

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 4:15 p.m., at Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Joan Tabor, Brian Artac, John VanLieshout and Jean Ravn

Members Excused Absent: Dan Novitch

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

\*\*\*Motion by Ravn, seconded by Tabor to approve the minutes from the October meeting.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Motion by Tabor, seconded by Ravn, to approve the claims from October.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

The next item on the agenda was to update on 2022 budget. Wendorf handed out a list of all capital equipment and projects to summarize where we are at in the budget process. Wendorf stated that the final budget meeting will be held on November 9 and will update everyone at the December meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the Legion Building property. City Administrator Dave Johnson spoke on behalf of the agenda item stating that the building was originally part of Stange Park when it was given to the city. The building was purchased by the historical society but has been returned back to the city after the historical society finished building their new building. Johnson stated that the Park and Recreation Commission should claim the property since it was originally park property. Johnson also stated that the inside of the building is in poor shape, most everything was ripped out of the building, including the kitchen area, plumbing, and the only thing left for the bathrooms are one stall and a small sink. Wendorf stated that he would like to take a look in the building and see if the building could be “flipped” and used to run some of the programs for Park and Recreation including a new home for the summer playground program as well as another potential rentable facility. Wendorf also said it would be nice to have that area as one continuous park. This agenda item will be back on the agenda in December for a vote.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss Bierman Family Aquatic Center punch passes and season passes for 2022. Wendorf stated that he would not feel comfortable selling season passes yet because of quarantines. Wendorf felt that if people purchased a season pass and if we had to shut the pool down because of our workers being quarantined he would not know how to refund the people who bought a pass, but if they purchased punch passes, the punch passes could be carried over to the next summer, whereas the season passes are done at the end of the summer and do not carry over. The commission decided it would be better to just sell punch passes again this summer and hopefully in the future bring back season passes.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions.

Wendorf stated that the ice is in and going good. Merrill Youth Hockey has an increase in numbers which is really good. Wendorf stated that all the trees have been planted and the guys are getting everything ready for the upcoming winter months.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 1 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment:

\*\*\*Motion by Ravn, seconded by VanLieshout to adjourn at 4:50 p.m.

\*\*\*Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith  
Recording Secretary