



CITY OF MERRILL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES • WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

4:15 PM

To attend remotely call

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Novitch called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m. Novitch began the meeting by welcoming the two new members to the Commission – Steve Osness and Eric Malm.

II. **Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**

1. 2024-04-03 minutes: *Motion Krueger, seconded by Rutkowski to approve the minutes from the April Meeting. *Carried unanimously.

III. **Approval of Claims**

1. **Bills April 2024:** *Motion Krueger, seconded by Gulke to approve the claims. *Carried unanimously.

IV. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**

1. **Elect Chairperson:** *Motion Osness to nominate Krueger. Motion fails due to lack of a second. *Motion Rutkowski, seconded by Krueger to nominate Novitch to Chairperson. *Carried unanimously.
2. **Elect Vice-Chairperson:** *Motion Gulke, seconded by Rutkowski to nominate Krueger to Vice-Chairperson. *Carried unanimously.
3. **Elect representative to City Plan Commission:** *Motion Rutkowski, seconded by Osness to nominate Krueger to City Plan Commission. *Carried unanimously
4. **Discuss things to be excited about:** Novitch asked Wendorf to discuss a few things coming up that are exciting and good for the community. Wendorf began by saying it is exciting to start seeing some sunshine and warmer temperatures. With that brings a boom of park activity with such things as people hiking, biking, walking, jogging, using playgrounds, playing sports, and simply getting outside to enjoy our beautiful parks and community. Wendorf then summarized some of the upcoming projects they will be working on this summer, some of which include: Ott's Landing, Riverside Dock, Nicklaus Bridge deck replacement, Prairie River Pathway, Normal Park, and the River Bend Trail extension. Wendorf continued with events and activities that will soon begin: boys and girls little league, High School sports are in full swing, Bierman Family Aquatic Center, recreation programs, tournaments, summer baseball/softball (including a new girls Legion Softball team), June Dairy Breakfast, park events, dog show, and a new Auto Show in August to mention a few.
5. **Closed Session –** The Commission may convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties, investing of public funds, or conduct other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, for negotiation

of and to discuss terms for renewal of Merrill Youth Hockey Association Concessions Contract.

*Motion Krueger, seconded by Osness to go into closed session.

*Roll Call Vote: Krueger – Aye, Osness – Aye, Rutkowski – Aye, Novitch – Aye, Malm – Aye, Gulke - Aye

V. Monthly Reports

1. May 2024 report: Per Novitch and unanimous consent from the Commission this item was moved to before the closed session. Wendorf fielded and answered several questions from the Commission and summarized some of the happenings within the department. Wendorf also informed the Commission of the start-up dates (May 20 & 23) for the Bierman Family Aquatic Center as well as the targeted opening date for the public on June 4th.

VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting: June 5th, 2024 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

VII. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment: *Motion Osness, seconded by Gulke to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.

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