

**CITY OF MERRILL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 4:15 PM**

- I. Call to Order** Commissioner Novitch called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Members in attendance include Novitch, Krueger, Rutkowski, Gulke, Tabor, Osness, Malm.

- II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting** **Motion Gulke, seconded by Rutkowski to approve the May 2024 meeting minutes.

**Carried unanimously.

1. May 2024 Minutes -

III. Approval of Claims

- 1. May 2024 Claims -** **Motion Tabor, seconded by Krueger to approve the claims. *Discussion, Malm asked Wendorf what constitutes capital items - dollar amounts as it relates to private business. Wendorf explained capital versus operational as well as the thresholds related to each.

**Carried unanimously.

IV. General Agenda Items for Consideration

- 1. Discuss and potentially approve 2025 Capital requests -** Wendorf began the discussion by explaining the capital request process and that he was asked to begin work on this process a little earlier this year. Wendorf informed the Commission that the items on the list provided to them was a compilation of items generated through discussion with staff and a number of items were previously prioritized on previous capital request lists. Wendorf reviewed the list in priority order: repave Streeter Square basketball courts (\$45,000), replace activity pumps at aquatic center (\$35,000), replace park entrance signs (\$35,000), finish concrete around park shelters (\$25,000), replace rental skates at Smith Center (\$10,000), install key fobs at Smith Center (\$10,000), install keypad locks at reservable park shelters (\$10,000), refurbish decking and rails on Prairie Trails pedestrian bridge (\$25,000). There was discussion related to how many items we send forth to City Council. Wendorf stated that it was up to the Commission, some years we have this many items and others there are less. The final decisions rests with City Council. It was unanimously decided to approve the capital list as presented in DRAFT format so the commission has time to review it at the July meeting.
- 2. Continued discussion on "Wall of Hope" citizen request -** Wendorf presented the supplied information from the requesting party for the Wall of Hope idea. Wendorf updated new commissioners as to previous discussions related to the request and original location(s) that were proposed. Wendorf stated that he discussed with the lady requesting this item that it remain

generic so as to not set a precedent for potential future requests. The Commission agreed with that and had several questions on any wording or messaging on the wall and other potential locations. Krueger suggested that this person attend a future meeting (most likely August) to answer the questions that they have before any decisions can be made. Wendorf said he will contact her and relay that message.

3. **Things to be excited about** - Wendorf shared with the commission several items to be excited about including: recreation programs getting underway, warmer weather, seasonal employees arriving to help out, projects about to get underway/or are underway, upcoming events in and around the parks/community, and seeing people out and about utilizing all of our parks and amenities.

V. Monthly Reports Novitch asked if there were any questions for Wendorf. There were no questions. Wendorf informed the Commission of another leak at the Aquatic Center. He explained that the leak was fairly significant and that he believes it to be in the zero depth area where the plaster heaved late winter/early spring. Wendorf stated that they were going to run some tests and try to turn pumps off and see where the water drains to and try and determine the cause of the issue. He stated they were working with Badger Pool already to help with determinations and hopefully come to a quick conclusion and fix so that we can be operational as soon as possible. Wendorf said he would keep the Commission informed as he learned more.

1. Monthly Report -

VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting The Commission discussed moving the meeting from the first Wednesday of July due to that being July 3rd (a busy holiday week) to July 10th at 4:15 p.m. at City Hall.

VII. Public Comment There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment **Motion Krueger, seconded by Rutkowski to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.
**Carried unanimously.