



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
Library Meeting Room
Nov. 16th, 2020 - 5:15 PM

Call to Order 5:17pm

Roll Call: Burkhart, Cantrell, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Meska, Milks, Stasi, Stewart, Taylor

Attending: Burkhart, Cantrell, Johnson, Jorgensen, Meska, Milks, Stasi, Taylor

Absent: Gearhart, Milks, Stewart

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the September 23rd, 2020 meeting

Motion: Jorgensen 2nd: Meska

Aye: All Nay: None

Memorial Benches – Reaves, Henderson, Sondrol

Johnson contacted Penny Reaves and she stated that it would not be until next season when she could get the funds to purchase the bench for Ace and Zach.

Johnson met with Missy Rau this past month at the complex, as Missy would like to donate a memorial bench in memory of Bob Henderson. Options are laid out for everyone to decide on.

Henderson Bench

Motion: Jorgensen 2nd: Stasi

Aye: All Nay: None

Johnson discussed with Dave Sondrol the possibility of placing two new memorial benches. Sondrol said he would like to place at least one bench on the OCAD park downtown. Johnson spoke with OCAD director Deb Howard and they found a suitable place near a tree in the SE corner of the park. Sondrol would like to put this bench there in memory of Roger Schulz.

Sondrol Bench for Roger Schulz

Motion: Jorgensen 2nd: Meska

Aye: All Nay: None

Tree Board – Tree Pruning/Planting

Johnson and Jeff Milks went around on Oct. 14th to all the 53 locations they planted trees at last year, removed t-posts, and completed trimming. Johnson stated that this is what the Trees Forever Board wants to see that they are following up and conducting proper maintenance to the trees that we planted 2-3 years out. Johnson stated that it is important to train the trees so that they do not branch out low as so many trees are in the boulevards. Johnson stated that while they did the street tree survey with the DNR they realized how many trees were branching off at a low area, which makes the tree susceptible to breaking of easily in storm events. Johnson stated that all the trees that they planted last year did great and survived their first year.

Johnson stated that the tree board completed their tree planting on Wednesday Oct. 21st. Johnson is completed the Trees Forever grant for next cycle and also turned in the follow up paperwork for this year's grant. Johnson stated that the employees dropped some ash trees at City Park near the airplane that were all infected with EAB.

Park and Recreation Master Plan

Johnson has been compiling the information that he has collected from the park and rec board to create the park and rec master plan the past two years. Johnson asked the board for their input on the different levels of long term planning laid out before them. Johnson told the board to review what they want to see with parks and recreation and they can discuss further next meeting.

Parks/Cemetery Report

This month in the parks, the employees complete their daily disinfecting of the shop, equipment and trucks. Tab Sly painted the flagpole base and the podium on the south side of the cemetery. The park employees poured a new sidewalk at City Hall that will go to the old police dept. side of the building. The Faith Discipleship group is painting picnic tables at the Campground that we received the paint through a Diamond Vogel grant we received. The City received 6 gallons which it is a brand specific grant and no one in town carries the brand, the guys went through it quickly at Johnson bought another 6 gallons for the guys. Meska asked if helmet holders could be installed at the complex dugouts.

Johnson received the check for \$8,818 from the RJ McElroy Foundation to replace the playground that the City lost in the March tornado at Red gate Park. This will be a new children's double swing and a new stainless steel slide. Stainless steel slide are important because they help children with cochlear implants. The plastic slide build up static electricity when the children slide down them and make it uncomfortable for them to enjoy the slide. The swings set will have a double swing that will have the infant swings. These have been ordered and delivery is expected this Friday with installation in the Spring.

The park employees have been working at Platt Park framing up the new foundation for the smaller shelter up front by the playground. This will include a new sidewalk to the existing sidewalk that traverses to the retirement home. We will also be installing a drinking fountain along this new sidewalk, as there currently is not any water fountains in this park.

The employees have been walking through downtown every morning picking up trash and cleaning bathrooms as well. I met with a student (Jane Cue) at Red gate Park that is interested in completing her senior seminar project there. I suggested that she could paint the three smaller shelters and plant a few trees at the park. I talked to Travis Manske from Corner Market and he will donate two trees for her to plant at the park as well.

Johnson received a quote for the shelter/bathroom project at Red gate Park and expecting a second anytime. Still waiting on the quotes for the plumbing and electrical from contractors for that project.

At the cemetery, the employees are extremely busy with 36 full burials and 24 cremation, and an infant burial this year thus far. Average burials is around 55 burial per year, many more cremations this year due to the uncertainties of COVID-19. Dave Sondrol donated three oak trees that were planted on the SW corner of Woodlawn cemetery where the bushes were damaged and removed. The trees were planted away from the intersections to keep visibility high as the previous bushes really hindered the visibility in that area.

The park employees took down the batting net at diamond 3 at Wings and pulled bags on all diamonds, as the softball league is complete. Jay replaced a couple outlets at the campground that are changed every year. Campground is closed up for the year as the employees were winterizing the water lines. Johnson stated that all the facilities have been winterized.

Johnson has been talking with homeowners to get easements for future trail segments. Committee members are looking at different segments to complete for future trail development. Johnson stated that he is meeting with the railroad this week to see if they can work out an agreement for an easement to complete the next segment.

Disc golf course work at City Park has been ongoing, on Oct. 25th Rotary members came out and started helping. Johnson had the park and cemetery employees working on the new pads, trimming trees, and removing brush. Johnson stated that the employees were done with the season on November 1 for the season. Johnson and Perkins completed season end reviews with the workers while they cleaned equipment during the last day.

Recreation Report

Burkhart stated that they have been disinfecting the wellness center and are enforcing a mask mandate for all patrons. Burkhart stated that attendance is down recently. Burkhart stated that women's volleyball is ongoing and two more weeks of dodgeball that have been participating in small groups. Burkhart stated that the paper posted that the wellness center was closed when it is not. They called the paper for a retraction and posted on Facebook that the center is still open. Fitness classes are going well overall. Burkhart stated that the run fundraiser for little league went well as they raised \$7k for equipment ruined by the flooding. Burkhart stated that they had a good turnout for the fundraiser. Burkhart stated that winter activities are a big question mark and might involve some online guidance. Burkhart stated that medfit numbers were picking up but have dropped off recently.

Board Member Updates - None

Adjournment 5:52pm

Next Meeting: Jan. 18, 2020