

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

October 7, 2009

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 4:15 p.m., at the Smith Center.

Members Present: Ted Nickel, Dave Sukow, Mike Willman, Joan Tabor, and Dan Novitch

Members Excused Absent: Steve Hintze and Jesse Bolder

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf

Visitors: Troy Rathke from MP3, Dewy Pfister

***Motion by Willman, seconded by Sukow, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as printed.

***Carried unanimously

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Novitch, to approve the claims from previous month as presented.

***Carried unanimously

The first item on the agenda was to discuss and approve the 2010 Parks and Recreation budget. Nickel questioned if there was any wiggle room in the budget for 2010. Wendorf stated that he talked with Kathy Unertl and Tony Chladek and they stated that there is no wiggle room this year. Willman questioned about the flower watering. Wendorf stated that it was in addition to our budget but would not affect our budget. Nickel asked Wendorf if he was comfortable with the 2010 budget. Wendorf stated that he was comfortable with the budget.

***Motion by Willman, seconded by Tabor to approve the 2010 budget as presented.

**Discussion: Novitch questioned the pools budget. Novitch noticed that the pool was over budget and was wondering where the money was coming from to cover the extra cost. Wendorf explained that with the overage we need to try and cut back in other areas to try and cover that but will be difficult to offset completely.

***Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve the 2010 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement request. Wendorf stated that he has received a bid to redo the bathrooms at Riverside Park from Huffcut for \$69,000 but excludes demolition, permits, site prep, grading and handicap accessibility from the parking lot to the bathrooms. Wendorf stated that the Park Department would need extra money for the items listed above. Nickel suggested that the Park and Recreation Department ask for \$85,000 to cover the additional expenses. Nickel asked if all the Park and Recreation Commission members where comfortable with just requesting this as the only capital improvement project. All commission members where comfortable with this request. Wendorf also mentioned there was a possibility for matching grant funds from the state of Wisconsin but need full commitment from the city first.

***Motion by Novitch, seconded by Sukow, to send Riverside restroom project to City Council as our only request for Capital Improvement for a total of \$85,000.

***Carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss an update on the Park Endowment progress. Wendorf stated that this item will be brought back to the Commission Members at the next meeting for a question and answer session.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the update on the bridge inspections. Wendorf stated that the good news is that the bridge located in Stange Park by T.B. Scott Library is structurally sound. Wendorf stated that there is work that needs to be done on the bridge. Wendorf stated that there is two parts that need to be completed; one part is the cosmetic and the other is the Abutment fix. Wendorf stated that he will be putting together some numbers this winter in regards to the items listed above and will bring this agenda item back to the commission.

The next item on the agenda was the monthly reports given by Wendorf. Wendorf stated that all fall activities have been going well. Flag football has been going well; numbers were a little lower than in past years. Colorama, once again was a great success. This year the ride started from the MARC and most of the riders liked the idea of starting from there every year. It gave riders a chance to get changed and clean up before heading back home. The Smith Center is getting ready for ice once again. If all goes according to plans the ice should be in and ready to go by October 28. Wendorf asked the Park and Recreation Commission members if they had any questions.

The next item on the agenda is public comment. There was no public comment.

The next regular meeting will be at the call of the chair. Wendorf has two conferences that he will be attending in November and will be unable to attend the Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Tabor, to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.

***Carried unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary