

**CITY OF MERRILL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 4:15 PM**

I. Call to Order Roll Call:

Present: Krueger, Gulke, D8 Alderperson Rutkowski, Kubichek, Hahn

Present Not Voting: Parks Director Dan Wendorf

Excused: Erid Malm, Steve Osness

Absent:

Chairperson Krueger Called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting

1. **October 2025 Minutes** - (Gulke/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to place minutes on file. The motion Passed.

III. Approval of Claims

1. **October 2025 Claims** - Krueger asked Wendorf to explain the beneficiary of Black Squirrel Scurry that was listed on the claims. Wendorf stated those are donations that the Black Squirrel Scurry contributes to organizations that help with volunteers for the event via their proceeds. Wendorf stated that the event raises their own funds through sponsorships and registrations.

(Gulke/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to approve. The motion Passed.

IV. General Agenda Items for Consideration

1. **Discuss and consider potential adjustment to operating hours for Bierman Family Aquatic Center** - Wendorf began the discussion by explaining to the Commission that after several years of operational observance, the operating hours that we have worked with at the Bierman Family Aquatic Center could be adjusted to better reflect patron usage. Wendorf said that after consulting with the aquatic center and department staff, they have a few recommendations to propose. Wendorf stated that the first one would be to adjust the Sunday operating hours from 11:30 am - 6:30 pm to 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Wendorf stated that more times than not they open the aquatic center on Sundays at 11:30 and there is hardly anyone there. He stated that, on average, most people begin to arrive at 1:00 on Sundays and by the time they get to 6:00 and beyond, the numbers are very low again. Wendorf said that he still recommends remaining closed on Mondays and that staff really like it so that we can get maintenance tasks done, and we can do staff and guard training those days without risking overtime and fatigue like we used to do after operating hours on Sunday nights. Wendorf then said the other adjustment would be to slightly adjust the operating hours on Tuesdays through Saturdays and the only adjustment proposed would be to end operating hours at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 pm. Wendorf stated that for the same reasons as mentioned above, there simply hasn't been a lot of patrons

at or after 6:00 pm on those weekdays and a lot of that has to do with little league baseball, softball, youth soccer, dinner, and people being busy. Wendorf also asked the Commission if they would grant Park & Rec Staff some latitude to adjust those hours for special circumstances only. For instance, if we know there is going to be a heat advisory, fastpitch tournament, or there is a random day that we find there is still 100 people there at 6:00, Wendorf asked if staff could keep the pool open for an extra half hour to hour (at most) on those evenings to help people beat the heat (if there is still low numbers on those evenings at or near 6:00 it would still close). The Commission asked who would make that call. Wendorf stated that he would work with staff leading up to those days to make that decision and inform the community if/when we intend to flex those hours. Wendorf stated that with the time saved with the new proposed hours, the hours they may potentially flex would not have any budgetary impact — it would still most likely result in a savings.

**Motion Krueger to adjust Bierman Family Aquatic Center hours to Sunday's 1:00 pm - 6:00 p.m., closed on Mondays, 11:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, and allow flex hours as proposed as long as it fits the criteria we just discussed.

(Krueger/D8 Alderperson Rutkowski) motion/second to approve. The motion Passed.

2. **Update on 2026 budgetary process** - Wendorf updated the Commission on the budgetary process through budget meeting number four that occurred the week prior. He stated that fortunately there were no real surprises to this point. Wendorf informed the Commission that the final budget hearing is next week, Tuesday, November 11th. If everything goes smoothly next week and gets approved, he will get to work on preparing for approved capital projects for 2026 as soon as he can so we are prepared to get everything done.

V. Monthly Reports

1. **November 2025 Director's Report** - Wendorf summarized his board report for the Commission and asked for any questions. He highlighted a number of things from the last month.

VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting

1. **The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, December 3rd, at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall. -**

VII. Public Comment There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/ Gulke) motion/second to adjourn. The motion Passed.

