



CITY OF MERRILL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
AGENDA • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024

Regular Meeting	City Hall Council Chambers	4:15 PM
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To attend remotely call

I. Call to Order

II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting

1. July 2024 Minutes

III. Approval of Claims

1. July 2024 Claims

IV. General Agenda Items for Consideration

1. Discussion and potential action regarding 4th of July vendors
2. Update on Lion's Park "teachers parking lot" discussions
3. Things to be excited about
4. 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

V. Monthly Reports

1. August 2024 Report

VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment

The Merrill City Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Merrill City Hall at (715) 536-5594.

**CITY OF MERRILL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 4:15 PM**

I. Call to Order Roll Call:

Present: Gulke, Novitch, Tabor, Malm, Alderperson Rutkowski

Present Not Voting: Parks Director Dan Wendorf

Excused: Chad Krueger, Steve Osness

Chairperson Novitch called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to approve. Tabor seconded and the motion Passed.

1. June 2024 Minutes -

III. Approval of Claims Rutkowski had several questions for Wendorf regarding Per Mar charges and advertising for the Department. Wendorf stated that Per Mar was for an annual inspection of fire and sprinkler system in the Smith Center that has to be done. Wendorf informed Rutkowski that the department advertises in several publications to target audiences such as Wedding Planners for the Smith Center, the Merrill Chamber Visitors Guide, and Foto News for direct information for upcoming events, recreation programs, as well as other happenings. Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to approve. Gulke seconded and the motion Passed.

1. June 2024 Claims -

IV. General Agenda Items for Consideration

1. Discuss and potentially approve 2025 Capital requests - Novitch began the discussion by summarizing the previous meetings introductory discussions related to our 2025 Capital Request. Wendorf began the discussion by saying that the directive has been given by City Administrator to get at least a draft of our capital requests to the Finance Director by July 19th to allow for ample time for planning before the budgetary process. Rutkowski said she would feel comfortable potentially selecting four of the items requested and forwarding to council and asked if everyone thought that was fair. Wendorf stated that this is always a tough question because it is difficult to predict what City Council is comfortable with. Novitch said that in the past we have tried almost every combination imaginable from 1-2 requests to 7-8+ and it simply comes down to the wishes of Council. Gulke said that some of these items are repeat requests and there are even more repeats not on this list and it is the Commissions responsibility to bring these requests forward and Councils responsibility to decide funding levels. Malm asked about the Normal Park project and wanted to see more details. Tabor stated that there may be a

benefit to a shorter list. Rutkowski suggested a lesser amount for the Smith Center rental skate request to potentially set up a rotating replacement schedule. Novitch said it would be nice to have a target dollar amount in advance to tailor our request to that number to avoid having to debate. Malm said it would be nice to have marketing funds to help with our park entrance sign replacements. Wendorf suggested approving the list as presented to allow the discussion to take place on the council floor, especially if everyone agrees that the items on the list warrant funding. Novitch mentioned that park signs could also be done in phases to cut costs this year.

Malm motioned to Motion Malm to approve the top 7 items on the list (and switching fobs for key pads). Tabor seconded and the motion Passed.

- 2. Update on Lincoln County ARPA funding requests** - Wendorf informed the Commission that he spoke with Lincoln County Administrator and was told that no decisions or determinations have been made yet. They were going to continue ARPA discussions at the County level in the coming weeks and Wendorf will keep the commission informed when he hears any news.

- V. Monthly Reports** Novitch asked the commission if they had any questions for Wendorf. Wendorf then informed the commission that the aquatic center has been running very well since the leaks were fixed and that when the weather cooperates, the pool attendance has been great but unfortunately we have had more rain days lately than good ones so hopefully we finish the summer with more sunshing and 80 degree days. Wendorf also said that so far summer has been going very well in all other areas.

- 1. July Monthly Report -**

- VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting** The next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will be on August 7th, 2024 at 4:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Merrill City Hall.

- VII. Public Comment** Nathan Meyer, 208 E. 4th St, wanted to thank the Commission for taking the time to discuss their capital requests with as much detail and thought.

- VIII. Adjournment** Alderperson Rutkowski motioned to adjourn. Gulke seconded and the motion Passed.

7/1/2024					
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	7/3/2024	1710170	\$291.00	10-55420-03-40100
AA LOCK SMITH	KEYS	7/16/2024		\$220.00	10-55200-08-91000
ALL PARTITIONS & PARTS	HINGE SET	7/9/2024	190059	\$123.00	10-55200-03-43000
AMAZON	CRAFT SUPPLIES	7/23/2024		\$34.98	10-55300-03-41500
AMBER CZERWINSKI	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/8/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
AMERICAN WELDING	CHEMICALS	6/27/2024	10195807	\$337.76	10-55420-03-40000
AMERICAN WELDING	CHEMICALS POOL	6/30/2024	10217890	\$121.93	10-55200-03-15000
AMERICAN WELDING	CYLINDER RENTAL	6/30/2024	10218250	\$81.70	10-55300-03-41500
ATCO	CLEANING SUPPLIES	6/18/2024	10630913	\$572.40	10-55200-08-91000
BAJA'S	SHIRTS	7/15/2024	18615	\$328.50	10-55200-03-40000
BAJA'S	BLACK SQUIRRELL	7/23/2024	18620	\$998.20	26-55425-03-42777
BETH PEHLKE	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/8/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
BETHANY LARSEN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/16/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
CARRIE GUSTIN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/8/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
CINTAS	MOPS/MATS	6/26/2024	4196929527	\$260.89	10-55400-02-23250
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	6/26/2024	4196929478	\$172.11	10-55200-03-46000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	7/3/2024	4197710734	\$172.11	10-55200-03-46000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	7/10/2024	4198353310	\$147.95	10-55200-03-46000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	7/17/2024	4199061417	\$147.95	10-55200-03-46000
CINTAS	UNIFORMS	7/24/2024	4199771917	\$147.95	10-55200-03-46000
CINTAS	MOPS/MATS	7/24/2024	4199771880	\$265.30	10-55400-02-23250
COSMO THEATRE	MOVIE SUMMER PLAYGROUND	7/15/2024	71524	\$517.00	10-55300-03-41500
DANIELLE WOLLER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/1/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
DAVES	AQUATIC CENTER	7/29/2024		\$29.28	10-55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	AQUATIC CENTER	6/24/2024		\$4.58	10-55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	AQUATIC CENTER	6/30/2024		\$10.85	10-55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	BIRTHDAY PARTY'S AQUATIC CENTER	7/3/2024		\$38.98	10-55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	SUMMER PLAYGROUND	7/3/2024		\$14.40	10-55300-03-41500
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	AQUATIC CENTER	7/3/2024		\$11.96	10-55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	AQUATIC CENTER	7/8/2024		\$7.57	10-55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	WATER FOR AQUATIC	7/10/2024		\$14.00	10-55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	SPOONS/SWIM NOODLES	7/12/2024		\$15.57	10-55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	AQUATIC CENTER FOOD	7/15/2024		\$12.55	10-55420-03-40100
DAVE'S COUNTY MARKET	AQUATIC CENTER	7/29/2024		\$42.57	10-55420-03-40100
DEB GRAWIEN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/1/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
ELIZABETH KOEBE	SUMMER PLAYGROUND REFUND	7/23/2024	VOUCHER	\$66.00	
ERIN HOTCHKISS	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/2/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
GREEN LAWN UNDERGROUND	SPRING START UP - LIONS	6/26/2024	24-33703	\$317.27	10-55200-02-15000
GREEN LAWN UNDERGROUND	SPRING START UP - MARC	7/11/2024	24-33716	\$225.00	10-55200-02-15000
GREEN LAWN UNDERGROUND	SPRING START UP - MERRILL ATHLETIC	7/11/2024	24-33704	\$264.39	10-55200-02-15000
GREEN LAWN UNDERGROUND	SPRING START UP- LIONS	7/11/2024	24-33705	\$216.28	10-55200-02-15000
HAENCO	TIRE FOR FLOOR SCRUBBER	7/19/2024	12703	\$287.00	10-55400-08-82000
HANNAH MMIKALOUSKI	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/29/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
HAWKINS	CHEMICALS POOL	7/11/2024	6806154	\$2,160.83	10-55420-03-40000
HOLIDAY WHOLESALE	AQUATIC CENTER	7/9/2024	1773345	\$854.60	10-55420-03-40100
HOLIDAY WHOLESALE	AQUATIC CENTER	7/23/2024	1784473	\$642.20	10-55420-03-40100
HUEY'S HIDEAWAY	SUMMER PLAYGROUND	6/26/2024	474525564	\$160.00	10-55300-03-41500
JANET THOMPSON	PAYMENT FOR RUNNING PICKLE BALL LESSONS	7/23/2024	VOUCHER	\$150.00	10-55300-03-41000
JENNIFER BOETTCHER - BEYER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/29/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
JENNIFER THORSON	SECURITY DEPOSIT	6/28/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
JINA HENDERSON	CANCELLATION OF PARKS	6/28/2024	VOUCHER	\$270.00	10-45200-46722
JINA HENDERSON	CANCELLATION OF PARKS	6/28/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
JOANN SCZGELSKI	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/22/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
JOE SCHIEFELBIN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/22/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
JOSIE OLLHOFF	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/22/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
KAILA SCHROEDER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/17/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
KAY YOHN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/16/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200

KEN KNUDSEN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/29/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
KWIK TRIP	TACO MEAT	7/8/2024		\$27.92	10-55420-03-40100
MAPS	SWIMMING SUMMER PLAYGROUND	7/1/2024	1714	\$80.00	10-55300-03-41500
MARIA REINMANN	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/22/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
MARISSA ABT	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/22/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
MENARDS	REFUND OF PLYWOOD	7/16/2024	47622	\$4,708.08	EFUND CAPITOL FOR NICKLAUS BRIDGE
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	ANT SPRAY	6/26/2024	235852	\$28.57	10-55420-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PAINT THINNER	6/26/2024	23583	\$15.99	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	GORILLA GLUE/CAULK	6/25/2024	235794	\$24.98	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	SERVICING KIT	6/17/2024	235547	\$19.99	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	FASTENERS	6/17/2024	235530	\$0.79	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	DOOR LATCH/RECEPTABLE/HOSE NOZZEL	6/17/2024	235533	\$34.76	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	TIE DOWNS	6/27/2024	235873	\$9.99	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	DEADBOLT	6/19/2024	235594	\$22.58	10-55200-08-91000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	FASTENERS/PLUG	7/9/2024	236162	\$46.35	10-55400-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	RETURN FASTENER	7/9/2024	236163	\$3.50	10-55400-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	HIGH PRESSURE HOSE	7/9/2024	236181	\$74.99	10-55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	RAGS	7/9/2024	236189	\$13.99	10-55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	SILICONE	7/9/2024	236210	\$93.93	10-55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	CAULK AND CAULK GUN	7/10/2024	236247	\$45.57	10-55400-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	CONCRETE ANCHORING EPOXY	7/10/2024	236245	\$59.98	10-55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	O-RINGS	7/11/2024	236253	\$0.99	10-55400-03-50000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PARTS FOR SHOP	7/2/2024	236004	\$46.35	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	SEALER CONCRETE	7/3/2024	236049	\$9.99	10-55200-08-91000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	FASTENERS	7/9/2024	236203	\$13.96	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	PARTS FOR SHOP	7/11/2024	236266	\$103.94	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	CONCRETE MIX	7/15/2024	236412	\$12.99	10-55300-03-41500
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	SCRUB BRUSH	7/19/2024	236522	\$6.99	10-55400-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	TOOLS/CLAMP	7/21/2024	23626	\$45.98	10-55400-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	TRASH BAGS	7/22/2024	236589	\$31.99	10-55400-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES FOR ARENA	7/24/2024	236695	\$124.24	10-55400-08-82000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	TRASH BAGS	7/22/2024	236576	\$109.57	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL ACE HARDWARE	KEY KWIKSET	7/22/2024	236583	\$7.98	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL COUNTY STORE	UREA BAGGED PAPER	7/1/2024	297311	\$32.36	10-55200-08-91000
MERRILL COUNTY STORE	BUCCANEER PLUS	7/9/2024	297672	\$423.60	10-55200-08-91000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	6/28/2024	1709600	\$426.22	10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	SHOP	6/28/2024	1709601	\$145.40	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	6/28/2024	1708895	\$66.11	10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER FOOD	7/9/2024	1710834	\$307.69	10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER SUPPLIES	7/9/2024	1710885	\$100.80	10-55420-03-40000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	6/20/2024	1708304	\$10.75	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	7/12/2024	1711473	\$507.20	10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	7/11/2024	1711258	\$67.14	10-55200-03-40000
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	7/19/2024	1712526	\$338.23	10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	7/16/2024	1411794	\$685.67	10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	7/16/2024	1711873	\$187.71	10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	7/26/2024	1713505	\$125.14	10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER	7/26/2024	1713496	\$617.21	10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL DISTRIBUTING	AQUATIC CENTER REFUND	7/10/2024	1711070	\$44.34	CREDIT - 10-55420-03-40100
MERRILL HOUSE OF MUSIC	ATHLETIC PARK	7/22/2024		\$54.25	10-55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-5 MOWER	6/6/2024	20924	\$285.64	10-55200-03-50000
MERRILL STREET DEPARTMENT	P-7 FORD 150	6/19/2024	20934	\$521.79	10-55200-03-50000
MIDWEST COMMUNICATIONS	ADVERTISING	6/30/2024	643371-3	\$500.00	26-55425-03-42777
MIDWISCONSIN BEVERAGE	AQUATIC CENTER	5/20/2024	2983554	\$546.00	10-55420-03-40100
MIDWISCONSIN BEVERAGE	AQUATIC CENTER	7/1/2024	2991030	\$287.00	10-55420-03-40100
MIDWISCONSIN BEVERAGE	AQUATIC CENTER	7/15/2024	2993908	\$390.00	10-55420-03-40100
MIDWISCONSIN BEVERAGE	AQUATIC CENTER	7/15/2024	2993907	\$250.00	10-55420-03-40100
MONICA PIERCE	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/1/2024	VOUCHER	\$100.00	10-21-7200
NAPA AUTO PARTS	BATTERY	7/2/2024	86887	\$114.57	10-55200-03-50000

PAUL WAID	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/1/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
POWER HOUSE	STIHL FILLER CAP	6/17/2024	9816	\$6.95	10-55200-03-50000
PREMIER	BANNERS	7/19/2024	21959A	\$273.00	26-55425-03-42777
REINDERS	LAWN SEED MIX	7/2/2024	2441334-00	\$450.00	10-55200-08-91000
RENEE SMITH	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/22/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
RHYME	COPY MACHINE	7/15/2024	AR751319	\$25.77	10-55400-03-13000
RICHARD SEEFELDT	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/1/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
RIESTERER & SCHNELL	RHINO BLADES	6/28/2024	2643197	\$1,133.22	10-55200-03-50000
RIVERS EDGE CAMPGROUND	SUMMER PLAYGROUND	7/11/2024		\$100.00	10-55300-03-41500
RTL ELECTRIC	DAMAGED LIGHT FIXTURES ON RIVERBEND TR	6/20/2024	66380	\$2,603.42	10-55200-03-43000
SAMS CLUB	AQUATIC CENTER	7/17/2024		\$263.79	10-55420-03-40100
SAM'S CLUB	AQUATIC CENTER	7/10/2024		\$399.96	10-55420-03-40100
SAM'S CLUB	AQUATIC CENTER REFUND ON TAX	7/10/2024		CREDIT \$18.98	10-554720-03-40100
SAM'S CLUB	AQUATIC CENTER	7/1/2024		\$212.44	10-55420-03-40100
SAM'S CLUB	AQUATIC CENTER	7/22/2024		\$387.92	10-55420-03-40100
SAWMILL ADVENTURE PARK	SUMMER PLAYGROUND	7/10/2024	250438	\$566.25	10-5530-03-415000
STAINLESS SPECIALISTS	REPAIRS SMITH CENTER	7/3/2024	45856	\$1,214.75	10-55420-03-50000
STAINLESS SPECIALISTS	REPAIRS MAIN POOL WATER HEATER	7/18/2024	43057	\$1,582.00	10-55420-03-50000
SUNRISE BOARDCAST	ADVERTISING	7/3/2024		\$284.00	10-55300-03-41500
THOMAS GUENTHER	SECURITY DEPOSIT	7/2/2024	VOUCHER	\$50.00	10-21-7200
TORTOISE AND HARE	BLACK SQUIRRELL	7/27/2024		\$2,482.00	26-55425-03-42777
ULINE	BIOHAZARD KITS	7/12/2024	21285973	\$246.02	10-55420-03-40000
ULINE	BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN KIT/BAGS	7/12/2024	180490317	\$214.00	10-55420-03-40000
VIP OFFICE PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES FOR SHOP	7/15/2024	115715-001	\$79.48	10-55200-03-40000
WALMART	AQUATIC CENTER	6/26/2024		\$71.04	10-55420-03-40100
WALMART	SUPPLIES FOR CRAFTS	6/27/2024		\$83.57	10-55300-03-41500
WALMART	PROGRAMS	7/1/2024		\$7.98	10-55300-03-41500
WALMART	AQUATIC CENTER	7/3/2024		\$74.88	10-55420-03-40100
WALMART	PROGRAMS	7/4/2024		\$54.86	10-55300-03-41500
WALMART	PROGRAMS	7/11/2024		\$82.48	10-55300-03-41500
WALMART	WATER/CHIPS FOR AQUATIC	7/12/2024		\$68.76	10-55420-03-40100
WALMART	STRAWS/CHIPS	7/13/2024		\$113.76	10-55420-03-40100
WALMART	WATER/CHIPS FOR AQUATIC	7/15/2024		\$60.62	10-55420-03-40100
WALMART	SUPPLIES FOR SUMMER PLAYGROUND	7/26/2024		\$17.96	10-55300-03-41500
WISCONSIN BUILDING SUPPLY	TREATED PINE	6/24/2024	9561012	\$172.72	26-55250-08-27998



City of Merrill
Parks & Recreation Department
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August 2024 Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Parks: July was slightly better in the weather category than the previous few months but still pretty wet nonetheless. It was an extremely busy month for all of us with a lot of events, games, tournaments, special events, and happenings. We also began some projects that will continue for the rest of the summer and into fall. We hosted the annual Youth Fastpitch Tournament at the MARC from 7/26-7/28 as well as the Sr. Legion Baseball Regionals and Black Squirrel Scurry which together combined to bring in thousands of people into our community for those three days. Fastpitch alone had over 45 teams from all over the state and beyond. The Black Squirrel Scurry Triathlon had a new record number of registrants as well. On 7/25, organizers of the Gazebo Nights brought in the "Glam Band" to Normal Park which drew likely the largest crowd that Normal Park has ever seen. It is great to see events like this growing in our community and we are more than happy to provide those spaces. We do need to have some Commission conversations though moving forward with event planning & potential permits. This would be intended to simply make sure that the organizers and our department (and other departments) are on the same page with expectations, information, guidance and preparations. This would involve the Police Department, Fire Department, and Street Departments input for safety, capacity, evacuation plans, traffic, and emergency response plans. We will discuss this at a future Commission meeting – but these are all real good things to say the least. It is great to see so much happening in Merrill and events that bring people out and together. With a few more sunny and warm days gifted to us in July, the attendance at the Aquatic Center was phenomenal. We had a good number of crowded and really good days at the pool this past month and hope to keep those going until we close down mid/late August. We still have a high school swim meet to host at the pool on 8/22 and will close on 8/24 because that is when we will start to run short on staff. Work on the Nicklaus Bridge began on 7/29 and will hopefully wrap up very soon depending on weather. We are also going to begin on the Gruling Family playground at the Agra Pavilion within the next week or two, as well as work on the Prairie River Pathway. We will work with the Street Department to help us with some of the areas that we need to build a path. That will be in Stange Park as well as between the Prairie River and Historical Society Museum across from the Middle School. We are also going to be working on the Ott's Park boat launch in August. We ordered pre-fabricated planks from Huffcut that will be delivered to the site after we have it prepped and ready to be installed. Huffcut will deliver them and set them in place for us, which is nice, then we will have a contractor pour the concrete on the ramp above the water line to the parking lot. We will have to move the new dock while working but will re-install it when it is finished. This will be a much needed improvement at Ott's Park to go along with the new dock. The new dock at Riverside has been working out great as well and it is nice to have both of our boat landings back in good shape once again. Pickleball courts have been a very successful venture for us. They have been very popular and heavily used since the weather turned nice. Summer sports is either finished for most or winding down for others. Little League boys and girls baseball/softball league play is finished. Congrats to the boy's all-star team for making it to the Little League State Tournament in Kenosha, they fell short but made our community proud. Legion baseball and softball teams' seasons came to an end and there are still a few weeks of Rangers baseball remaining at Athletic Park. We are also going to be getting everything ready for the Labor Day Parade and festivities very soon which is hard to believe.

Forestry: I have still been getting quite a few tree inspection calls and will continue to pick away at that list as time allows. The above average rainfall has definitely helped quite a few species of trees that we have on our boulevards and parks and some it has caused a bit of stress for. The areas that held water for extended periods of time has caused some stress for trees that don't tolerate prolonged periods of saturation. These trees will be fine but it has prompted some phone calls as citizens notice some tree stress. We had some minor storm damage and a lightning struck tree after a late July storm that will have to be removed.



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Recreation: So far our recreation programs have been going very well. We have had very few issues to this point. Summer playground has had solid numbers weekly and our leaders have been doing a great job keeping the kids engaged, active, and excited and we are very thankful for that. Our early season programs have wrapped up, including tee ball and starter tee ball. We had really good participation in those programs and were up from previous years. It was also nice to see a good number of parent volunteers helping coach those young teams as it helps us from having to chase people down and it is a very rewarding experience for those parents to give their time to help out. Our other programs are mostly ongoing and getting close to wrapping up. We still have a few more weeks of summer playground remaining before we turn the page on another year. We concluded our flag football & little gridder sign ups recently and are in the process of formulating those teams as we speak so we can get that league started on time. Participation numbers are up in flag football again this year which is very encouraging. I also believe we have volunteer parent coaches for each of our teams this year which is a rarity and a very good thing to see. It is amazing how fast the summer goes in Parks & Recreation and is hard to believe that we are almost finished up with another season and ready to begin the fall programs.

Smith Center: We were able to get the ice in the Smith Center in time for Hockey to take over for a few weeks. They began with a goalie camp the first weekend, followed by other camps, figure skating ice time, they are going to have some high school teams in here as well as an adult tournament and youth tournament before we remove the ice starting on 8/11 quickly to get ready for a large dry floor rental on 8/17 and another large rental the day after on 8/18 and the weekend of 8/24 (Zelich Auto Show). We also have the annual Paper Cities Kennel Club Dog Show in September and a few others yet this season. It is a tight turn around between ice in and events but we want to make sure that we can continue to bring in as many events as we possibly can. We are very excited about seeing more events and event organizers considering the Smith Center for their events. We take very good care of everyone who chooses our facility and that sets us apart from other places. Hopefully that trend continues into the future and we continue to attract new and exciting things to our community. It will not be very long before we will be talking about getting everything prepared for winter ice.

Note: As always I would like to extend a very special thank you to all of our staff members – full time, part time, and seasonal. They have done a tremendous job this summer in all of our areas to say the least! We are very fortunate to have such great staff members as they are the ones who make our programs great, parks look so nice, and things run so smoothly. We have so many moving pieces to every single day in the summer time and it truly takes a village to accomplish what we do and do it so well. So please thank them when you see them!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill