



# Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting  
Oelwein Fire Department  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

[www.oelwein.fun](http://www.oelwein.fun)

**Call to Order:** 5:18 by Gearhart

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

**Attending:** Burkhart, Cantrell, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Stasi

**Absent:** Milks, Taylor

## Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting
- |         |           |                   |         |
|---------|-----------|-------------------|---------|
| Motion: | Jorgensen | 2 <sup>nd</sup> : | Stewart |
| Aye:    | All       | Nay:              | None    |

## Park and Recreation Master Plan

- 1-5 years

Johnson started out the discussion by going through the different areas that he brought to the meeting. Johnson explained that these are areas the need the quickest maintenance on them and invited the board to suggest changes and add as needed. Gearhart agreed that the City should continue to make sure the pool is in great working condition as it is a great asset to the community. Meska talked about the bocce ball court at Red Gate being updating. Discussion went on how the board would really like to see cabins built at the campground. The opportunity to bring in people to utilize the cabins would be a year round proposal and would bring people to the community.

Gearhart stated that the rec program could use some changes, as he would like to see more participation. Gearhart stated that coaches meetings could be more organized for everyone. Gearhart would like to see a layout of what goals are expected out of a participant in a season and have more structure with practices. Jorgensen agreed that more structure to practices would benefit the program and that they had someone complete this years ago for the program. Stewart stated that if they had structured plans then they would not have each coach coming up with their own plans for each team. Stasi stated that he has been interested in coaching soccer but was unsure about expectations. Gearhart stated the varsity high school coaches should be brought in and meet with the park and rec board to offer their assistance.

### Recreation Report

Burkhart stated that they finished coed volleyball and will be hosting their tournament this weekend. Itty-bitty basketball were split up this year with girls and boy separate due to COVID. Burkhart stated that they sent basketballs home with the participants instead of shirts this season. Burkhart talked about 3-6<sup>th</sup> dodgeball and soccer program starting. Little league registration were sent out and are due on the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month. Burkhart stated that the rec program is still looking for coaches and umpires for various programs, and is working on adult softball schedules. Burkhart stated that starting in April they would be relaxing mask mandates requiring when enter the building and can remove when get to their station. Easer and Burkhart are teaching BLS classes. Burkhart stated that they had 192 kids apply for grant assistance for programs last year and expect those numbers to increase this year. Cantrell asked if registrations are online and Burkhart stated that they are not at this time. Burkhart stated that they will be training new personnel at the wellness center and that fitness classes are filling up as attendance is picking up with more people being vaccinated.

### Tree Board Update

Johnson stated that they held their monthly meeting last week at the park shop. Kyle Scheel and Jeff Milks were reappointed to the board by council for another three year term. The board interviewed an applicant for the empty position that Tom Fick is vacating. Johnson stated that the board received the Tree City Award for 2020 for the City of Oelwein. Johnson also stated that they received the Trees Forever grant again this year. The award was for the full \$5,000 to purchase trees to be planted in the street boulevard, as energy saving benefits are a requirement of this grant. Johnson stated that this amount usually purchases around 50-55 trees that he gets competitive quotes from the two closest tree nursery's, Manskes corner market and Cannons in Westgate. Johnson stated that he included a link for citizens to use on their website if they are interested in have a tree planted in front of their property with this grant.

### Trails Update

Johnson stated that they held their monthly meeting last week at the park shop to review their progress. Johnson stated that he was able to secure a donation this month for \$1,000 from Dave Sondrol for trails. Johnson stated that he also talked with Michelle McBride with BCHC and was able to secure a donation of \$1,000 per year for the next 5 years for trails. Johnson said that they received their annual contribution from the Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation for the \$250,000 last week. Johnson stated that they wrote a grant proposal to the Well mark Foundation and received over 20 letters from the community in support of the proposal. Johnson stated that there have been numerous citizens tell them that they really appreciate the department clearing the snow off the trails this winter season.

- **Segment 1** - Johnson stated that they received bids from several contractors on the segment one project, as he displayed the bid amounts to the board. Johnson stated that they timed the bidding very well and received some very good quotes for this project. Johnson provided pictures of the trail segments and the bid amounts received. Johnson reviewed with the board that this segment would create a trailhead at 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW until they can get an easement from Iowa Northern Railroad.

- SF 420 – Johnson stated that he has enlisted the assistance of Larry Murphy to help with proposing a bill in Des Moines changing the wording of state code. This change in code will satisfy any concerns that INR has about giving the City an easement for the trail section to the viaduct. Johnson stated that this bill has passed the senate transportation committee and hit the senate floor last week. The bill has similar wording in which they used for RAGBRAI when they had issues of liability with counties banning the event due to lawsuits. Johnson stated that he received a call from Andrea Bolton, the Trails and Greenways Director with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation concerning our trails bill. Bolton stated that this bill would benefit so many communities throughout the state for future trail developments.
- **Segment 2** – Johnson showed the board maps of segment 2 with what he has been working with on easements. Johnson discussed the retaining wall on the west side of the viaduct that needs to be addressed. Johnson discussed different options traversing the trail through Woodlawn Cemetery as well and showed them a bridge possibility if he can find the funding.

### **Parks/Cemetery Report**

Johnson stated that they met with Jennifer Dillon the new FFA instructor and took the hanging baskets for the kids to start planting the flowers for downtown. Johnson stated that the new tables for the aquatic center arrived and have been assembled which was part of the bond project. Johnson stated that Jay has prepped the doors for the campground shower house and Wings Park storage area for install when the employees return. Johnson stated that they have been clearing sidewalks for delinquent homes for community development. Johnson stated that they are working on an equipment trade with the streets getting their skid loader. This will enable the employees to use all the attachments without having to borrow their skid loader all the time. Johnson stated that they are working on a proposal to sell the old cemetery loader that only has slow gear and cannot use any attachments by utilizing that money for attachments. One would be a snow blower attachment for the skid loader to properly clean trails in the winter and the other would be a set of forks for the cemetery to use. Johnson said that Upper Iowa called about their appreciation day and will be sending down a group to help with some painting projects. Johnson stated that they received a brush that they can utilize on their tractor to clean the trail instead of taking the skid loader on the trails. Perkins picked up a pair of memorial benches that will be installed this spring. Perkins also grabbed the anchors for the new basketball hoops that they will be installing at Wings Park in the old tennis courts. Johnson stated that the dam was been put back the first week in March as planned and the lake is full once again. Johnson stated that they have had eight full burials this year thus far at Woodlawn Cemetery. Johnson stated that the contractors are eager to get working on the bathroom/shelter at Red Gate Park as soon as possible. Johnson said that on Wednesday he would be attending a zoom meeting with the Upper explorer land Commission. Weather pending the parks and cemetery employees will be called in soon to get started on projects for the season. Johnson stated that Perkins and he started removal of the fencing at the pool to make way for the new trail section. Johnson stated that he called in the cemetery crew to clean out the old chamber building near the log cabin. The City is hoping to sell this building and wanted it cleaned out as the previous owner left their belongings all over the inside and basement.

Johnson and Perkins also exchanged the lights in the pump room at the aquatic facility to LED lighting, which will help tremendously as the room has been dim in the past. Johnson said all the lights in the large shower building and the parking lot lights were converted to LED last season. Work on lighting and returning some of the palm leaves on the tiki hut that have blown off with strong winds was completed. Jay has been checking drainage areas to make sure they are clear with the snow melting. Jay reinstalled the bike fixit station at Wings Park that was damaged last fall. The main drain plug on the pool filter that rusted through last season was replaced after we tapped the threads, as the filter replacement project is our high priority for this department.

Johnson stated that the following larger projects are planned this season with the parks department.

- ❖ Disc golf course install
- ❖ Diamond 3 infield fencing
- ❖ Website work
- ❖ Finish shelter/sidewalk at Platt Park
- ❖ Remove old well houses at City Park
- ❖ Drinking fountains install
- ❖ Replace campground shower house doors
- ❖ Diamond 1 building work
- ❖ Arching sign for entrance at Woodlawn
- ❖ Memorial benches install
- ❖ Take new tables to aquatic center
- ❖ Wings door replacement
- ❖ WIFI install campground
- ❖ Playground equip install Red Gate
- ❖ Trail work/easements
- ❖ Electrical project at City Park
- ❖ Bathroom/shelter project at Red Gate
- ❖ Replace decking on old bridge
- ❖ Grant work
- ❖ Pool shelter install
- ❖ Motor/Pump replacement at pool
- ❖ Block signs at Woodlawn
- ❖ Surveillance system at pool
- ❖ Install basketball hoops at Wings
- ❖ Upgrade new controller at pool

**Board Member Updates:** None

**Adjournment:** 6:28pm

**Next Meeting:** April 19<sup>th</sup> 2021