



Agenda

Park & Recreation
Online GoToMeeting
20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein
April 20, 2020 - 5:30 PM

Call to Order:

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

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

Absent: Berryman, Gearhart, Stewart

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the February 17, 2020 meeting

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

Redgate and Woodlawn Proposal

Tornado 3-28-2020

Johnson reported that on March 28th the City had an EF-1 tornado touch down in Red gate Park and Woodlawn Cemetery that had sustained winds of 107 MPH. Saturday night Johnson's concentration was getting the trees that had blown over and hanging out in to West Charles Street cut and pushed out of the way. Redgate Park was still locked up from the winter, in Woodlawn we escorted all the cars out and barricaded the facility off. Johnson stated there where around 50 cars in the cemetery driving around looking at storm damage that they had to escort out.

In Red gate the City lost approximately 40 trees and evergreens, basically lost most all the mature trees in that park. The City lost two pieces of older playground equipment, a metal slide and swing set. A large ash came down on the large shelter and destroyed it, and wind ripped off shingles on one of the small shelters.

In Woodlawn Cemetery, the City lost around 40 trees and evergreens as well. Many headstones were knocked over either by trees or wind. Right now, most of the trees have been cut up and placed in the southwest corner of the facility. On Wednesday morning, the streets where swept and the cemetery was open to the public. The departments will work on cleanup throughout the season on removing stumps. The workers set 58 small stones up that were blown over.

The parks/cemetery department has been busy working on cleaning up the tornado damage in Red gate Park. Johnson had a few workers in from the parks and cemetery departments to help with the cleanup. Johnson told the workers this is going to be a marathon not a sprint, the cleanup is going to take months to finish. This week the main shelter at Red gate was taken down after a very large ash fell on it during the tornado. Two community members who stayed in their equipment to help an afternoon with the cleanup in Red gate. Ronnie Graf brought his backhoe in with a hook to remove stumps at Red gate Park. Rockie Williams brought his skid steer that is track driven to help carry trees to the road so our equipment did not tear up the grass as much. Johnson has been working with contractors on getting quotes for projects with the pool, parks, and cemetery. Johnson has been working on Red gate Park plans for moving forward.

With the insurance money that the City received from this event, the parks department would like to complete the following projects.

Shelter replacement/modern bathroom

The main shelter in Red gate Park was 50' x 21', which had a large ash tree fall on it. The department would like to replace the shelter using the existing concrete slab, moving the support pillars to the outside of the concrete pad opening up the area to utilize better. On the west end of the shelter, Johnson would like to add a modern bathroom with running water that would be under that same roof as the shelter. The bathroom would measure 12' x 21' with the doors facing the west. A sidewalk would start at the park driveway and traverse east to the bathroom with a sidewalk going around the bathroom on both ends accessing the shelter. Contractors would install a countertop on the back wall of the bathroom inside the shelter with multiple outlets for patrons

to utilize when they rent the shelter. The new shelter will be a steel roof for longevity; no picnic tables were damaged in the tornado.

Holding tank

Red gate Park already has a ¾" water line run to it through Woodlawn, under West Charles Street to an old drinking fountain in the park. The closest sewer is at the corner of W Charles and 13th Avenue approximately 800LF from the proposed site. Our solution would be to install a 2,000-gallon holding tank would be buried to collect the waste from the bathrooms. We anticipate at most an annual pumping of this holding tank, which can be completed with City equipment.

Tree Grinding

All the trees that the city lost were piled in the SW corner of Woodlawn, which we estimated at 40 trees per site. T & W Grinding out of Delhi currently takes care of the cities yard waste site. Randy quoted me a price of \$600 per hour to complete the grinding. The department is allowing people in one at a time to cut up the trees to take for firewood. Once the grinding takes place, it will be easier to transfer the grindings to the yard waste site deemed necessary, or can be left for departmental use and citizens to take.

Headstone placement

In all 58 headstones were knocked over in this tornado event. The workers reset the majority of the stones, which were smaller. A monument company can come down and reset monuments that are larger that staff cannot handle with City equipment and fasten to the foundations.

Road repairs

Spend the rest of the available funds on seal coating the roads in the cemetery and red gate

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

Parks/Cemetery Report

This month Jay has been busy finishing up on some maintenance of some equipment. Johnson had Perkins take the hanging baskets to the FFA program so they can get the flowers started for the downtown hanging baskets. With the rapid melting snow, Johnson had the north end of the cemetery barricaded off with the gravel roads completely saturated, as they were too soft to be driving on. Johnson grabbed the backhoe from streets and gave Perkins some time learning to operate that machine.

Ryan Bergan with the school metal program finished up the steel security doors for the Wings bathroom between diamonds 2/3. The doors were painted by Transco, and will be easily removed in the spring with the way they were designed. These are necessary because of the continuous vandalism during the winter that people cause by kicking in these doors. They damage the commercial steel doors and locks, which are expensive, let alone destroying toilets and sinks, mirrors and setting fires. On Monday, Johnson hosted the tree board meeting where we went over their fall tree planting and went over other projects for the upcoming season.

The grade school kids (Wings & Sacred Heart) voted for the bulldog slide that the park department will be installing at the aquatic center. Johnson presented a half dozen different animal designs that they could choose from so the kids made the final choice. The kids brought in a canned good to vote that was donated to the local pantry. The class that had the most winning votes per class was the Sacred Heart first graders.

Johnson had the new Park and Rec webpage linked to the city webpage, which has a ton of information about the cities facilities. Perkins has been busy putting new bleachers together that will go to diamond three this spring. Perkins got rid of some old pallets around the shop and upgrading signage. Johnson had the school committed to completing some projects at the aquatic facility this spring with their construction program but with the COVID-19 virus, the parks department is working with the school to ensure that they can complete these projects in the fall semester. Lisa Nolan and Johnson brought in the pool staff to complete paperwork and have an orientation. Perkins and Johnson conducted several interviews for some seasonal positions within the department that they are filling.

This month the Parks Department had a phenomenal donation of \$10,000 to the Friends of the Trails program. On Tuesday evening the 10th, Johnson met with the trails committee as they discussed their progress and developed plans for fundraising. This month in the Parks Department, we received notification letters from grants that were submitted these past few months. Community Bank of Oelwein has committed \$5,000 towards trails, \$2,500 in 2020 and again in 2021 through the Friends of the Trails program. The Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation sent their annual contribution with their agreed amount of \$250,000 for trail building. Johnson received word back from Trees Forever that they are contributing the full amount of \$5,000 for trees. This grant will be for a fall tree planting in which the parks department and tree board will plant trees in the street boulevards to fill in and replace ash tree removal. This grant has been reduced to one time a year and only 31 projects statewide where funded this year in the state so the city is very fortunate to receive the full amount two years in a row. The parks department also received a smaller grant through Diamond Vogel for six gallons of paint that they will use to paint picnic tables. Monday, received word that the Parks Department was

awarded \$10,000 from the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. This grant is going towards replacing and upgrading the electrical services at City Park for the Oelwein Celebration.

On Wednesday April 1st, Johnson went around to all the parks posting signage and taping off all playground equipment and ball fields. These areas are closed off to the public to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 during this pandemic. Last week the park department picked up a new mower from Bodensteiner for the parks department, which was a CIP item. Johnson met with Jon Biederman this week as we are looking at the next trail segment to get things ready to go for some grant opportunities.

This week in the parks department, they have bringing the employees in and conducting spring orientation and trainings. Daily disinfection in the mornings and end of shift continue. The department discussed COVID-19 precautions and expectations out of them when they come to work. Johnson had Perkins conduct hands-on trainings with chainsaw safety, lift procedures and Lock out Tag out procedures. Johnson has been working on putting together a proposal for council concerning the future of red gate park and Woodlawn cemetery. Johnson stated that he has been talking with the donor for the Woodlawn cemetery sign so they can get that project rolling. Matt construction is working on dirt work this week so they can finish the Wings trail project. Johnson reminded the board that the city had a very wet fall as they were mowing into October last season; this prevented the contractors from finishing the project last fall. Perkins finished putting the two sets of bleachers that will go to diamond three that were a CIP item.

Johnson stated that because of COVID-19 funeral homes have to abide by the 10-person rule as well. Johnson stated that the funeral homes could only have 10 people on their property at one time so they are postponing several burials and the burials they are having are just graveside ceremonies with 10 or less people.

Johnson, City Hall and Burkhart sat in on a demonstration of an online program for park and rec billing system. The system will take care of online billing for programs, facility scheduling, recreation programs, aquatics, and campground reservations. Johnson stated that they have had three graves and four cremations in the last month.

Recreation Report

Burkhart reported that the wellness center has been closed for the past few weeks. Burkhart has loaded fitness videos for people to follow along and stay active. Burkhart stated that the floors have been cleaned and refinished. The soccer program has been cancelled for the year due to COVID-19. Burkhart stated that little league money would be held in case they have to cancel the season they could void the checks and return them. Burkhart plans to start practice the first week of June if possible. Burkhart stated that she is watching to see if the school cancels their season. Burkhart stated that she is going to look into social media to get more coaches and volunteers. Burkhart stated that she sat in on the demo for the recdesk program and has not received a quote back either. Burkhart stated that everyone has been laid off from the wellness center for now, as May 1 updated guidelines will come from the governor.

Board Member Updates - None

Adjournment Stasi at 5:55pm

Next Meeting: May 18, 2020