

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

May 3, 2023

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 4:15 p.m., at Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Chad Krueger, Dan Novitch, Rebecca Rutkowski, Mark Weix and Jean Ravn,

Members Excused Absent: Joan Tabor

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Weix to approve the minutes from the April meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Weix, seconded by Ravn, to approve the claims from April 2023.

Weix questioned the bill for the Turface. Wendorf stated it was for the ball fields. Wendorf also stated that softball and baseball also purchase some Turface.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: none

The next item on the agenda was to elect member to the City Plan Commission. Novitch asked if anyone would be interested. Gulke stated that he would continue to be on the City Plan Commission.

***Motion by Weix, seconded by Ravn to elect Gulke to the City Plan Commission.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to elect Vice Chairperson. Novitch questioned if anyone was interested in Vice Chairperson. Krueger stated that he would.

***Motion by Weix, seconded by Gulke to elect Chad Krueger Vice Chairperson.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and revisit plan for houses between Lion's Park and 3rd Street. (Currently there is a home for sale). Wendorf stated that the plan a long time ago was to work with MAPS to purchase the homes between the two parking lots by Lion's Park. Wendorf stated that area would either have been turned into parking lot or green space. Wendorf stated they are trying to sell the home for \$145,000 and when the home was purchased in 2022 it was only purchased at \$68,000. Wendorf realizes that the city does not have the money to purchase the home but would like to revisit discussions with MAPS and agreement to see a fund started so that in the future if another home in that area came up for sale the Park and Recreation Commission could purchase the home for more parking. After some discussion it was decided that Wendorf should speak with City Attorney Tom Hayden and also with the Merrill Area School district to see if both entities could come up with an agreement to eventually purchase the

houses in that area. Wendorf will report back to the commission in a few months on this agenda item.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Weix questioned how much damage was done by the flooding. Wendorf stated that Prairie Trails had damage with trail washout and Riverside had washout by the volleyball courts, around the shelter and in the playground area. Wendorf also stated a lot of branches and twigs were scattered throughout the parks. Lion's Park and Athletic Park also flooded but no damage. Weix questioned how the pool repairs were going. Wendorf stated that they were here Monday and Tuesday and will return next week to hopefully finish. Weix questioned if any vandalism was happening. Wendorf stated that Riverside and Ott's and Normal have all been getting vandalized. Krueger questioned if a bus trip is cancelled if there is a cancellation fee that has to be paid. Wendorf stated that if a trip is cancelled it is cancelled far enough in advance so there are no cancellation fees. Weix questioned when the Pickle ball courts would be done. Wendorf stated that they should be done by the end of August. Ravn questioned what is going on with the new skate park. Wendorf stated that no one has done any fund raising for it.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment: no public comment

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Krueger to adjourn at 5:10 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary