

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

November 4, 2020

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Dan Novitch, Kyle Gulke, Jean Ravn, Joan Tabor, Brian Artac, Amanda Groth and John Van Lieshout

Members Excused Absent:

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Mark Weix, MP3 and Jon Krohn

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Groth to approve the minutes from the October meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Van Lieshout, seconded by Ravn, to approve the claims from October.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Jon Krohn, N851 Center Road, Merrill, WI. Jon Krohn stated that he has noticed that it was decided to tear down the old tennis courts by the skate board park and was wondering if that old tennis court could be turned into a designated pickle ball court. Wendorf stated that Ott's Park had lines on the tennis court for a pickle ball court. Krohn stated it would be nice to have a designated place to play.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and potentially approve land donation from Merrill Area Development Corporation (adjoining River Bend Trail). Administrator Dave Johnson explained that Weinbrenner purchased the property to the west but they need the small sliver for access to their new property. There was/is some pollution on Wegner Hill. Johnson stated that before the Merrill Park and Recreation Department would accept the land there will be a letter of release stating that all the pollution has been cleaned up on Wegner Hill. Johnson stated that this property can't be developed so it could be used as green space. Novitch questioned when the letter of release would be received. Johnson stated it is in the process of being done.

***Motion by Van Lieshout, seconded by Artac, to approve the land donation from Merrill Area Development Corporation when the letter of release has been received stating the land is free of pollution.

***Carried.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion on River Bend Trail snow removal. Wendorf stated that at a previous River Bend construction meeting people understood the reason for plowing the entire trail but it was recommended that plowing go from the Agra building to State Street, no plowing would be done between Park St. and Cooper St., snow removal would continue from Big Eddy Road to Culver's. Gulke stated that we should let people know that parts of the trail will not be plowed on our Facebook. Tabor stated that she thought it was nice compromise to expand plowing a little more.

***Motion made by Gulke, seconded by Van Lieshout to approve the designated plowing areas on the River Bend Trail.

***Carried

The next item on the agenda was the update on 2021 budget. Wendorf stated that there will be another meeting Thursday, November 5. Wendorf stated that everything was the same except that there will be an addition of \$50,000 to start the connector trail from River Bend Trail to Prairie Trails. Wendorf stated that as of right now the new employee is still looking good and will possibly be an employee from the street department depending on the decision regarding the garbage pickup. Final budget meeting is still November 10.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Novitch questioned if all the trees are planted. Wendorf stated that they are. Wendorf stated that ice is in and the first week of hockey went without a hitch. Everyone has been sanitizing and working together to keep ice in. Gulke questioned how the halloween event went. Wendorf stated it went good. Dawn Smith stated that the event was generously sponsored by local businesses and received a lot of complements.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment:

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Artac to adjourn at 4:43 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary