

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

October 11, 2023

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 4:15 p.m., at Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Mark Weix

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Krueger to approve the minutes from the September meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Tabor, seconded by Rutkowski, to approve the claims from September.

Krueger questioned why three more disc golf baskets were purchased. Wendorf stated there was money left in the non-lapsing account and he has been working with Gulke on more locations for the baskets. Krueger also questioned what the Labor Day payment was for. Wendorf stated for registration and parade line-up. Rutkowski questioned about the memorial benches. Wendorf stated they are paid for before orders are place. Krueger questioned what green lawn did. Wendorf stated the hooked up irrigation on the JV field and baseball refunded the money.

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: none

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve 2024 Bierman Family Aquatic Center budget. Wendorf went through and explained the budget and the differences once all the leaks in the aquatic center were fixed. Wendorf stated that when Badger pool closed up for the winter he requested more anti-freeze to be used for winterization. Krueger questioned if closing the pool on Mondays paid off. Wendorf stated it did and it was a great day to get all the training in plus any maintenance. Wendorf stated that they had a mentor program this year, stating we had younger guards so it was nice that we had one year of mentoring and training so that next year we will again have an adequate number of guards.

***Motion by Gulke, seconded by Tabor to approve the 2024 Bierman Family Aquatic Center Budget.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the 2024 budget. Wendorf stated that out of the 8 items that were asked for, only 4 items made it through the first round of the budget. Wendorf stated that the 4 items that made it through were: Ott's boat landing and dock, Riverside dock, decking at Nicklaus Bridge and table and chairs. Wendorf stated the operations budget meeting is next Monday and another budget meeting will be October 24th. Gulke stated that the council should accept all because what we are asking for is all needs and not wants and we will be asking for them again.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion and potential approval of Lincoln County ARPA projects. Wendorf put together a list of possibilities on what to ask for using some ARPA money. Wendorf stated that he thinks adding another campground in Merrill would not be beneficial to the community at this time, stating that we should see how the Festival Grounds does on their camping before we invest in more.

Suggestions were:

1. Camping
 2. City Forest Shelter with hand pump well
 3. Canoe/Kayak facilities.
 4. Trail Connections
 5. Technology – so when people come to Lincoln County they could open an app with trail maps, snowmobile trails, ATV trails, camp grounds and etc.
- (A full list and explanation was included in packets.)

Wendorf stated that the App could be a group effort between the city and the county.

***Motion by Rutkowski, seconded by Krueger to submit items 2 through 5 to the County Administrator.

After discussion motion was amended:

***Motion by Rutkowski, seconded by Krueger to submit items 2 through 5 to the County Administrator with a rough total value of \$252,000.

After more discussion motion was amended:

***Motion by Rutkowski, seconded by Krueger to submit items 2 through 5 plus include repairs for the Nicklaus Bridge on the Riverbend Trail to the County Administrator with a rough total value of \$402,000.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had questions. Gulke questioned if an Arbor Day has been set. Wendorf stated that he is working on it. Wendorf stated the floor is on and ready to make ice, the guys are finishing up as much outside work as possible before snow flies. Pickle ball courts should be done next week. Rutkowski questioned if the high school paid for their ice time. Wendorf stated they do.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

Public Comment: none

***Motion by Ravn, seconded by Rutkowski to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary