



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting

Goto Meeting

July 20, 2020 - 5:00 PM

Call to Order: 5:02 pm by Taylor

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

Attending: Burkhart, Cantrell, Gearhart, Johnson, Meska, Stasi, Taylor

Absent: Gearhart, Stewart

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the June 15th, 2020 meeting

Motion: Jorgensen 2nd: Meska

Aye: All Nay: None

Parks/Cemetery Report:

Johnson reported that the employees have been mowing empty lots and houses the city purchased and found people are throwing their branches and garbage onto these properties. Another round of weed spraying has begun in all the properties. In all, that person is mowing 63 properties throughout the city, which does include one well and two lift stations for the water department.

Johnson and Perkins ran new plumbing in the diamond one bathroom as they slowly opened the bathrooms. Signage has been placed at all bathrooms, playground equipment and bleachers several times with COVID-19 warnings.

Jay took the Harley rake to the batting cage area and the workers put up the net for the season.

This past month someone broke into Jay's truck, ransacked it and stole some tools. Johnson purchased some cameras and installed them around the shop area.

This past month Brannon Monument Company was finally able to get in and reset the large cemetery stones that were too large for City employees to handle from the tornado damage.

Lloyd Brown finished transplanting all 64 trees from the cemetery tree nursery that we wanted transplanted. The cemetery employees are straightening out the dirt in the area that Lloyd transplanted.

The flagpole light at Woodlawn was replaced with an LED light fixture and the flag light at Oakdale was replaced with a Led light that someone stole.

Mike Ledesma is competing his work on the downtown streetscape, watering hanging baskets, picking up trash and weeding.

Tree board members met at Red gate Park this past month and are working on finding planting areas for the street tree planting this fall. This planting was made possible through a grant the parks department received for \$5,000 from Trees Forever/Alliant Energy to plant street trees.

This month Jon Biederman and Johnson met with Chris Matt to go over some final issues with the new trail section at Wings Park. Matt construction was able to come in last week and took care of the drainage to hopefully close out the project. Johnson and Biederman also met with Jake Steil with Transco about an easement to run a trail on the west side of the tracks on their property. Johnson received the new trail mileage signs that they will be installing along the trail when we have the time to install them. Last Wednesday evening, Johnson met with the trails committee and we went over updates on fundraising and easements for our next projects. Johnson is completing more work on the DNR REAP grant that is due in August for more trail money. Johnson stated that he would need to send the report to county for their approval shortly then send it into the state.

Johnson completed an Iowa DNR land and water and land conservation fund report that was received back in the 1970's for the old tennis courts and Platt Park. This is a perpetual report every 5 years for each of these properties that need to remain solely for recreation. Signage for this grant was updated at the tennis courts and Platt Park for the land and water grant that the City needs to keep posted.

Two weeks ago, the City had an individual run into a tree downtown that scraped the bark and destroyed a few lily plants and damaged a bush. Johnson typed up a damage estimate and turned it into the police department.

Jay took some dirt out the complex trail bridge to fill the area in as it has washed out over the years.

Johnson stated that they still have tornado damage to clean up, flood damage to clean up as they took the skid loader with Harley rake and started leveling out diamond 1 from the flooding. Johnson stated that after those two events they were hit with a windstorm that they are cleaning up. In all, the department lost six trees in the parks and trails with many branches down in all the parks and cemetery. There is still many branches and trees down at City owned lots and houses that we will continue to work on cleaning up, when they get their mowing responsibilities completed each week. Johnson stated that the grinding company will be in to grind the yard waste site for the windstorm damage and they will take care of the pile at cemetery this time.

Johnson stated that they have someone kick in a storage room door at Wings Park so they are getting pricing for a new door and boarded up the room for mean time. The employees also replaced the siding on the east end of the building as a corner was getting soft and needing replacing. Johnson stated that they cleaned the building out of old junk that has been accumulating over the years.

Burial totals for Woodlawn Cemetery, 19 burials and 15 cremations this year so far, shelter reservations are not being taken this season thus far, due to COVID-19 concerns. Johnson attended the monthly safety meeting the third week in July and stated they went over with departments the necessity to stay properly hydrated throughout the day due to the hot weather this month as a safety-meeting topic.

Recreation Report:

Burkhart stated that they have had slow attendance at the wellness center with a spike around the 4th of July weekend. Burkhart stated that they sent out surveys to patrons and had an ok response, with most stating that they are waiting until the virus passes to return. Burkhart said that they would like to move some equipment around at the center. Burkhart said that little league wrapped up and men's league starts next week. Burkhart stated that she has 10 people interested in a disc golf league, 5th to 8th graders.

Burkhart stated that she and Liz got their BLS certifications completed. Burkhart said that she is starting on fall programing, which may look different, including kindergarten soccer. Burkhart stated that they are looking at a new hire at the wellness center.

Board Member Updates: None

Adjournment: Jorgenson @ 5:22

Next Meeting: August 17, 2020