of the outside temperature and humidity that we don't have to deal with in late October through March. So far things are going pretty good, and as previously mentioned, we haven't done this since before the tornado. Hockey has a pretty full ice schedule which is good for them, the arena, and our community. Camp begins on July 11<sup>th</sup> and will last for two weeks at which point we will remove the ice until mid-October. We do have additional dry floor events after we remove the ice so we will be able to get things back in order for that again. Youth Hockey will pay us for the costs incurred to install the ice and utilities to keep it; in return they sell their own ice to help cover those costs. We will also utilize a few volunteers from the association for ice resurfacing. We will train the volunteers (our City Attorney has been involved in the conversations) and both of them are familiar with and comfortable with our ice resurfacer. One of them used to work for us as a Zamboni Driver.

**Note:** We were able to secure a few more lifeguards from the June training that we worked with MAPS on that has allowed us to open up for a few more weekends since. Hopefully we can continue this trend for the rest of the summer and into the future. I would also like to thank all of our staff members for always going above and beyond to do a tremendous job. I am not sure if people realize how much ground we have to cover on a daily basis in the summer time. There is so much more to our buildings, grounds, facilities, amenities, and programs than people see. A very big thank you to all of our employees, we are fortunate to have the best!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Wendorf, Parks & Recreation Director  
City of Merrill