



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
City Hall

June 21st, 2021 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation
www.oelwein.fun

Call to Order: 5:32pm

Roll Call: Burkhart, Cantrell, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Meska, Stasi, Stewart, Taylor

Attending: Burkhart, Cantrell, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Meska, Stasi,

Absent: Stewart, Talyor

Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the May 26th, 2021 meeting

Motion: Jorgensen

2nd: Meska

Aye: All

Nay: None

Recreation Report: Burkhart stated that they finished the youth little league, put the equipment away and checked to see if anything needed replacing. Flag football and kindergarten soccer will be starting soon; men's softball is finishing with tournaments going the next two weeks. Burkhart stated that they would be holding open kickball games the next couple of weeks, as there is not enough to start a league, opening the games to kids 16+. Burkhart stated that coed softball would be starting possibly. Burkhart said yoga in the park this Friday at Platt Park at 8:30, with the use of glow sticks and handing out fun stuff for participants. Burkhart is waiting on fountains to be installed at the wellness center, as the school is busy with their projects, asking if the utility department could install the fountains. Burkhart stated that in August flag football and volleyball registrations are going out. Burkhart stated that attendance is picking up some at the wellness center.

Aquatics Update

- Johnson stated that he has spent a lot of time at the facility to ensure that it is running properly. Johnson stated that the year of non-operation has created a lot of extra maintenance on the facility this season. The amount time spent on fixing small maintenance issues and guard preparations has been incredible this season. Johnson stated that the weather has been fantastic in June for the pool and seeing a lot of patronage at the pool facility. Johnson stated that in June the first session of group swim lessons was held and that the school sent the list of kid's names the Friday before their lessons started.

Johnson stated that have heard nothing but good things with all the new upgrades the park department completed over the last year at the facility. The new basketball hoop and kids bulldog slide were a big hit. The new shade structures for the patrons and staff have been well received as well. There was a Red Cross representative in the end of the last week of May to finish the last of the lifeguard certifications. One last addition to the facility was new stenciling on the front entrance that turned out great. Johnson also talked about how well the new pool cleaner is doing keeping the pool look its best. Johnson stated that they installed a new wireless microphone to eliminate any further issues with that system. Johnson stated that the school has been handing out their free lunches at the pool facility this season and has gone over well. The park department received a barrier from the PD so they utilized it at the pool to keep patrons off the surge tank since kids like to push things into the lids on the top that they should not. Johnson said that they had one of the acrylic lids crack and break so they ordered a 1" thick acrylic sheet and cut a new lid to replace the old lid. Johnson stated that on July 10th the swim team hosted the swim-offs this year at the Oelwein facility and it went great. The parks employees did extra trimming, mulching and anything else they could do to make the facility look its best. Johnson stated that they have received several thank you cards from the swim team for everything the pool and park staff did for them this season.

- **Session 1 – School**
- 8:45-9:30 22 kids
- 9:30-10:15 86 kids

- 10:15-11:00 75 kids
 183 kids
- **Swim Team Meets**
 - a. June 17th
 - b. June 29th
 - c. July 10th
- **Session 2 – Group** **20 Kids**
- **Privates** **14 kids**
- **Session 3 – Group** **28 kids** **231 total thus far**

Tree Board Update

- Johnson stated that the board met last month and went over their fall planting as Johnson told them to start lining up places to plant trees.
- Johnson stated that they adjourned to the treatment plant where several trees have been planted in the past. Johnson went out the previous Sunday and mowed the area for easy access to the trees. That evening the board brought their hand pruner's and trimmed the low branches on the trees and cut away bamboo supports. The board has a good idea of the 60+ trees they have now and the parks department can start transplanting trees these trees in the fall.
- Johnson stated that the tree board was in the Oelwein Celebration parade again this year to promote tree planting within the community.
- Johnson stated that the park employees have gone around the last two weeks in June watering all the trees that the tree board has planted in the past two years to ensure that they were staying hydrated due to the extremely dry weather.

Trails Update

- Segment 1

- a. The contractor (Bacon Concrete) has returned in July as they had other projects to finish that were lined up before this project started. A short retaining wall, a pad for the handicap accessible drinking fountain and the approach to 5th St. NE need to be completed yet with landscaping at the pool.
- Johnson stated that they installed the trails counters purchased this spring, one by Arlington place and one in Platt Park. Johnson stated that these counters would give them accurate numbers on trail usage that they can utilize in their grant writing.
 - Johnson stated that the trail committee received the Governors Volunteer Award for all their hard work. The award ceremony was online this year so unfortunately they did not get to have their picture taken with the Governor.
 - Johnson stated that they completed putting a fresh coat of paint on the playground equipment this past month at Levin Park and received a \$250 donation from the Levin family for trails.
 - Johnson stated that the trail committee received an \$800 donation for trail this past month. The donation came from Connie Kerns, Jake Blitsch and Marty Kajewski.
 - Johnson stated that he is wrapping up the DNR REAP grant for future trail funding in which they could potentially receive up to \$100,000. Johnson told the board he would like a letter of support from all board members by the end of the month if possible.

Parks/Cemetery Report

Memorial Day: Johnson stated that the employees did a tremendous job get the facilities ready for the Memorial Day event at Woodlawn Cemetery. The employees worked through the weather mowing in the rain that week to ensure that everything looked its best. The parks employees also went to the cemetery to help with some additional trimming and cleaning. Volunteers came out and brought down flags after the weekend was over.

Oelwein Celebration: Johnson stated that the employees did a great job with preparing City Park for the weekend festivities. The park employees take out additional garbage cans and picnic tables

to spread out in the airplane area for people to utilize. Johnson stated that the committee had volunteers pick up garbage from their mess at the park that Sunday.

Redgate Shelter: Johnson stated the Irvine Electric completed the lighting and electrical outlets at the new shelter these past few weeks. Johnson stated that the plumber has completed the outside work and working on the inside at this point. Johnson stated that the old drinking fountain was removed and a new modern fountain will be installed next to the sidewalk on the north side of the shelter.

Dry Weather: Johnson told the board with the real dry weather the department is completing some other projects. They are sweeping the trails, parking lots, roads at Cemetery, and Skate Park on a regular basis as time allows. Chris Jelineck is grinding stumps at Woodlawn left from the tornado last year. The park employees are straightening some trees out in Platt Park. Danny Carnicle did some truck repairs to the park vehicles. Johnson stated that the pollinator planting at Redgate Park is doing good, filling in more and more every year. The park employees trimmed up the ditch on the south side by highway 150 welcome sign and Perkins took the harley rake to the open campground pads to keep them leveled.

Recreation Diamonds: Johnson stated that the park assistant continued to help with the ball diamonds through most of June until a diamond maintenance person was lined up to take care of those duties.

Campground: Johnson stated that they had to dig up the line at the dump station along the road that runs to the septic tank at the campground. Johnson said that the line was old cast iron pipe that was heavily pitted that would catch debris and clog up. Johnson stated that they installed new PVC line and should never have to touch that line again.

Parks: Johnson stated that the park employees took down 9 infected dead ash trees in Wings Park due to the employees getting off the mowers with the dry weather. Johnson stated that there are several trees in each park, which will need to come down this fall as time allows. Johnson stated that employees have conducted their mid-season maintenance on their equipment during rain days. Johnson stated that the employees installed a new volleyball net and poles at Redgate Park.

Board Member Updates – Gearhart brought up lighting on diamond two and the two diamonds at the complex. Conversation about lighting the different area continued, Johnson stated that lighting at the complex has been on his CIP list every year and will get updated pricing again for this year. Discussion on reducing the size of the park and recreation board took place and the consensus was to go from a 7-person board to a 5-person board.

Adjournment: 6:17pm

Next Meeting: August 16th, 2021