

Tree Board Update

- Arbor Day planting
- Tree planting demonstration

Johnson explained this past month the tree board held a tree planting at Redgate park with the help of the local 4H club and the Girl Scouts for Arbor Day. Johnson stated that he worked with Lisa and Joe Bahe to coordinate this day to get all the kids to the park that day. Johnson stated that he had the mayor read the arbor day proclamation at the council meeting on April 25th with Arbor Day being that Friday the 29th. Johnson explained that this is a requirement of the tree city award that the city receives each year.

Johnson stated that two tree board members, Kyle Scheel and Jeff Milks came to the demonstration that day at Sacred Heart school and showed seventy-nine second graders the proper way to plant seedling trees. The tree board was awarded seventy-five trees through a grant from the Iowa DNR Forestry department. The tree board has given trees to the school in the past, Johnson said that this would be a great program to start that they can apply for the tree city growth award this year. Johnson explained that for the growth award they must start new programs each year to receive the award, the board received the award in 2020 for their work.

Recreation Update

Burkhart stated that the soccer season wrapped up after a very wet spring on Saturday. Burkhart said that they had an increase of forty kids to total 179 kids participating this year. Burkhart talked about a high school soccer program that would be partnering up with Sumner Fredericksburg and Tripoli schools. Burkhart stated that little league practice has started, and men's softball starts next week. Burkhart stated that they are having an out-of-town team come in as they have five teams for men's softball. Burkhart stated they are searching for a tennis coach for this season. Burkhart stated that she is looking to hold a bike camp for middle school kids to go around and do activities in the parks. Burkhart stated that right now it would be a one-week camp. Registrations for fall sports are going to be sent out so kids can start thinking about those programs now. The wellness center is welcoming new monitors to the facility.

Aquatics Update

Johnson stated that the park employees installed the new shower cartridges and put together all the plumbing at the pool. Johnson stated that they put new stainless-steel gutters in the pool to replace the plastic gutter pieces. Johnson stated that the plastic pieces they cannot buy the plastic pieces as the patent holder retired and would not allow anyone to buy the patent. Johnson stated that building sustained some wind damage that pulled off some trim that they were able to reattach. The employees put in the new fencing around the shelter that is a new addition to the facility. The shelter was built so that guests can utilize it for facility party rentals, as part of the last bond project. Johnson stated that the PA system was updated by maximum audio as the old amp was not sufficient. The new rules sign was made by Iowa Prison Industries and was installed to replace the original sign with the facility. The tree on the south side of the facility was removed this spring as a part of the new filter project planned for this fall. Johnson stated that two holding tanks will be buried in the ground at the location of the tree so they will not overload the sanitary sewer when hooked up. Johnson stated that the slide pump and motor have been installed after being ordered over a year ago. Johnson stated that the park employees have been replacing caulking and loose tiles when they can as the spring has been cold, wet, and windy. Johnson stated that the locks have been changed out as they should every couple of years to keep the facility secure. Valves were replaced in the boiler room as they were starting to leak by. Johnson stated that the shade umbrellas have been put up and the lifts installed, and basketball hoops put into place. Johnson stated that they purchased a second hoop for the little kids in the shallow entry and some 9" rubber balls bought for

the smaller kids to enjoy. Johnson stated that they will have orientation on this Wednesday at the pool and finish paperwork.

Trails Update

- Segment 3
- TAP
- Trail Counts

Johnson stated trail segment three is ready to go as soon as the contractor can arrive. Johnson stated that Bacon Concrete, the same contractor as segment one got the low bid once again. Johnson stated that the contractor had other projects to complete and would start this project in July.

Johnson stated that the Transportation Alternative Program, with the DOT has available funds for trail so they applied for additional funding for segment two. Johnson said that the grant has been submitted and they are in the process of scoring them.

Johnson stated that the trail counts are rising as the weather is finally cooperating. Johnson stated that the monthly trail totals were over 1,400 and a yearly total of 10 months totals over 16,000 users.

Parks/Cemetery Update

This past month in the park department, Nate and I installed the new memorial bench at the sports complex. The Reaves family purchased this bench last fall as we poured the foundation last fall, and the bench was delivered this winter. At the campground Nate and I cleaned up a small tree that needed to come down. Nate has been cleaning the downtown every morning and checking drainage areas in parks to make sure they are clear with all the rain. This month the new computers showed up, so we have been busy setting them up. Nate past his pesticide applicator license test so he is ready to weed spray for this summer.

Nate finished his arial truck certification this week and set up a time to take his driving test for his CDL certification. We have been doing spring cleaning of the sidewalks in the viaduct and picking up branches in the parks. The employees have been replacing the gutter system at the pool with the stainless-steel grates. At the complex, I had Nate take black dirt out with seed to dress up the new memorial bench for the Reeves family we recently installed. I had Nate get out the soccer goals, take out trash barrels and ordered the portable toilets for the soccer program. I met with the pool managers once again as we are busy lining up certification trainings, interviewing and getting paperwork completed. I emailed the DNR once again as we are waiting on their report so that we can apply for a permit to stock Lake Oelwein with donations raised. I have been working on preparing hiring paperwork, safety trainings and orientations as we are bringing back employees this coming Monday. Nate took the Harley rake to City Park and stirred up the pads at the campground to prepare everything for the upcoming season. Campground host Carolyn Rorhick came in to start her paperwork this week to be ready to go for the opening day of April 18th. The employees spent time dressing up the shop area putting gravel down in parking areas. The employees put up the volleyball nets at City Park and at Redgate Park. The employees went around to all the city owned lots and parks cleaning up sticks and debris that accumulated over the winter months. I have been working on getting employees paperwork done and going through safety videos and orientations.

This past couple of weeks in the park department, the guys have been getting the campground ready. The guys installed a rock pad and slid the new 12x24' shed into place that is replacing two small sheds. This will give us room to put all the firewood, kayaks, mower, and any other supplies that they need, which is a CIP item. We took the tractor out and graded the complex parking and anchored down the soccer nets for the rec program. I had a contractor come in this week that made repairs to the slides at City Park that have stress cracks in them.

This past month in the park department, the weather has not been cooperating with cold, wet, windy conditions all week. The employees have been doing an excellent job staying busy and staying on tasks assigned. Chris took the stump grinder around and even stopped by the fire department to grind their stumps for them. Chris and Willie started working on winter burials backfilling with black dirt before they sod them once the water is turned on. I met with contractors to look at the complex concession building. Chris spread out rock at Redgate Park which is part of the shelter project to provide some parking area near that area. The employees went around the diamonds at Wings and straighten and secured some fencing in the park. The campground is open for the season this week as we welcome back Carolyn Rohrick to take care of the facility once again.

At Oakdale Cemetery, Nate and I ran a new flagpole line and put up a new flag that broke in the last storm. Nate and the cemetery crew patched the roof on the cemetery storage building that had a large branch drop off on it and knock a large hole in the roof. On Tuesday both crews went to City Park and placed black dirt around all the disc golf pads at the new course. The parks employees replaced a swing at Wings Park that had been damaged. The park employees straightened out the foul line markers at the complex so they will be ready for painting next Friday. At City Park we took down a large hanger in a tree that broke off recently. I met with contractors about the airplane project at City Park about installing a slab underneath it and some lighting. Steve S. took the broom around and swept all the trails.

At Woodlawn we have prepared two cremation burials, one for Friday and one for Saturday. This past Friday was our deadline for foundation orders as the guys have been working on preparing frames for concrete. The school kids with their senior seminar project are working on finally wrapping up their work on the skate park. The complex parking lot was groomed once again this week and the trails were swept again. On Sunday we planted more trees at Redgate Park as part of our annual Trees Forever planting. The 4h kids, girl scouts and tree board members joined up in planting another six trees to replace all the trees the city lost in the 2020 tornado. The tree board members gave an excellent tree planting demonstration to the kids before we split the volunteers up. The city paid for these trees that were purchased from Manskes Corner Market this time around. The tree board met on Monday evening as well to discuss upcoming events. The park employees took two new sets of bleachers to the complex that were a CIP this past year. At the cemetery we prepared two full burials this week and have a cremation burial for Friday. All the employees have been mowing all the properties this week as the grass is growing as fast as they can mow it. Tom has been going through the downtown putting final changes on the planters before we receive the hanging flowers. Nate started weed spraying in certain areas as Roundup is extremely hard to get in right now. The park and cemetery guys cut sod this past week to place on winter burials at Woodlawn. Also, at Woodlawn the guys poured concrete this week for the spring foundation pour.

Johnson stated that Friday that they hosted the United Way Day of Caring on this past Friday. Projects included spreading two semi loads of mulch, painting bathroom doors in several parks, work on the disc golf course. Cleaning and power spraying at the pool, painting foul markers at the complex and painting the gazebo at Chrysler Park. Johnson stated that the turnout was great with companies such as Transco, Rise Unlimited, Mercy One, East Penn, Veridian, Fidelity Bank, Oelwein Schools, True Value.

Board Member Updates

None

Adjournment

6:31pm

Next Meeting: June 20th