



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting

City Hall – Council Chambers

Monday November 18th, 2024 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelweinparks.org

Call to Order: 5:15pm

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

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

Absent: Gearhart

Approval of Minutes:

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the September 16th, 2024, meeting:

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

Youth Sports Association: Cody Oakes talked about some of the different programs that he has been working on. Cody stated that they had around 130 kids for flag football sign up but cancelled 5th/6th with low numbers. Cody stated that wrestling is starting, and 67 wrestlers signed up and 138 signed up for basketball. Oakes stated that they have 31 kids on scholarship and will need more scholarship money in the future. Oakes stated that they could use more coaches. Bouska stated that he should create a partnership with the board, so everyone is on the same page and attends meetings. Oakes stated that they will be holding some camps in the summer months. Oakes talked about making improvements to the ball diamonds. Oakes stated that he would be willing to attend future meetings to discuss progress with the board.

Parks / Cemetery Updates: Johnson stated that this past month Russ and Johnson worked on cutting down stumps at Platt Park. The employees go downtown every morning to pick up garbage and clean bathrooms when they were open. Russ and Johnson took the air compressor and winterized a few more bathrooms, selecting the ones that get vandalized the most first. Johnson has been working with contractors getting quotes for various CIP projects. Chris took the stump grinder and started working on a few more tree stumps this week. Fire extinguishers were serviced in all the department areas. Russ pulled all the ball diamond bags and put plugs in for the year and dumpsters are locked up as we go. Johnson stated that he had the boards on the gravel bed removed, stained and reassembled. The trails are being swept, when possible, with the falling leaves. The campground will wrap up for season this Sunday as it does every year at this time.

This past month the employees have been stepping up helping with the last few projects completed. The employees have been busy with power-spraying equipment and performing maintenance on equipment for the year. Both departments have been working on leaves at City Park as they were not able to burn the leaves off

this year with the extremely dry weather. The last of the water lines were winterized last Monday. The Pirillo memorial bench was installed at Redgate Park. The employees have been busy trying to keep the trails clean as the leaves are really dropping this time of year. The cemetery has three cremation burials this week and has been busy putting away garbage cans and chopping leaves at the cemetery and sweeping the streets.

This past week the employees have been busy wrapping things up for the season. At Platt Park we have been working on removing a dead oak tree that is right next to the back shelter. This has been a slow task as we must cut the tree into smaller pieces and hand throw to avoid damage to the shelter. We will wrap this project up in the spring as we have removed everything that was directly over the shelter. On Tuesday Oct. 29th, Johnson was invited to Wartburg College to talk with students about grant writing. Johnson put together a power point presentation to discuss some of the projects and how we have written grants to complete projects within this department. The employees have been sweeping the trails when possible as the high winds keep blowing everything around. The park employees have power sprayed all the equipment and performed maintenance a lot of the equipment to put away for the year. Employees have been going around and watering all the trees that we planted this year and will remove the watering bags today as we have been watering everything for at least two weeks now and there is more rain in the forecast. The cemetery employees have been taking care of leaves at Woodlawn and have had a couple of burials this past week as well. Johnson talked about the MSA Community Change grant that they have been working on. Johnson explained that all the park projects are projects that they have talked about before in other grant proposals.

Tree Planting Updates: Johnson stated that he is impressed with the tree board work this past year.

Johnson stated that he and the board spent a lot of time preparing for the Trees Forever planting. Tree board members talked with community members about planting trees in the boulevard around their homes. Johnson marked all the planting spots and called in locates. The employees have gone around and watered the locations so we can dig holes in the dry ground. On the first Monday evening of the month, Johnson hosted the monthly tree board as we made final preparations for their upcoming planting as they planted and additional 45 trees throughout the community. The cemetery employees have been watering the 40 trees at the cemetery.

Johnson stated that this past month the tree board had a large tree planting at Wings Park. The tree board was awarded the "Trees for Kids" grant to plant 24 trees in the amount of \$2,500. City pool manager Kim L. assisted in lining up volunteers which were in large part students that work at the pool. Iowa DNR representative Chip Murrow drove up from Des Moines to help and observe the tree planting. Tree board members helped with the planting demonstration with Chip to start off. Tree board members and Johnson had a great conversation with Chip after the planting to build a positive relationship for future projects. The park employees did a fantastic job with all the prep work that goes into these tree plantings to make sure everything goes smoothly on the day of the planting. Trees were purchased from both Cannons Greenhouse and Manske's Corner Market. The park employees started preparations for the next planting that they hosted two weeks later with the \$5,000 Trees Forever grant that the tree board received for boulevard trees.

Johnson also stated that on Wednesday October 16th, the tree board hosted their third tree planting this year, planting 45 trees throughout the city. Total this year the tree board planted 110 trees, all with donations and grants. Tree board members have done a great job of giving demonstrations for the volunteers at all plantings to ensure that the trees are planted correctly. The park and cemetery employees have been busy watering the trees utilizing the water bags that were acquired through a grant this last season. The board selected a variety of twelve different species of trees. Bri Hull with Trees Forever and Devin Wever with Alliant Energy were in attendance along with East Penn and Scheels Landscaping employees.

Johnson submitted the city proposal for the Tree City designation as well as the Growth Award to the Arbor Day Foundation that is given to communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement. Johnson also stated that he is working on a community forestry grant application that is due at the end of the year. This grant would provide up to \$30k with no matching funding needed for four plantings for the next two years and would help pay for wages for watering the trees.

Trails Updates: Johnson stated to the commission that the city is receiving the Iowa DNR REAP grant that totals in the amount of \$100,000. Johnson stated that this is the first time the Oelwein community has ever received this grant. Johnson stated that Oelwein falls in the bracket of 2,000-25,000 community members so they are competing with much larger communities state-wide. Johnson stated that he had to take the application to council for resolution to be passed and had to talk with the Fayette County REAP committee at the Fayette Conservation Department for their approval as well. Johnson stated that this money will go towards the construction of segment two this coming construction season.

Johnson stated that they received the agreement from Iowa Northern Railroad that is being reviewed by the city attorney currently. This agreement is for the section of trail on the east side of the tracks that they worked on to get their trail bill passed. Johnson stated that they will combine this trail with segment two as one bigger project this upcoming season. Johnson stated that they invited Chad Ingles and Dan Zumbach to the second council meeting in October to present them with a “golden spike” plaque for their help on getting this bill passed.

Johnson provided the board with monthly trail totals through the past month, totals on campground registrations, cemetery burials and shelter reservations. Johnson provided updates on progress on reports and future projects.

Fees: Johnson provided a report on fees for all departments with comparable fees. Johnson reviewed CIP planned projects with the commission as well.

- Consideration of a motion approving the proposed 2025 fee schedule:

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

Board Member Updates: Meska stated that he talked with Jake Blitsch and Jake would like to put an arbor over the trail in Platt Park. The arbor would be steel with either trees or vines over it. Johnson voiced his concerns over the project.

Additional Information: Johnson stated to the board that Megan Baumgartner with the rotary club would like to put a peace pole with the rotary logo on it, the board approved.

Adjournment: 6:15PM

Next Meeting: January 2025

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for city meetings should notify city hall at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 319-283-5440.