



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
City Hall

Monday October 17th, 2022 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelwein.fun

Call to Order: 5:18pm

Roll Call: Bouska, Burkhart, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Lenz, Meska, Stasi

Attending: Bouska, Burkhart, Gearhart at 5:26, Johnson, Jorgensen, Meska

Absent: Stasi, Lenz

Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the September 19th, 2022, meeting

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

CIP Items

Johnson reviewed with the board his lists of CIP items to take to council for the next fiscal budget for each of the departments.

Recreation Update

Burkhart stated that they wrapped up fall rec sports this past weekend. Flag football had 13 teams' grades 1-6th, Kindergarten soccer had 4 teams and volleyball with 6 teams. Burkhart stated that dodgeball registrations went out for 1st and 2nd graders. Women's volleyball had 10 teams with 6 of them from out of town. Burkhart stated she tried recruiting for women's softball as that program fell off this past year. Burkhart stated they have seen an increase in usage at wellness center due to the colder weather. Burkhart stated they held rock painting on Wednesday, Jorgensen asked how many kids attended, Burkhart stated 10 signed up but only 8 showed up. Burkhart stated that they have tournaments scheduled at the wellness center with two a month. Burkhart stated that the morning position is open as a long-time employee is retiring. Burkhart stated that they are hosting the business after 5 to celebrate 20 years of the wellness center being open.

Trails Update

Johnson stated that on the segment 3 trail project, the contractor was in to install signs and paint the cross bars across 4th street. The grant though upper explorerland was submitted to the state through the Destination Iowa grant that is part of the Care Act money. Johnson stated that all the counties in NE Iowa applied and invited Oelwein to include their next segment in the grant proposal. The grant money if awarded would go towards segment 2 in the NW section of town and the request was for \$270,157.40. Johnson also stated that he submitted the federal rec trails grant for future trail development for segment two as well this past month. The contractors came in with the final signs for segment three trail to wrap up that aspect of the project. Johnson walked the new trail with Jon Biederman with Fehr Graham, and we came up with some items for the punch list for the contractor to address. Johnson showed the board a map of segment two that is planned for the next season for completion. Johnson provided the board with a graph and totals for the trail counts for the past year. Johnson stated that he attended the Iowa trails summit this past month in Webster City. Johnson stated that there were individuals that oversee a couple of the grants that he applies to were there to talk about their grant programs. Johnson stated that they held their monthly trails meeting last Tuesday at the park maintenance building to talk about future trail development.

Tree Board Update

On the first Monday of the month Johnson invited Andrew Rust, the new Trees Forever representative attend the Tree Board meeting at the park building. This month Johnson picked up the 46 trees from Cannons Greenhouse for the tree boards annual tree planting. This planting is made possible by a \$5,000 grant this department receives through Trees Forever. The employees pulled t-posts from last year tree planting, cut tile for animal guards we place on the trees, and purchased string to tie up the new trees. Johnson stated that the employees dug all the hole prior to the planting and threw the mulch into the holes so on the planting day all they had to do was pull the mulch out of the holes. Johnsons stated there is a ton of leg work to complete for these projects beforehand to make this day go efficiently. After a two-hour rain delay, tree board members Jeff Milks and Kyle Scheel gave a great tree planting demonstration to the volunteers. Park and Rec board members brought volunteers from East Penn; tree board member Kyle Scheel brought employees from his landscaping business as well. Tree board members took the day to come in and help with park and cemetery employees and our Trees Forever representative, Andrew Rust cataloged the plantings with a GPS device. Johnson provided the board with several pictures of the tree planting event. Johnson stated that they will be watering the trees for the next two weeks to ensure they survive.

Tree Board Members: Jeff Milks, Ron Lenth, Kyle Scheel, Bill Brownell

Johnson suggested that everyone please make sure and thank the tree board members that do a fantastic job for this community if they see them. Since 2016 they have planted 585 trees, with an average estimated annual benefit value of \$199 per tree as approximated in the 2018 street tree survey the Park Department and DNR Forestry Department completed.

Parks/Cemetery Update

This month in the park department Johnson stated they have been super busy completing tasks with very limited staff. This month the employees mowed all the city properties for a final time as the weekly rains would not stop but cooler air has arrived this month. The employees have been busy with other tasks such as sweeping facilities, trimming, and cleaning up areas in the parks. The employees took care of the bathroom responsibilities for the remainder of the season as the contractor was done in mid-September. In September the employees were busy taking more ash trees down at City Park and Platt Park. The employees have been leaving the main trunks lay and they disappear overnight thankfully saving us time and money. Johnson stated that between the park and cemetery employees they have taken down 110 ash trees by themselves.

The aquatic center has been winterized for the season and diving well pumped down to keep the dirty water contained to that area. The cemetery foundation orders have come in, so Chris, Dion, and Willie where busy cutting sod and forming up foundation forms this past week. The park employees took an afternoon and installed 4x4 posts at City Park for the disc golf course that we are still working on. The park employees started the huge task of trimming the downtown streetscape this week as they chose to clear the lilies then tackle the bushes. Other tasks completed include dragging the complex parking lot and the gravel roads at Woodlawn.

Johnson stated the airplane project is wrapped up as we helped Jake move some limestone rocks to the area and the lights are being fine-tuned. On Sunday September 25th, the airplane ceremony took place at 1:00pm on a very windy afternoon. There was a great turnout for the event and this a fantastic addition to the park facilities.

Johnson met with Alliant to give them access to change the gas meter at the pool for the main pool boiler. The end of September morning park and cemetery staff poured concrete foundations at Woodlawn, total of 21 foundations where poured. The front sign was decorated with a fall theme by the donor who gifted the sign to the city. Johnson stated that he bought a couple of trees to plant in the park to keep planting as many trees as possible each year. As the temperatures are starting to drop, we started winterizing bathrooms in some of the parks and closing them up for the season. In October staff watered all the trees at Redgate Park that have been planted in the past two years as it had not rained for a while. On the west side of Redgate Park employees dropped 5 dead ash trees that were hanging over west Charles Street. Park employees have been downtown trimming off the lilies in the mornings as this is a large task to complete each season. The campground is going into the final two weekends as Carolyn and Craig did a fantastic job for the city once again this season. Both departments have been busy winterizing bathrooms and water lines in all the properties as the mornings continue to get colder. The employees started gathering all the equipment and bringing it back to the shop for annual maintenance. Johnson showed the board pictures of City Park where the employees removed the old gates at the front entrances. Johnson stated that the old gates were made of old water main piping and had been painted many times and where not appealing.

Board Member Updates - None

Adjournment 5:48pm

Next Meeting: November 21st @ City Hall