

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

November 1, 2023

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 4:15 p.m., at Merrill City Hall.

Members Present: Kyle Gulke, Chad Krueger, Dan Novitch, Rebecca Rutkowski, and Jean Ravn

Members Excused Absent: Mark Weix, Joan Tabor

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

Krueger questioned if Park and Recreation has seen a savings since they no longer provide dumpsters at every park. Wendorf stated that they will save between \$10,000 - \$12,000 dollars.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: none

The next item on the agenda was an update on 2024 budget. Wendorf stated that the Operations budget was uneventful and should go through and the Capitol budget has remained the same. Novitch questioned if everything goes through on November 14 it's done and no more changes can be made. Wendorf stated that was correct.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss River Bend trail extension from Wastewater Treatment Plant to Bluebird Lane. Wendorf stated that himself, Rod Akey, and a person from the DNR walked and marked out where they could go with the trail and what can be cleared. Unfortunately they may not be able to pave due to it potentially being in a flood plain. Wendorf stated that they will probably use crushed gravel. Wendorf stated that the trail is marked and ready to go so when there is funding available they will be able to start. Volunteers helped clean brush on October 28. This is as far as the City of Merrill will be able to go with the trail. Some discussion was held.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had questions. Wendorf stated that he has been in contact with the County and has handed everything in for the funding request through ARPA. Wendorf stated that next Thursday he will be meeting with the County and Land Services regarding the funding. Wendorf stated he finally was able to talk with the company who did the Map It app. Wendorf will update the commission at the next meeting.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment: none

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Rutkowski to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary