



# Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting  
Oelwein Family Aquatic Center  
Monday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 5:15 PM

**Call to Order:** 5:16pm

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

**Attending:** Bouska, Burkhart, Johnson, Garrigus, Meska, Stasi

**Absent:** Gearhart, Jorgensen

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting:

|         |       |                   |       |
|---------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Motion: | Stasi | 2 <sup>nd</sup> : | Meska |
| Aye:    | All   | Nay:              | None  |

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Nomination:**

- Currently Jorgensen Chair and Gearhart Vice Chair. After a lengthy discussion Gearhart was recommended to move to Chairperson and Joe Bouska Vice Chairperson.

|         |       |                   |       |
|---------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Motion: | Stasi | 2 <sup>nd</sup> : | Meska |
| Aye:    | All   | Nay:              | None  |

**Recreation Update:** Burkhart stated that little league is in full swing, and the weather has been great for scheduling. The tennis program is in swing and flag football applications are going out to kids. Burkhart stated that they are going to do popsicles in the park on three occasions this next month. Burkhart said that they are sending out apps for coed softball and kickball to try and generate some interest. The 5k is planned for the sesquicentennial and a timing company has been lined up for the event. Burkhart told the board again that they are getting 20 gallons of pain from True Value to paint some walls at the wellness center. Burkhart stated that it is slow at the center right now and they are interviewing for a yoga instructor and weight room attendant.

**Aquatics Update:** Johnson stated that the season has had a great start with the new manager Kim Lawless. Kim and Johnson hosted orientation at the aquatic center for all the employees the weekend before Memorial Day. Johnson asked the PD to have an officer come and talk to the employees about different scenarios that they might encounter while on duty. Pepsi arrived this week with a delivery of supplies for the

concession stand and the task of power spraying the pool shell came to an end. At the pool a carbon monoxide detector was installed in the water heater room as a safety precaution. The steel case for the AED arrived so everything was mounted in the facility for easy access. Johnson stated that the pool opened on time for Memorial Day weekend which had great weather to get everything started off right. Johnson stated that all training has been completed and that staff were great in helping to clean the facility this spring. Johnson stated that they completed all the inspections with the boilers and the backflow preventer. The check for the drain/filter project arrived from the Northeast Iowa Charitable Foundation for **\$126,750.00** this past month. This month Johnson hosted a zoom meeting for the pool drain project to read the bids that were submitted, and the project came in right around where it was estimated. The park employees put up the solar umbrella at the pool in the concessions area. The **\$3,000** was donated by ITC to purchase this item that guests can plug their phones into and charge. The pool had a fantastic Memorial Day weekend as the weather was perfect, many season passes were sold and concessions moved a lot of product. This month Johnson had Carrico Aquatics up to look at the pool cleaner and replace the tracks and bands as this is an expected maintenance task every couple of years. The pool is doing great as we started the first group swim lessons this week with the summer school program that marched the kids over from the elementary school. We also received a shipment of chemical for the pool water chemistry this week and completed the monthly bact sample. This last week we wrapped up the first round of group lessons with the school program with 163 kids. This last two weeks we closed the pool twice for the swim team for their two home meets of the season.

**Parks/Cemetery Update:** Johnson stated that contractors complete crack sealing and patching on the west trail from Redgate to Levin Park. Johnson stated that he would like to seal the entire west trail this fall before the leaves start falling. Nate and Johnson took the bucket truck and ran a new line on a flagpole that had broken at the log cabin, so all the flags were put out. The employees took out five picnic tables to the airport this month for the EAA event at the airport. This month, both departments got together at the park shop for pizza, thank you council! The park employees put up the net for the batting cage at diamond three and Dion has been completing his downtown chores in the mornings.

On the Saturday before Memorial Day, at 8am we put flags out at Woodlawn with the help of several volunteers. This past month the park employees picked up the hanging flower baskets from the school and distributed them throughout the downtown area. The cemetery employees have been extremely busy mowing and trimming Woodlawn for everything to look great for the Memorial Day weekend and prepared a cremation burial for that Saturday. The park employees picked up the picnic tables from the airport that were used for the EAA children's day on Saturday morning. At the campground the LP tank was refilled this month as well. Dion has been working in the downtown area every morning and the employees swept the trails, and Steve Horan has been cleaning bathrooms and taking care of shelter reservations.

Johnson had Nate pick up a load of asphalt to path some areas in all the departments this past month. Steve S. painted and installed a new board on a bench in Platt Park this week as the mowing has slowed. The park employees have stopped downtown in the mornings to help that area look great. New goalsetter basketball hoops were installed at Reidy Park for the kids to enjoy. The park and cemetery employees took down 7 dead ash trees in Platt Park this past week as this ash tree removal seems never ending. The park employees finished up the memorial bench for Jon Latham this week along the 4<sup>th</sup> street trail as he stopped over to try it out. The campground had an excellent holiday weekend as it filled up quickly.

The park employees replaced the brushes on the trail brush this week as another scheduled maintenance task. Aiden Raber has been working on finishing the work on the log cabin replacing the joint material. The park guys dropped on two benches for the PD for their new area in front of their building. On Tuesday, Johnson travelled to Cedar Falls as he had nominated Joe Bouska for the governor's volunteer award for his work with the park and rec board and the joint effort between the park department and United Way that we have worked on for the past few years. The park and cemetery employees have been working on clearing out the waterline between the pool and wings park this past two weeks. We have seen a lot of vandalism at Wings recently so will clear the area then we can shoot a camera or two over in that

area of the basketball hoops. Johnson stated that a basketball backboard had been broken and toilets smashed in the restrooms by diamond three. Johnson stated replacement parts had been ordered and they will install them as soon as they arrive. Craig and Carolyn are doing great with the campground as usual, and trails were swept. On Monday evening I met with the tree board for our monthly meeting at the park building.

At the cemetery the employees cleaned out some suckers that were growing in the bushes in Memorial. At Redgate Park the holding tank was pumped out as we need to 2x a season. Both departments have been working together up at Wings Park clearing the waterway between the pool. This project makes the area look so much better, will reduce the mosquito population around the pool area and give us a clear view of the park. We have directed a few pool cameras towards the park due to all the vandalism that we have experienced there lately. Last Friday, we spent the entire afternoon cleaning up a property the city bought that had tons of overgrowth in the backyard so the guys could mow it. Carolyn and Craig are doing a great job at the campground as usual. The contractor is done grouting the log cabin in the downtown area. The park employees have been busy removing a few more dead ash trees this past week as well. The trails and skate park are swept weekly. Johnson has been working on the state recreation trail grant through the DOT, which he hopes to wrap up next week and send out. Johnson provided the board with weekly reports and totals for aquatics, cemetery, campground, and trail usage.

**Board Member Updates:** None

**Adjournment:** 5:58pm

Concluding the meeting Johnson took the board around the facility to show them all the improvements the park department has made, Burkhart left once tour started.

**Next Meeting:** July 17th