



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
City Hall

Monday March 20th, 2023 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelweinparks.org

Call to Order: 5:15pm

Roll Call: Bouska, Burkhart, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Garrigus, Meska, Stasi

Attending: Bouska, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Garrigus, Meska, Stasi, DeVore

Absent: Burkhart

Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the January 17th, 2023, meeting

Motion:	Jorgensen	2 nd :	Meska
Aye:	All	Nay:	None

Recreation Update: None

Trails Update

Johnson talked about the next trail segment 2 that he is trying to get finalized. This trail segment will start at the west side of the viaduct and travel through the NW and connect to Redgate Park. Johnson stated that he is waiting on the Schaer property transfer to happen. Johnson stated that he and trail engineer Jon Biederman met with Jake Steil this last month about a storm drain project along 6th Ave. that needs to be fixed before they can proceed with segment two.

Johnson stated that he submitted the STGB (Surface Transportation Block Grant) grant proposal to Upper explorer land for the RRFB project to be placed at the North Frederick and 5th intersection if awarded. Johnson stated that he sent a grant proposal into AARP as well for this project this past month.

On the second Tuesday evening Johnson hosted the trails committee meeting at the park shop as they talked about their bill that has moved on to a senate committee where it ended.

This month the park department also received the yearly check from the foundation for trails. Johnson stated this \$250,000 check will go towards segment 2, 4 and 5.

Aquatics Update

Johnson stated to the board that the new pool manager will be Kim Lawless this season. Johnson stated that Kim has been with the pool the past few seasons and is ready to fulfill the pool manager position this season. Johnson and Lawless met with the returning kids in February to go over recruitment, certifications, and

expectations for the upcoming season. Johnson stated that are working on setting up lifeguarding certifications for the new guards to have everything ready to roll into the season.

Tree Board Update

Johnson stated that the tree board work completed earned the city the designation as tree city for 2022. Johnson also stated that when the mayor reads the proclamation for arbor day at the council meeting in April, that this is a requirement for this designation.

On first Monday evening of the month, Johnson hosted the Tree Board meeting at the park shop where they went over their new interactive map the DNR has on their website for all city trees. Johnson stated that there is a link on the park department website that he set up to direct anyone to the DNR page so they can view this information. Johnson stated that this is the product of several years' work that the park department and the DNR worked on. Johnson stated this started in 2018 when the park department went around with the DNR with GPS units gathering information on all the street trees in town. The second part of this took place this past summer when information was gathered on all the park and cemetery trees. Johnson stated that a person can drill down on the map and see what every tree species, condition, etc. for every city tree in the boulevards, parks, and cemeteries. Once the meeting completed the board traveled to city hall and to the police department and trimmed up some of their trees. Johnson also shared that the tree board was also awarded the Trees Forever grant for \$4,000.00 to plant trees once again this fall.

Parks/Cemetery Update

This past month in the park department we have been busy with snow removal. Nate, Dion, and Johnson came in early on a few Sunday mornings to clear snow at Woodlawn and all other city properties. Wiedemann completed some delinquent sidewalks for community development this past month as well. A cremation burial was prepared this month as they have had 6 burials and two cremation burials this year. Nate and Johnson have been working on organizing the shop when we have spare time.

Nate has been doing what he can with the skate rink as warm temperatures are persisting. Johnson had Nate go through the stump grinder attachment for the skid loader this past month as we will be using a lot this spring as the employees removed over 100 ash tree this past fall. This past month the heating system required some maintenance at the park shop that we remedied quickly. Johnson is finishing up the new disc golf signage this week and sent it off to IPI so the signs will be ready for install this spring.

This past month in the park department Weideman and Johnson took advantage of some warmer weather earlier in the month and completed some tree trimming in the campground. Weideman went around and checked drainage areas and culverts to make sure they were clear of obstructions with the melting snow. Weideman replaced the running boards on one of the parks trucks this week. Pictures were put on the cemetery tablet of the records book to streamline locating grave spaces at the cemetery and the records book can be kept in the office now. Work on the shop is moving along as another area was painted and organized. Johnson has been working on ordering supplies for the aquatic center and updating paperwork. Johnson also finished the City Park disc golf sign and working on another course sign for Platt Park.

At Woodlawn there was a double tree that was split at the truck that had cracked recently so they took the one side down that was leaning towards the office. Johnson submitted his grant proposal to the Delta Dental foundation in hopes of acquiring funds to purchase a new outdoor drinking water station at the campground. Johnson learned on February 2nd that the park department was awarded \$3,285.00 from the Delta Dental foundation for a new drinking station. Johnson stated that he will order the new fountain so they can get it installed as soon as possible. Johnson stated that the campground host Carolyn Rohrick and her husband Craig, will be returning this season to take care of the campground once again. Johnson stated that the campground

opens the middle of April, pending weather. Weideman was busy making plumbing repairs to a bathroom at City Park this week. The alternator went bad in P3, so Wiedemann replaced that as well this week

Wiedemann was busy clearing out drain lines in the parks with the spring rains and attending safety classes this past month. The employees came in at the cemetery for full burial. On Thursday the 9th evening Johnson and Burkhart presented the proposal to the foundation that Johnson prepared. Johnson also created a 35-page PowerPoint presentation for that evening for a visual reference. Johnson later learned that the foundation decided to fund one project, which was for the park department in the amount of \$126,750 to complete the aquatics drain and filter project.

The rec vehicle was brought to the shop as it had exhaust issues that was fixed this last month. Johnson and Wiedemann took advantage of a few cold mornings last week and removed two dying ash trees in vets park and hauled them out with the ground still being firm with the cold.

Board Member Updates

Meska inquired why the city does not hire a grant writer and discussed the possibilities.

Adjournment: 5:32pm

Next Meeting: April 17th