

Parks and Recreation Commission

November 2nd, 2022

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Joan Tabor, Chad Krueger, Jean Ravn, Brian Artac, Mark Weix

Members Excused Absent: Dan Novitch

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf

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

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion Weix, seconded by Krueger to approve the claims from September.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the 2023 Capital and Operational budget process. Wendorf began the discussion by informing the Commission that there has not been a final decision made yet on the overall budget – both capital and operational. He informed the Commission that they did have several items removed from the capital request the evening before. Wendorf also said that the Council is having another budget meeting on November 3rd at 7pm to hopefully finalize things for the budget hearing next week. Wendorf said there was some discussion related to non-lapsing funds and it was suggested that we use those to fund these capital projects. Wendorf suggested looking at a few projects with lesser amounts and prioritize. Wendorf suggested keeping healthy balances in certain NL accounts because we use those quite often to do things that we wouldn't normally be able to do with our operational budgets becoming as tight as they have. It gives the department flexibility to do things if they come up during the year. Wendorf also stated that overall the remainder of the process went alright and even though quite a few capital items were removed, the department came out alright operationally for 2023.

The next item on the agenda was monthly report. Wendorf fielded questions first. Weix asked where they planted trees, how many, and what kind. Wendorf stated that they planted 96 trees all over the City and in the parks and that they planted 19 different species of trees this year to continue promoting diversity to increase overall tree health in the community. Wendorf answered several other questions.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

There was no public comment.

***Motion Ravn, seconded by Weix to adjourn at 4:52 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dan Wendorf – Recording Secretary