

The VILLAGE VOICE

"The Official Publication of the Village Board"
FREE to Every Family in Merrimac

July 2024 - Volume 50, Issue 03

Draft minutes of the Parks & Recreation Meeting July 3, 2024

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Parks and Recreation Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairperson Nate Taylor at 7:00pm. Committee members Amy Buck, Tim Klecker, June Krbecek, and Jennifer Thompson were present. Also in attendance were Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. Chairperson Taylor examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: Cheryl Anderson spoke on behalf of Green Merrimac to say they are looking forward to finding ways to collaborate and support the new Parks and Recreation Committee. Koby Kraus stated he would like to see signage directing visitors to Memorial Park and include more information about the parks on the Village website.

Item 3. Establish Committee goals & purpose: Chairperson Taylor asked the Committee members to share their thoughts on specific goals for the group. Several potential projects were identified including park/green space signage, fundraising for lights and renovating the concession stand, bleachers, and dugouts at the ballpark, and improving public lake access. The group agreed that Merrimac has many beautiful public areas that residents may not be aware of, and they will focus on identifying and opening them up for public use.

Item 4. Discuss clearing, cleaning up, and signage at public lake access points in Village: Chairperson Taylor informed the Committee that the Village Board has approved renting a forestry mower for the

purpose of clearing out brush at the public access lot located on Pacific Avenue as well as other areas in the Village. The equipment rental is scheduled for July 9, 10, and 11. Several residents voiced concerns about the proposed project including parking, trash cleanup, and shoreline erosion control. Neighboring landowners Bob Doran and Bob Garrison questioned why they were not notified of the Village's intent to clean up the park and whether the lot lines are delineated clearly enough to proceed. The Committee agreed that the lot should be surveyed, and that communication with neighboring residents will be improved. The Committee emphasized that they are only in the beginning phase of exploring possible uses of this public land and that in order to fully examine the property, overgrown brush and small trees must be removed. Proposed future use of the land includes a walking path to access the park, signage, a picnic table, canoe/kayak launch, and a fishing pier, however, no decisions have been made regarding Village improvements to this public space.

Item 5. Discuss recommending Village Board allow dogs at Memorial Park: The Committee discussed the pros and cons of allowing dogs at Memorial Park. The group acknowledged the lack of pet friendly areas in the Village, while citing unleashed dogs and waste cleanup as top concerns for allowing dogs in the park. Since Voll Park does allow dogs, the Committee recommended keeping Memorial Park dog free for now, and possibly turning Voll Park into a dedicated dog park.

Item 6. Plan next meeting agenda: Possible next agenda items include further discussion of brush clearing at public lake access points, signage for all public land in the Village, and Palisade Street Boat Launch improvements including; pier

installation, sign, and a new gate with locking system.

7. Adjourn: Before adjourning, Krbecek/Klecker motioned to recommend to the Village Board that before clearing of the public access lot begins, due diligence must be done to determine property lines, and that neighboring property owners will be contacted. At 8:34pm, Klecker/Taylor motioned to adjourn. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Draft minutes of the Village Board Meeting July 9, 2024

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Village President Andrew Gallus at 5:30pm. Village Trustees Margaret Budde, Jim Malmberg, Stan Senger, and Nate Taylor were present. Also in attendance were DPW Justin Schultz, Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. President Gallus examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: Merrimac Community Festival Committee members Nicole Hartman and Collin Bourgeois gave the Board an update on the upcoming festival. In addition to the ski show, wake board contest, kids games, craft show, horseshoe and bags tournament, live music, and food trucks, the festival has added several exciting new additions this year including a car show, 60ft bouncy house obstacle course, and a bar style trivia contest. They encouraged the Board members and community to attend the event and consider volunteering for a shift. They are also looking for cash donations and raffle items. Bob Doran asked the Board what the Village intends to do with the public

access land near his property off of Thurow Lane, given that the Board recently approved renting equipment to clean up the land. He wanted to know why the Village has decided to make improvements to the lot now, after all these years. He also questioned why he and other nearby land owners weren't notified of the Village's plan to improve the lot. President Gallus explained that the Village intends to improve public lake access points throughout the Village, due to overwhelming feedback from residents and visitors who participated in several surveys and activities.

Item 3. Consent Agenda: Budde/Malmberg motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills: Budde/Taylor motioned to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on items 4.i.-4.iv. of the Agenda. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Operator's License Approval for Mitchell Lappen for Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill: Senger/Malmberg motioned to approve Operator's License Application for Mitchell Lappen for Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 6. Security Camera for Outside Village Hall - Update: Trustee Taylor received an updated quote from Mid-Wisconsin Security to install 4 cameras at Village Hall for \$8,750, an amount which all Trustees agreed, is not economical and decided to pursue a cheaper option. Gallus/Budde motioned to approve up to \$800.00 to purchase security cameras for Village Hall. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 7. DNR - Proposed Draft WWTP Permit: The Village has received the proposed DRAFT WWTP Permit renewal from the DNR. Trustee Budde has reviewed the DRAFT and found it to be mostly positive, however, she and our attorney/engineer team have identified several new provisions that the Village will try to negotiate with DNR in the coming months.

Item 8. Park & Recreation Report: The newly formed Parks & Recreation Committee held their first meeting on July 3. Committee Chairperson Taylor summarized the meeting, which was well attended and elicited robust public

comment. The committee outlined their goals which include improving several public lake access points, adding proper signage, and continuing repairs at the Palisade Street boat landing. The Committee decided to pause renting the forestry mower and recommended a survey be completed to ensure the Village is not encroaching on adjoining land. Going forward, the Committee agreed to improve communication with neighboring landowners and give advanced notice before beginning any projects.

Item 9. Report of the Director of Public Works: 9.a. Lift Station 1 Pump 1 Repair and proposed pump purchase; LS 1 pump 1 has been repaired, however, more information regarding the proposed pump purchase is coming and will be discussed at next month's meeting. 9.b. Electrical upgrade at Memorial Park & Welcome Sign Lights; Electrical upgrades at Memorial Park will be completed next week and lights have been added to the new Welcome to Merrimac signs.

Item 10. Report of the Administrator: DRA Collateral Assignment of Land Lease Estoppel Certificate, and Lessor's Subordination Approval; After speaking further with DRA and their financial institution representative, Administrator Klecker sent the documents to the Village Attorney for review and assistance with drafting a resolution. Taylor/Gallus motioned to table the topic until the legal review is complete. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** 10.b. Possible Survey needed at Public Access Lot; DPW Schultz inspected the public access lot on Pacific Road and found the current survey stakes did not match the GPS map in some areas. Due to uncertainty as to where the lot lines are, Administrator Klecker echoed the Parks & Recreation Committee's recommendation that the Village have it professionally surveyed. The Board also discussed surveying the 20 foot wide public access point on Palisade Street. Budde/Gallus motioned to authorize up to \$3,500 for the survey of Village owned public access on Pacific Road and the 20 foot public access on Palisade St, to be paid for out of the general fund. Upon Roll Call Vote, All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** 10.c. Reserve Liquor License - Update; Administrator Klecker received clarification from WIDOR on the Village's extra license. Our unissued

license is not considered a "reserve" license, and therefore, is not eligible to be transferred to the Town of Merrimac. 10.d. Change August meeting date due to election; The Partisan Primary Election falls on the 2nd Tuesday in August, which is the regular Village Board Meeting date. Administrator Klecker asked that the Board move the meeting to Wednesday, August 14. Gallus/Malmberg motioned to reschedule the August Board Meeting to Wednesday, August 14, due to elections on August 13. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.**

Item 11. Adjourn: At 7:03pm, Malmberg/Budde motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**
Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Klecker

Jennie Klecker

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting
***WEDNESDAY August 14, 2024**
5:30 PM @ Village Hall
*Meeting date changed due to election

Parks & Recreation Meeting
August 7, 2024
7:00 PM @ Village Hall

AA Meetings
Wednesday Evenings 7:00
@ Memorial Park Pavilion
Questions?
Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050


Recycling Pickup Dates:
August 5 & 19

Brush Pick-up Date
August 7 & 21
4 feet wide by 4 feet high, up to 8 feet long with brush stacked parallel to and near the road.

Scrap metal recycling is available at Village Hall. Please place items in the dumpster located in the Village Hall parking lot. **METAL ONLY! No TV's**



From Alliant Energy: Use advanced power strips

Like a dripping faucet, electricity can leak. It happens when devices are turned off, but are in stand-by mode. Most electronics draw some power when plugged in, and it costs the average household up to \$200 a year! Luckily, advanced power strips detect when devices are not in use and automatically cut their power. They protect against surges too!



Please join us for a day of family friendly fun at beautiful Memorial Park!
Saturday, August 3rd
10:00AM - 6:00PM

FREE ADMISSION!

* Live Music, Ski Show, Food, Kid's Games, Bouncy Houses, Raffles, Car Show, Craft & Vendor Show, Beer Tent, Horseshoe & Bags Tournament and more!

Merrimac Fire & Rescue

Here's to the Third and Fourth Generation

Merrimac Fire & Rescue has a cherished tradition of family members serving together to keep our community and property protected from fires, accidents, and sudden illnesses. The service of the **Jensen Family** goes decades back to 1965. **Neil Jensen** (1932-2018) was a founding Commissioner of the Merrimac Fire Protection District and served for 50 years. Neil's son **Chris** joined Fire & Rescue in 1997 and rose to the rank of Chief in 2005. Chief's son **Ryan** joined us 14 years ago. Ryan quickly became certified as both a Fire-fighter and Emergency Medical Responder. He's also our Safety Officer, making sure we've got the training, helmets, gloves and other protective gear we need. And now, Ryan's son Benjamin



proudly wears *his* own protective gear. Who knows? Maybe in 15 years we'll have our *fourth* generation of Jensens keeping us safe from harm. Come join Chris and Ryan (and maybe one day Benji!) to serve the families of Merrimac.

Thank you, Jensen Family, for being such a blessing to our community through the generations.

**JOIN OUR FAMILY!
You need us. We need you.**



Partisan Primary
AUGUST 13, 2024
General Election
NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Elections are coming up!
Are you registered?
Visit **MyVote.wi.gov**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CENTENNIAL
100 Years of Service to the Merrimac Community

We invite the community to celebrate our 100th Anniversary with us!
Everyone is Welcome!
Sunday, August 11th - 9:30am
Service at Memorial Park
Potluck Lunch to Follow

Merrimac Post Office Updates

New Phone Number:
(608) 493-0031
New Office Window Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:30am - 10:30am
12:00 - 3:00pm
Saturday
8:30am - 10:00am

Reminder:

In order to maintain a neat and attractive appearance, grass should be kept at a maximum of 4 inches.

