

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 8, 2023

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 4:15 p.m., at Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Brian Artac

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Gulke to approve the minutes from the February meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Weix, seconded by Krueger, to approve the claims from February 2023.

Krueger questioned if the Zamboni was battery operated and if that is what the battery expense was for. Wendorf stated it was and also stated that the Community Foundation will be sponsoring the batteries. The cost was paid out of a non-lapsing account for now. Krueger also questioned the bill from Accentu for the tent from Badger State, he was wondering if the Parks department will be reimbursed for the tent payment. Wendorf stated that it will not be reimbursed. Wendorf stated the tent was paid from the City Forest timber money. Weix questioned if hockey or ice reflections help pay for the batteries. Wendorf stated that through the hockey contract some of the money is used for the batteries. Weix questioned how many fat tire bikers raced. Wendorf stated around 50 bikers. Wendorf also stated that he had some other organizations that might be interested in doing races at the City Forest. Weix questioned what the Stow Away Shed is being used for. Wendorf stated that we run tot time on Wednesday mornings and we are using that for storage for the equipment. Weix questioned if the wood and paint from Menards was for picnic tables. Wendorf stated that it was and that due to vandalism they end up repairing probably about half the picnic tables each year.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: none

The next item on the agenda was to review/approve bids for Ott's park Pickleball Courts. Wendorf stated that he was disappointed that they only received one bid for the Asphaltic surfacing and only one bid for fencing and no bids for the lighting project. Wendorf stated that for the lighting they will more than likely have the street department install them or private contractor. Wendorf recommended approving the bid from American Asphalt of Wisconsin for \$97,500 w/o netting and the bid from American Fence Company for \$40,000 including netting.

***Motion by Weix, seconded by Tabor to approve the bid from American Asphalt of Wisconsin bid for \$97,500 and the bid from American Fence Company for \$40,000 for the Pickleball Courts at Ott's Park.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to consider proposal for waste collection/removal for park shelters and athletic fields. Wendorf stated that with the cost of waste removal we have to move forward on a different plan for the waste removal. Wendorf stated a lot of other communities don't offer anything; their thought is whatever garbage you bring in you take home. Wendorf stated that he has been working with Dustin from the City Garage and will be utilizing the 96 garbage totes for the park reservations this year. Wendorf stated that they will come up with plan so that each rental will be able to use one garbage tote per rental. Wendorf stated that the weekend crew will try and empty after rentals on the weekend, but he will continue working with Dustin on a plan and will keep the Commission updated. Tabor questioned if there would be a recycling bin. Wendorf stated that they could try it, but most people don't separate garbage at the parks. Krueger questioned if a garbage bin could be at Ott's, Athletic and Lion's park for garbage during the baseball/softball season but they would rent a dumpster for tournaments.

***Motion by Gulke, seconded by Tabor to approve the plan to move forward to utilize the 96 gallon garbage carts in the parks where it is feasible.

Krueger questioned if there would be a bin located at Athletic, Marc, Lions and Otts Park. Wendorf stated there would be.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that Thursday was the last day of ice and then dry floor events will start. Wendorf stated that they had several dry floor events this summer. Wendorf stated that he is hoping it will be a smooth transition getting the ball fields ready for the summer and getting parks ready for rentals. Weix questioned if any pruning was being done to the trees on the boulevard. Wendorf stated that they would be starting that soon. Weix stated to pay attention to the trees on the east and west side. Gulke questioned if Wendorf scheduled the Arbor Day planting. Wendorf stated he did not, he's waiting for availability dates from our WDNR Urban Forestry Coordinator.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

***Motion by Krueger, seconded by Weix to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary