

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

July 10, 2019

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission and the Skate Park Committee met on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 4:15 p.m. at the Smith Center.

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Brian Artac, Dave Sukow, Joan Tabor, Kate Baker, Jean Ravn

Members Excused Absent: Dan Novitch

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Mayor Derek Woellner, and MP3. Vince Onel from Spohn Ranch Skate Parks, Jon Kurth, Heather O’Niell, Tristen Heyden, Ryan Bartz, Dakota Branski and one other person (handwriting not legible).

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

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Baker, seconded by Sukow, to approve the claims from June.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Wendorf reminded everyone to speak up because there was no microphones available. Artac stated that the lights at Athletic are awesome and have been getting used a lot.

The next item on the agenda was discussion on potential future skate park design with Vince Onel from Spohn Ranch Skate Parks. Wendorf began discussion by introducing Onel from Spohn Ranch and welcomed him to Merrill. Wendorf stated that Onel arrived around 2 pm and met with him, Mayor Woellner and several other skate park committee members to view the site and get a lay of the land. They discussed design ideas and thoughts while on site and had extensive interaction to help Onel with his design inspiration. Wendorf turned the discussion over to Onel, who explained a little bit about himself, his company and the process he is going to lead us through to eventually arrive at a unique design. Onel summarized the 2 hour meeting before the commission stating the feel from committee members is 70% plaza or street style. Skaters in attendance agreed that was what they wanted. Onel then described his vision for what the skate park could look like, including features and amenities. The skaters in attendance thought it sounded fantastic and offered some helpful suggestions of features they would like to see included to help make the design more inviting for everyone to use, and make it a unique destination park for the entire state and beyond. O’Neill described some of the items on her design and how she would like to see the skate park look and function. Wendorf thanked Onel for his visit and expertise and thanked committee members and skaters for their involvement. Wendorf also encouraged skaters to continue to share any new thoughts and ideas they have on design while we are going through the process as we are building this for the.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potentially adopting “Bankers Square” (downtown pocket park) as a City Park. Wendorf stated that now that the park is done it should be adopted as a city park. Wendorf stated that there is not much maintenance involved in taking care of the

park. Artac stated it is a nice pocket park with some green space. Sukow questioned if there was any shade provided in the park. Sukow stated that it will get very hot sitting there.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Baker to adopt the Banker Square as a City Park.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated everything was going good, and finally catching up with mowing and some projects. The pool has been going good since the pumps have been rebuilt. Wendorf stated there have been a lot of events going on the Merrill area. Softball Tournaments, baseball tournaments, swim meets and more. Sukow stated that it is good for the businesses having different events in Merrill.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Tabor to approve the monthly board report given by Wendorf.

***Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public comment: Ravn questioned if anyone has ever thought of planting some fruit trees in the community. Wendorf thanked Vince Onel from Spohn Ranch Skate Park for coming up. Gulke stated that someone asked if a meeting could be held at the new Stange Park. Sukow stated that it is really hard to hear and the public wants to hear what is going on and he would prefer all the meetings to be at the Merrill City Hall.

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

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary