PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

October 7, 2020

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the Merrill City Hall.

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

Members Excused Absent: Amanda Groth

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: City Administrator Dave Johnson, Mark Weix and Draco Fink from MP3 and Steve Sabatke.

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

***Carried unanimously.

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

***Carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and recommend on tax fee procedures. Wendorf stated that we should consider passing on the tax fee to the customers. Currently they are not being charged a tax fee. Van Lieschout stated that he would recommend rounding up to the next number.

***Motion by Van Lieshout, seconded by Gulke, to making every program $20.00 and up, have a fee increase to the nearest $5 or $0, to cover the taxes on programs.

***Carried. Artac voted nay.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss snow removal procedures to accurately reflect staffing capabilities. Wendorf stated that snow removal from the RBT is a burden during the winter months and he would propose cleaning off only a defined area of the trail. Wendorf suggested only cleaning off Polk to Park Street, from Weinbrenner to Agra building. Wendorf stated that some other areas of trail are hard to keep clean with snow melt and with only two guys it is hard to maintain. After some discussion it was decided to bring this item back in November for more discussion. Wendorf also stated that he would continue to have discussions with the River District Development to keep open lines of communication.

The next item on the agenda was the City forest timber sale. Wendorf stated they received only one bid from Wagler from Rhinelander for $28,775. Wendorf stated that he is happy with the bid.

***Motion by Artac, seconded by Van Lieshout to approve the bid of $28,775 for the City forest timber sale.

The next item on the agenda was the 2021 Budget update. Wendorf stated that the new employee passed through the first phase. Wendorf stated that 5 things for the Park and Recreation Department were approved at the first night of budget meeting. Wendorf stated that the final budget hearing is November 10.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports. Wendorf asked if anyone had any questions. Wendorf stated that he has been working with all the organizations regarding ice procedure. Covid remains the big topic.

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

Public Comment:

***Motion by Van Lieshout, seconded by Artac to adjourn at 5:07 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary