

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

JULY 7, 2021

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 4:15 p.m., at Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Dan Novitch, Kyle Gulke, Joan Tabor, Brian Artac and Amanda Groth (phone in)

Members Excused Absent: John VanLieshout, Jean Ravn

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

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

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Gulke, seconded by Artac, to approve the claims from May and June.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potentially designating area along West 64 as a park or green space. Wendorf stated that it's really a difficult area to do anything else with other than a scenic route into town. Wendorf stated that he would like to get the dead trees and brush removed. City Administrator Johnson stated because we are the City of Parks we should take advantage of making more green space. Gulke stated that it would be nice to see the area kept up, with the granite chairs and the stairs there. Wendorf stated taking care of the area would not impact the department.

***Motion made by Gulke, seconded by Tabor, to designate green space on West 64 as a park.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion on potential Forestry Ordinance changes and modifications. Wendorf explained some changes he made to the City Forestry Ordinances and stated that he would likely have all changes completed by November or December. Wendorf stated he will keep the commission updated.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potential land availability for acquisition adjacent to City Forest. Wendorf stated that the owner of the 70 acres adjacent to the Merrill City Forest would like to sell to the City because they are supporters of the Memorial City Forest and it would be a perfect addition. Wendorf stated that a price has not been discussed at this point but he will continue to work with the family to come to an agreement on price if possible. City Administrator Johnson stated that it would be foolish not to look into the land, opportunities don't always come up. Wendorf stated that are also willing to be flexible for a aquisition on the land.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Tabor, to explore the potential purpose of the land.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that it has been a busy couple of months, a good busy. Bierman Aquatic Center is going good, programs are good and park reservations are good. Wendorf stated that softball and baseball are finishing up and soccer will be starting.

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

Public Comment:

***Motion by Tabor, seconded by Gulke to adjourn at 5:03 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary