



# Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting  
City Hall

Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - 5:15 PM

**Park and Recreation**

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

**Call to Order:** 5:35pm

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

**Attending:** Burkhart, Cantrell, Gearhart –by phone, Johnson, Jorgensen, Meska

**Absent:** Taylor

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting
- |         |       |                   |          |
|---------|-------|-------------------|----------|
| Motion: | Meska | 2 <sup>nd</sup> : | Gearhart |
| Aye:    | All   | Nay:              | None     |

### **Recreation Update**

Burkhart stated that fall sports have concluded and they held flag football at the high school field this year. Grades included 1-6 and there was positive feedback having games won weeknights and not weekends. Burkhart stated that kindergarten soccer and youth volleyball concluded. Burkhart stated that grades 1-2 dodgeball is occurring with older grades after the holidays. Burkhart stated that they would hold some upcoming clinics at the wellness center. Burkhart stated that the rec dept. received 44K in grant funding for COVID funding for operations. Burkhart stated they were finishing budget and CIP items. Burkhart stated that she is talking with Jaime Herring, as the school will be holding 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> bball programs at the middle school field. Burkhart stated that attendance is up at the wellness center and after school program is doing well too.

### **Tree Board Update**

- Tree’s Forever Planting October 14<sup>th</sup>

Last month Johnson hosted the monthly tree board meeting at the park shop as we went over our tree planting October 14<sup>th</sup>. The tree board did a phenomenal job planting trees this year as they planted 60 trees that day of varying species throughout the city. The park department had most the holes prepared after we called in locates for all locations. The board planted a variety of Hackberry, Tulip, Ironwood, White Oak, Red Bud, Aspen, Newport Plum trees. Johnson stated that Andrea Williams contacted him wanting to plant a couple of trees in memory of her father. Johnson had Williams plant two blaze maples in Redgate Park to replace trees lost in the tornado in 2020. Johnson stated that the low bid for this grant was Cannons Greenhouse and that Daryl donated six maples that were planted in various parks. Johnson stated that the board also selected the tree species for the next grant proposal for Trees Forever that would be for next fall. Johnson submitted his grant proposal to Trees Forever for another possible planting next year. Johnson stated that the board will be meeting again this month and plan their annual downtown tree trimming in early December

### Trails Update

- Segment 1
- Segments 2& 3
- Trail Counts

Johnson finished and submitted the Federal Rec Trails grant proposal this past month, asking \$1.2 million for segments 2&4. Johnson stated that he proposed segments 2&3 to council for next year's construction season. Johnson stated that Bacon Const. has finished the dirt work along both new trail segments and seeded the areas. Johnson said that he recruited two more individuals for the trails committee that have experience writing grants that will be a tremendous help. Johnson stated that the contractor installed the handicap accessible drinking fountain at the aquatic facility. The contractor had a few panels that they had to replace due to people walking through the wet cement. Johnson stated that he received new mileage signs to put up along the new trail next spring. Johnson provided pictures of updated trail totals from July through October, which totaled more than 9,000 users in the three-month span.

### Parks/Cemetery Update

Johnson stated that at the end of the season they cut down all the lilies and trimmed all the plants in the downtown streetscape to wrap up the season. Johnson stated that this is a large project every season that the employees did a great job finishing before winter layoff. Johnson stated that he sat in a zoom meeting with their quarterly meeting. Johnson stated that all the bathrooms have been winterized and closed off for the season. Johnson stated that all the welcome sign in the community were power sprayed once again which they completed every couple of years. Johnson stated that they finished the cleanup from the windstorm in August where several trees were lost once again. The aquatic facility has been winterized and equipment cleaned and put away for the season.

All the departments got their fire extinguishers in to be inspected and recharged if needed. At Woodlawn Cemetery, both departments helped pour headstone foundations. Then the employees poured a concrete pad for the Reeves memorial bench at the sports complex. After that, they poured a couple tee pads for the disc golf course at City Park. At the sports complex the parking lot was graded one last time for the season as well. Johnson stated that the new waterslide rule sign was ordered and received from Iowa Prison Industries in Anamosa. The parks employees worked on installing some anchors at Wings for some new basketball hoops to be installed at some point. Johnson showed some more storm damage to the board that has been cleaned up in parks and trails. Johnson stated that the Redgate bathrooms are completely finished and inspected. The parking area will be completed in the spring and road seal coated as well. Johnson stated that he had the cemetery employees complete some dirt work around the shelter and seed the area so that it will be ready in the spring. Johnson stated that they utilized the Cities road-patching machine to work on some of the roads in the parks and cemetery, which more will be done next season as well.

This month Johnson completed his continuing education courses for his pesticide applicator licenses. Johnson stated that these classes do provide some great updated statistics on lime disease, West Nile and ash borer spread among many other topics. Johnson had the cemetery employees burn some of the excess leaves at City Park while they were working on the disc golf course this past couple of weeks. Johnson stated that he is advertising for the park assistant position and has had very positive results with applications thus far. Johnson stated that the deadline is this Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> for applications to be submitted to City Hall. Johnson stated that trail sweep is never ending this time of year with the leaves constantly falling as they try to clear the trail at least once a week. Alliant Energy has placed a new

utility pole at City Park as a part of the electrical upgrades. This project was paid in part through a \$10k grant Johnson received through the Fayette County Community Foundation. Johnson stated that Irvine Electric did a great job and will be a much-needed upgrade for the Oelwein Celebration. Johnson stated that a 400-amp service was placed near the airplane area and two – 200 amp panels installed for vendors to utilize. Johnson stated that the project cost was \$24,850 total. The electrical project is complete at City Park as Johnson finished the final report for that grant and sent it in to the foundation.

Johnson stated that the cemetery employees were busy this week working on the disc golf course at City Park. The new disc golf course will be a dedicated 18-hole course mostly on the west side of City Park. Johnson stated that the course will be 18 complete dedicated holes that had regulation 5’x10’ tee pads and Mach X baskets. This project is being funded by a grant through Rotary. Johnson provided the board with a picture of the layout once again

**Motion to Approve Wings Park Shelter Grant Application**

Motion:	Meska	2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Gearhart
Aye:	All	Nay:	None

Johnson provided the board with pictures and information regarding possible future shelter/bathroom facilities at Wings Park between Diamonds 1&2. Johnson stated that this is part of the approved park and rec master plan that the board agreed upon. Johnson stated that he found a similar project that he prefers to model the new facility after. Johnson stated that he is requesting approval to apply for a grant to complete the possible project. Johnson stated that the facilities that have been built there in the past years are not adequate to host large tournaments at the park and the recreation program would benefit greatly from such a project. Johnson stated that the exist bathroom and shelter would be replaced with a new structure. Johnson stated that the facility would include new electrical panels to control the lighting at diamond 3 and future diamond 2 lighting if funding presents itself.

**Board Member Updates**

Discussion was held about the future of the commission on attendance to regular meetings. Johnson provided the commission the attendance record for all members for the year 2021.

**Adjournment:** 6:10pm

**Next Meeting:** January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022