



# Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting

City Hall – Council Chambers

Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 5:15 PM

**Park and Recreation**

[www.oelweinparks.org](http://www.oelweinparks.org)

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

**Roll Call:** Cantrell, Bouska, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Meska, Stasi

**Attending:** Cantrell, Bouska, Johnson, Jorgensen, Meska, Stasi

**Absent:** Gearhart

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, meeting:

Motion:	Meska	2 <sup>nd</sup> :	Jorgensen
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Aye:	All	Nay:	None
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**Welcome Cantrell back to Board:** The park and rec board welcomed Cantrell back to the park and rec board.

**Citizen Comments:** Some citizens talked about how other people are taking their dogs to the dog park and other park areas and not cleaning up after themselves.

**Parks / Cemetery Updates:** Johnson stated that this past month Steve Cockerham installed the new windows at the park shop that was a CIP project. The contractor did a great job and will be very beneficial for the cost savings for years to come. Johnson stated that Steve will return to finish trimming out the windows this spring. Park assistant Beatty has been busy working on organizing the shop and cleaning it. Beatty finished the tractor/backhoe class and passed the core test for his pesticide applicator license. Johnson completed the Diamond Vogel follow-up report that the department was awarded for picnic table paint that we used at the campground this past year. Johnson completed the CEU requirements for his pesticide license and the pool operator certification CEU classes. This past month Beatty and Johnson took down decorations at Depot Park. In February they were busy at the cemetery as we had three full burials in four days during the cold stretch of weather. On Friday, they met with the family and sold two lots and set up the grave heater as Johnson came on Sunday to fire it up to thaw out to dig on Monday morning. The employees dug the first grave Monday morning and set up the heater right across the road for the second grave. The final burial was dug Wednesday morning up front with little issues as we went through a lot of propane this week as the employees saw around 24 inches or more of frost in the ground. This month Beatty has been working on trimming some oak trees at Woodlawn cemetery along the roadways. The cemetery employees are preparing for another full burial early next week. Beatty had them place the grave heater on the location before too much snow fell. A few early starts this month for snow removal at the cemetery as Beatty, Chris and Danny are busy working on all the city property sidewalks. Johnson had the guys set up the burner last week before we got the latest snowfall on Friday/Saturday and the real cold temperatures hit. The employees changed the thermocouples on the burners to ensure that everything worked properly as they changed every couple of burial preps. Johnson plowed the cemetery on Saturday after the snow gave up in the afternoon and the employees finished sidewalks and trails. Johnson talked to a couple of different foundations this past month about a proposal to receive funds for ball diamond improvements. Someone made a cut on the playground mound at depot park, so Johnson came in Saturday morning to get it secured down. This month Beatty and Johnson took advantage of the warmer weather by completing various maintenance and tree trimming tasks. Beatty and Johnson took the bucket truck to Oakdale cemetery and replaced the flag and repositioned the light. Evergreen trees were trimmed along the trail on 4<sup>th</sup> street as well to keep the branches out of the path for cyclists. This past week Beatty and Johnson are making the transition to remove snow removal equipment. Beatty took the broom

around and swept all the trails and skate park this week. Beatty passed his pesticide applicator license for spraying this week. The parks were opened this weekend after the severe storms blew through the area on Friday. Johnson finished and turned in the grant proposal to the charitable foundation to complete ball diamond improvements, signage and new drags.

**Aquatics Update:** Johnson started updating the pool hiring paperwork for the coming season. This past month the Fischer Brothers Inc. came back to town with the tiki hut for the zero entry for the pool. The amenity was faded and had chips in it as it was a floor model drug around to trade shows in a previous life. Everything was painted, chipped areas fixed, and a protective clear coat was put on everything, as the steps and main platform have fresh none slip surfaces. Johnson and Beatty will put the palm leaves back on when it warms up, this tiki hut restoration was a CIP project. Unfortunately, with all the talk about the future of the aquatic center recently we have lost some applicants for the season these past couple weeks. On Thursday, Johnson attended a continuing education class that was centered on repairing Stenner pumps which we utilize at the aquatic center for acid injections.

**Tree Board Update:** The tree board recently learned that they are the recipient of the Iowa DNR IRA tree planting grant through the USDA. The board was awarded \$30,000.00 to purchase 150 trees, watering bags, t-posts and rope to secure the trees, then told that the offer was pulled back due to federal budget cuts. The board would have conducted spring and fall plantings in 2025 and 2026 in which these trees can be planted in parks and cemeteries. Chip Murrow with the DNR forestry department that is involved with his grant came to Oelwein last fall for the Trees for kids grant that the board received in which we had a great conversation with Chip afterwards, as he was impressed with the board's activities which more than likely helped them with this grant. In February, a couple of tree board members came in and conducted tree trimming of the street trees that we have planted in the past few years. Johnson met with two citizens this week that asked to have a tree planted in the boulevard in front of their homes. This month we learned that the tree board is once again totally awesome. The board was awarded the Trees Forever – One Million Tees grant maximum of **\$5,000** to purchase trees to plant in street boulevards this fall. This will allow us to purchase a diverse selection of around 50 trees purchased from the local nurseries. In February Johnson attended a zoom meeting on tree board diversity and recruitment, which most points could be used for any board or committee. This past month, Johnson went out with tree board members and trimmed up more trees that we have planted in the past couple of years in street boulevards. This is a great project to train these trees, so they have a main central trunk and create a stronger tree in the long run and will count towards the Growth Award through the arbor day foundation. Justin and Johnson are wrapping up tree trimming the south parking lot as they have had to wait on a few people to get their vehicles out of the way. On Friday, Johnson attended a RAGBRAI meeting in Des Moines with all the other overnight communities. This past week the chestnut tree whips arrived right on time. Our dedicated tree board members came in on Tuesday to help plant them in containers where they will stay for a few years until they are big enough to plant in their final destination. Johnson stated that the tree board has been awarded the Tree City and Growth Awards for their work in 2024. Johnsons stated that the Tree City award is given to communities that spend a certain dollar amount per citizen on tree activities. Johnson explained that the Growth Award is given to communities that complete extra programming throughout the year on tree related activities. Johnson stated that the tree board will be giving a tree planting demonstration to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders again this year on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Wings Elementary. Johnson stated that they have done this in the past few years as they purchased tree whips from the DNR Forestry Department and have a nice demonstration led by tree board members to give to the kids. This will be the boards Arbor Day event as the 18<sup>th</sup> is Arbor Day which is also Good Friday so there is no school that day.

**Trails Updates:** Johnson stated that after five years of requesting a temporary construction easement from Transco that one was finally submitted to the city this past week. Johnson stated that this small easement is necessary to complete the grading on the west side of the viaduct. Johnson stated that it is his hope that the council will approve and sign the easement so that they can still complete segment two of the trail system this year. Johnson reminded the board that they were also recipients of the \$100,000 REAP grant from the DNR this year that will go towards this project.

**RAGBRAI:** Johnson has attended several meetings with the school on shared spaces and RAGBRAI meetings at the chamber. Johnson attended the in-person meeting in Des Moines as a few school employees and Deb Howard attended to gain information about the upcoming event. Johnson gathered information on campsites and submitted it to the RABGRAI website for the committee to enter on their interactive map and be ready for the on-site inspection. Johnson stated that on Friday afternoon they went around with some of the larger charters to inspect park and school facilities.

This month, Beatty and Johnson took the bucket truck to Appreciation Park as we started trimming trees in the area to start with our preparations for RAGBRAI. Some of the trees were trimmed that were near and around light poles so this will help brighten the area up in the nighttime as well. Beatty and Johnson continued into the parking lot trees that someone needed to trim as it took a while for everyone to get vehicles out of the way to trim all the trees. Johnson stated that this is an excellent time to trim trees in preparation for the big event so that there are no issues with vendors getting their trailers into place.

**Board Member Updates:** Bouska reminded the board that the United Way Day of Caring is May 9<sup>th</sup> if board members were interested in attending to please drop him a line.

**Adjournment:** 6:05PM

**Next Meeting:** April 2025

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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.

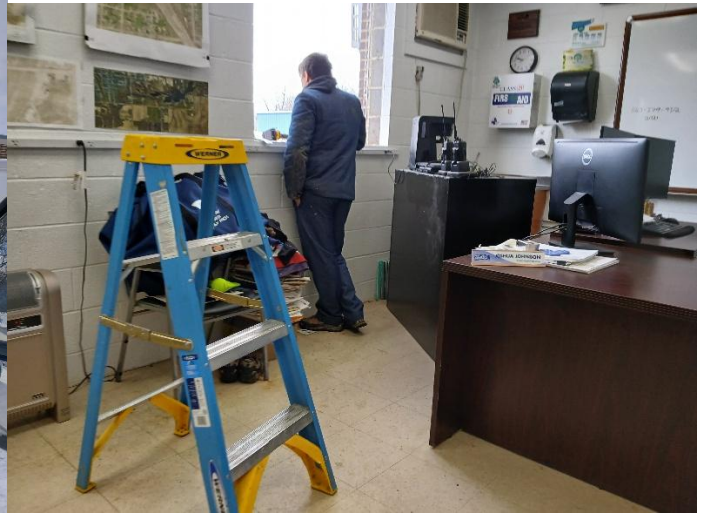




## MARCH 2025 PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

### Parks / Cemetery Updates:

#### NEW SHOP WINDOWS



#### SNOW REMOVAL

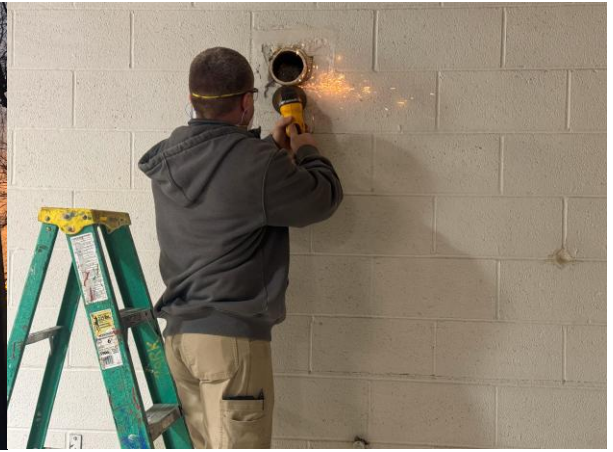


#### DEPOT PARK LIGHTS





SHOP WORK



WINTER BURIALS



TREE TRIMMING





WINTER BURIAL



SNOW REMOVAL



WINTER BURIAL



SNOW REMOVAL





DEPOT PARK DAMAGE



FLAG REPLACEMENT



WINTER BURIAL



TREE TRIMMING







### TREE TRIMMING



### APPRECIATION PARK



### LIGHT POLE TRIMMING





APPRECIATION PARK

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND



PARKING LOT TREE TRIMMING



SNOW REMOVAL



DRAINAGE CLEANING







TRAIL SWEEPING



TREE TRIMMING



CEU CLASS





**Aquatics Update:**







**Tree Board Update:**



Iowa Department of  
Natural Resources

GRANT AWARDED



(319) 373-0650 • (800) 369-1269  
www.treesforever.org  
80 W 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Marion, IA 52302

Joshua Johnson  
Park and Recreation Superintendent, City of Oelwein  
20 2nd Ave SW  
Oelwein, IA 50662

February 12, 2025

Dear Joshua,

**Congratulations! You've been selected for an Alliant Energy Community Tree Planting Program grant!**

Alliant Energy is pleased to award Oelwein with a grant of \$5,000 for your approved planting project plan. Your project is one of 33 – 2025 Community Tree Planting Program projects statewide. We're so excited to partner with you!

TREE TRAINING



TREE BOARD TREE TRIMMING







CHESTNUT TREES






CHESTNUT TREES



TREE MEETING

REC

### Agenda

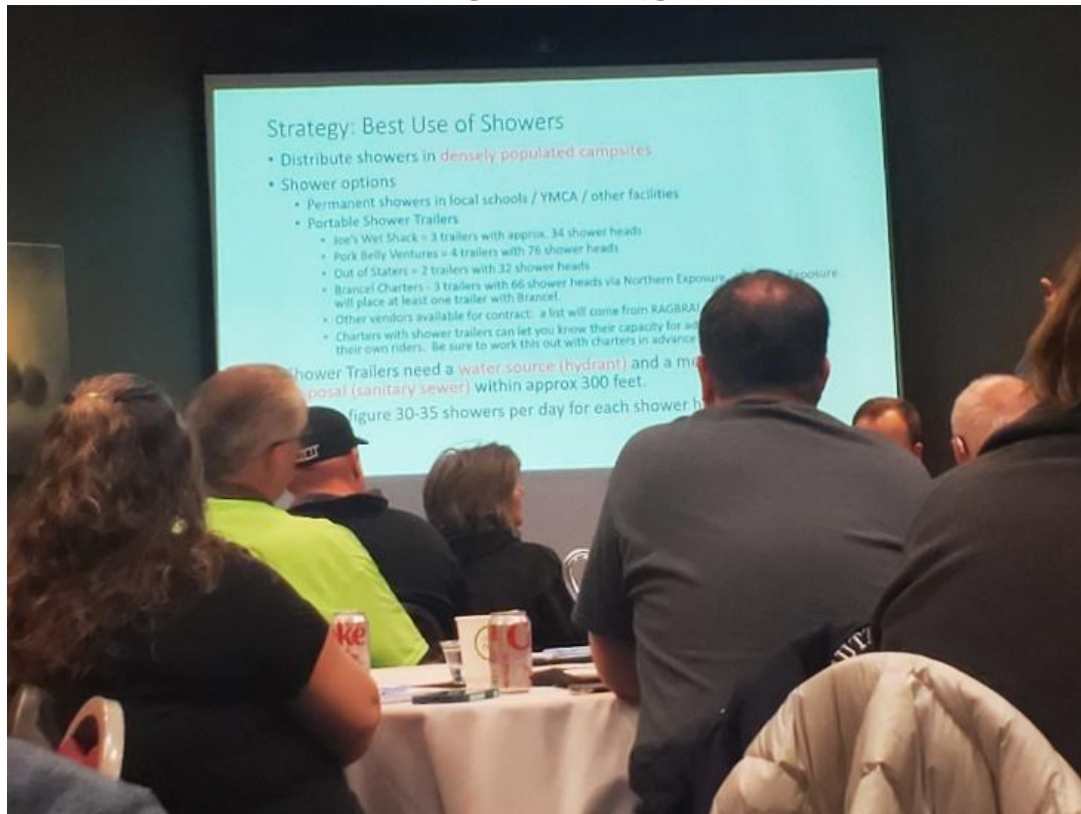


1. What do we mean by “diversity”
2. The benefits of diversity in the workplace
3. How to **write descriptions** for open Tree Board or Department positions to encourage diverse applicants
4. Ways to **advertise** open Tree Board or Department positions to diverse groups and people
5. **Interview and assessment** strategies to select candidates from all of the neighborhoods within your community for open Tree Board or Department positions.



RAGBRAI MEETING

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND

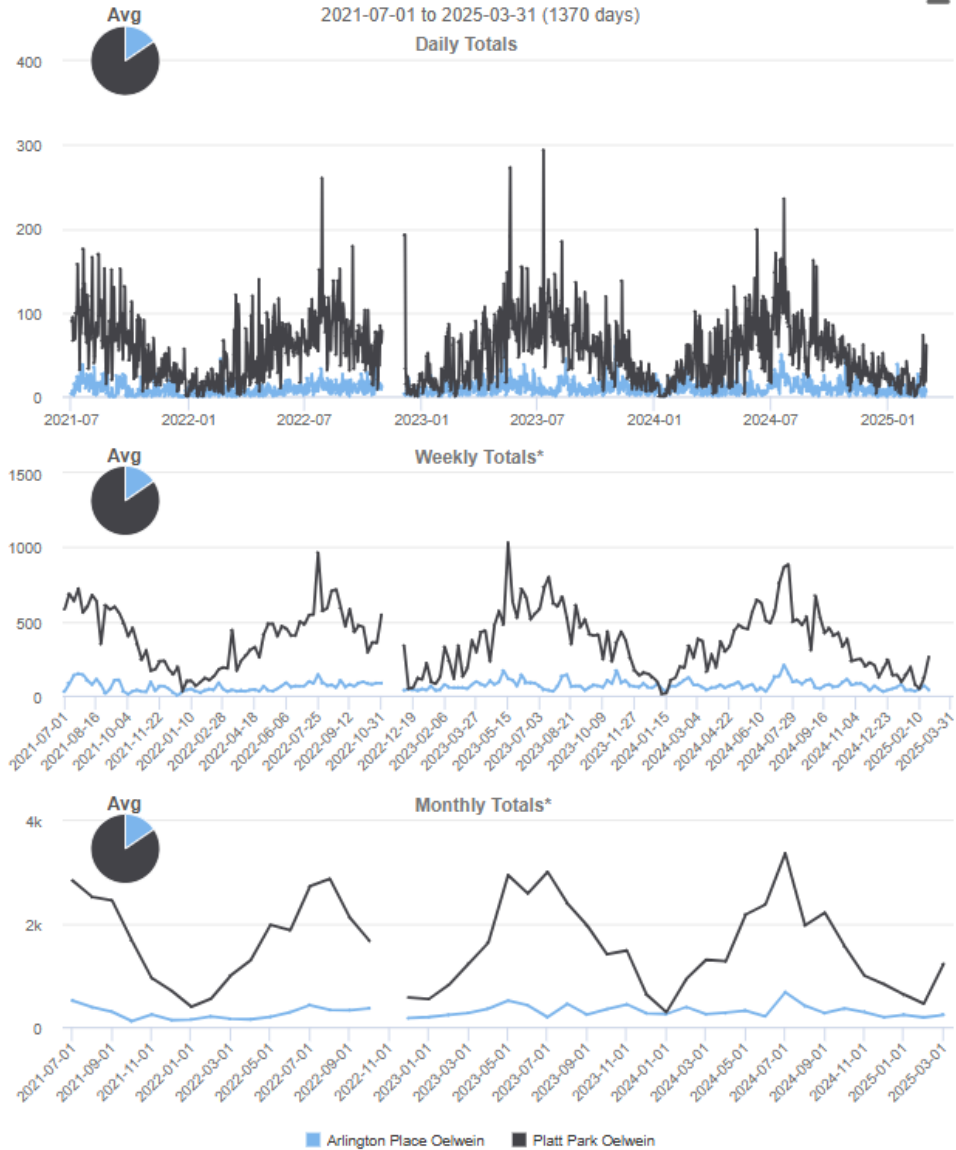






### Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals

2021-07-01 to 2025-03-31 (1370 days)



### Master Summary

Download as [Excel](#) [CSV](#)

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT†	ADT†x365	Days with data
2021	Arlington Place Oelwein							512*	388	294	115	242	134	9.115	3,327	183
	Platt Park Oelwein							2,845*	2,523	2,458	1,875	950	704	60.454	22,066	183
2022	Arlington Place Oelwein	146	207	158	148	199	290	426	332	327	362		173*	8.303	3,031	330
	Platt Park Oelwein	394	548	1,002	1,297	1,984	1,877	2,736	2,877	2,127	1,672		572*	51.497	18,796	330
2023	Arlington Place Oelwein	193	235	274	358	510	421	190	451	241	347	441	266	10.753	3,925	365
	Platt Park Oelwein	543	816	1,229	1,635	2,948	2,592	3,013	2,399	1,969	1,411	1,485	628	56.625	20,668	365
2024	Arlington Place Oelwein	254	389	247	279	319	208	673	414	269	360	287	191	10.628	3,890	366
	Platt Park Oelwein	287	930	1,305	1,276	2,181	2,378	3,373	1,972	2,223	1,571	998	828	52.792	19,322	366
2025	Arlington Place Oelwein	236	186	233*										7.164	2,615	61
	Platt Park Oelwein	631	453	1,225*										19.066	6,959	61

ADT† = Average Daily Traffic

\* = based upon that month's ADT [Learn more](#) Indicates months with less than 6 days of data.





**DAILY ACTIVITIES**

- CLEAN/ORGANIZE SHOP AREAS
- PICK UP DOWNTOWN AREAS
- MAINTAINING PARK, CEMETERIES
- MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT
- SAFETY MEETINGS

- MEET WITH CONTRACTORS
- RETRIEVE & UPLOAD TRAIL COUNT DATA
- WOODLAWN BURIALS
- PARK MAINTENANCE
- GRANT WORK

**PROGRESS ON PROJECTS**

- WEBSITE UPDATING
- TRAIL EASEMENTS/GRANTS
- PARK AND REC MASTER PLAN
- TRAIL MAINTENANCE
- GRINDING STUMPS
- CIVICREC WORK
- CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES
- CHESTNUT TREES PLANTED
- TREE TRIMMING
- FIVE BURIALS, TWO CREMATIONS

- WINTER BURIALS
- RAGBRAI MEETINGS
- EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
- SNOW REMOVAL
- TREES FOREVER GRANT RECEIVED
  - \$5000
- TREE CITY RECOGNITION
- GROWTH AWARD
- BARE ROOT TREES ORDERED

**NEXT MONTH AND FUTURE PROJECTS**

- REPURPOSE OLD WINGS BRIDGE
- GRANT WRITING
- TRAIL SEGMENT 2
- TRAIL SEGMENTS 4/5 ALIGNMENT
- PLANT TREES IN CHRYSLER PARK
- BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- CEU CLASSES

- STAFF RECRUITMENT
- AQUATICS PAPERWORK
- POOL PREPARATIONS
- CAMPGROUND PREPARATIONS
- TREE REMOVAL
- TREE PLANTINGS
- RAGBRAI MEETINGS
- DAY OF CARING PREPARATION

JOSHUA JOHNSON MA  
OELWEIN PARK SUPERINTENDENT

