

**CITY OF MERRILL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 4:15 PM**

I. Call to Order Roll Call:

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

Present Not Voting: Parks Director Dan Wendorf

Excused: Steve Osness, Alli Henkelman

Absent:

Krueger called the meeting to order at 4:20 as we had to wait for a fourth member to arrive.

II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting

1. **May 2026 Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes** - (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/ Hahn) motion/second to place minutes on file. The motion Passed.

III. Approval of Claims

1. **May 2026 Claims** - (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/ Kubichek) motion/second to approve. The motion Passed.

IV. General Agenda Items for Consideration

1. **Discuss and consider a request to lift the hiring freeze to fill the Recreation Manager position** - Krueger introduced the topic and turned it over to Director Wendorf. Wendorf stated that the current Recreation Manager informed him on May 20th that she is intending to retire on August 1st. Wendorf stated that it is well deserved, and she will definitely be missed, but the timing is less than ideal as we will be in the middle of our busiest season and all things will still be running at full speed. Wendorf also stated that the process and search for a replacement during this time will be challenging for the same reasons stated above — we are all running around trying to keep up with all of our Parks & Recreation operations everywhere. Wendorf stated that, due to the timing, he immediately put the item on the Personnel & Finance Agenda for the previous week, and it passed unanimously there to lift the hiring freeze and replace this position. He stated that, ideally, the process would have worked the other way around (Commission approval first and recommended to P&F for final approval to refill the position) but he didn't want to wait until the end of June for the next P&F Meeting, especially knowing that the position will be vacated on August 1st. Wendorf stated it would be nice to fill the position a few weeks before Dawn retires to allow for some training, so hopefully, things progress smoothly. Wendorf also stated that he would like a few Commissioners on the hiring committee to provide some different perspective and to give us 5 people to help make this decision. Wendorf also stated that this is a very important position within the department and that he wanted to find the right person, even if it takes longer, and we have

to go without this position for a while.

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

V. Monthly Reports

- 1. June 2026 Director's Report** - Wendorf summarized his board report by informing the Commission that the full summer season is about to kick off in full next week. Bierman Family Aquatic Center is opening on June 9th, and we did get a few more guards (not enough to be fully staffed yet, but it's better than adding zero). Wendorf stated that, with the number of guards that we currently have, there may only be one Saturday that we cannot open, but we're working on that. Wendorf also said that things have been very busy everywhere else, but they are ready for the season. Spring high school sports are finished but summer baseball and softball leagues (Babe Ruth, Little League, Rangers, Boys & Girls Legion, etc.) are well under way or about to begin, along with other activities and events.

VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting Krueger stated that we typically don't meet in July because our regularly scheduled meeting date falls on the week of July 4th and attendance has historically been very low. He mentioned that he and Wendorf have discussed leaving the July meeting as "to be determined" because at some point they are hoping to have a replacement Recreation Manager to recommend for hire and would like to keep that process going. So the July meeting will be determined if/when there is a person to recommend for that position and that process can keep going. The Commission was good with that idea.

VII. Public Comment There was no public comment.

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