



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
City Hall

Monday August 15th, 2022 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

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Call to Order: 5:26pm

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

Attending: Bouska, Burkhart – 5:50, Gearhart, Johnson, Lenz, Meska, Stasi

Absent: Jorgensen

Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the July 18th, 2022, meeting

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

Airplane

Jake gave his updates on the project at City Park as the concrete pad underneath the plane has been poured. Jake stated that now unfortunately moisture from the plane is dropping on the pad and creating stains which he is working with the contractor to remedy. Jake presented an option to add Saur-King jet plaza to the existing sign. Johnson reminded the board there are plans to replace all park signs, so they are all uniform. Jake stated his option would cost \$3,500. The board suggested that Jake wait until the new park sign was ready to go in and put the money towards that sign. The board approved putting the Saur-King Jet Plaza to the new sign, motioned by Meska and second by Stasi, all aye.

Recreation Update

Burkhart stated that the men's league has finished their season. Burkhart stated that registrations have gone out for fall sports by email and will send flyers home once school starts. Burkhart stated that they had two new people start at the wellness center with one more opening to fill. Burkhart stated that they are looking for coaches and referees for fall programs as well. Burkhart stated that they are looking at pricing for flooring and painting at the wellness center. Burkhart stated that they are completing trainings for the new employees for weather related emergencies. Burkhart stated that Angie is doing a great job with her classes and people are enjoying them.

Approval of Latham Memorial Bench

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

Johnson explained that he has talked with Jon Latham for the past year about the trail segment and was interested in placing a memorial bench across from his house on 4th street SW. The bench will be along segment three that is being constructed right now and the bench would be placed on the north side of the trail in between the existing evergreen trees.

Trails Update

Johnson explained that Bacon Concrete brought their equipment in the past Friday and have been busy this past week. Johnson showed the commission pictures of the trail progress. Johnson stated that they have completed the dirt work and laid down the gravel base to the 95% of the project. Johnson stated that they are working with everyone making sure that they have access to properties. Johnson stated that this project will connect the downtown to Levin Park as the trail committee designed access to the downtown. Johnson stated that there is a lot of foot traffic on this road and should be a great trail segment that people will enjoy once completed. Johnson stated that Iowa Northern dropped off the gates to be installed as part of the railroad crossing portion that they are requiring to be put in.

Johnson stated that he completed the REAP grant proposal for segment two, from the viaduct to Redgate Park. Johnson stated that he travelled to West union to the Fayette County Conservation Department to present his application proposal to the REAP committee for approval. Johnson stated that he sent the application in to the DNR the following day in which they could potentially get up to \$100,000 for the next trail segment.

Johnson stated that he travelled to Decorah this past month to attend the upper explorerland meeting. At this meeting they discussed the Destination Iowa grant that the governor implemented. Johnson stated the attending counties are going to submit their projects together under upper explorerland and Johnson was invited to add segment two for possible funding as well. Johnson stated that they started the process, and he sent in information already to Clayton County that is collecting the data. Johnson showed the board several pictures with the construction going on with segment three.

Aquatics Update

Johnson met Eric Heinen with the Iowa state health department for the scheduled annual inspection of the aquatic facility on July 20th. Eric checks everything from ground fault outlets to rescue equipment to water chemistry logs to guard certifications. Once again, Eric found no deficiencies at all with the facility and complimented us on how the facility is doing. Johnson stated that the City insurance rep completed a walkthrough of the aquatic center as well and said the place looks great.

Johnson stated that the following Sunday is planned for the final day for the 2022 aquatics season. Johnson stated that the dog dip will be on that day from 5-7 at the very end of the day.

Johnson stated that he has sent out requests for installation of the new filter setup that is part of the bond the city took out. Johnson explained that the old filter will be removed following the season and the contractor will install 4 horizontal filters that will go in its place. Johnson also met with the engineers that are taking care of the drain project for the pool. There will be two holding tanks that will collect the water and slowly drain into the sanitary sewer system so to no overload the sewer when they backwash the filters. Also, this month we had the photo eye replaced at the aquatic center that controls the night lights that went bad. At the pool the guards completed the third and final, two-week session of group swim lessons for the year.

Parks/Cemetery Update

This past month in the park department we have been super busy completing tasks with very limited staff. Johnson stated that at Woodlawn they employees have had 23 full burials and 16 cremations so far this year. The guys started taking down 16 ash trees at Woodlawn that were planted along the waterway years ago. This past month we completed sweeping of the cemetery roads that will be seal coated soon with the trails brush. Nate took time out of his schedule to drag a few diamonds for the rec program early this month. At the cemetery the employees replaced the fascia on the storage building that was damaged by a tree. The park employees pressure sprayed the mowers at the end of the day on Friday to keep equipment running

great. This month I had Nate attend a safety demonstration at the FD to learn about proper usage of respirators in the morning. On the 20th all employees attended the citywide annual safety meeting/lunch at the FD.

This month we cleaned up storm damage in the parks as most of the damage was smaller branches but had to use the bucket truck to get up into some trees to cut down hangers. We also stopped by the library on Monday to help them and pick up their storm damage. Cooper took the brush to the skate park and cleaned it up for the kids. Chris and Dion were busy sodding the past few burials that we had recently at Woodlawn. The guys repaired a swing set at Wings that was damaged recently and repaired some fencing on the ball diamond as well. Russ and Cooper straightened out some park benches at Reidy Park that heaved some with the frost this year. At Wings the guys set two more basketball hoop anchors at the old tennis courts and will hopefully get the structures up next week. This week the park department mowed a few delinquent properties for community development as the contractor got COVID. The trails were swept on Monday to cleanup storm damage as well and empty City properties were cleaned and mowed. The prairie flowers are really blooming this time of year as it is more important to create pollinator habitats as the monarch butterfly was recently placed on the endangered list once again. Johnson worked with the school to help split the bill to have 200 ton of road rock delivered to the sports complex that we spread out. This time we concentrated on rocking the two entrances and west side of the parking lot. The guys spent extra time at the complex trimming and making it look great for the circus event on Saturday. Chris took the drag to the north roads of the cemetery this week and turned over the mulch pile at the cemetery.

Johnson stated that he is waiting on estimates from contractors for the new filter for the pool. Johnson dug up the shut off and fix the drinking fountain along the trail at the aquatic center. This month Oelwein had some heavy rain over the weekend and Johnson put out barricades Sunday morning to keep people off the bridge at City Park. Johnson stated that he talked with Anthony Ricchio who stated the circus went well at the sports complex. Johnson stated that they did a great job on cleaning up and policing the area and were gone the next morning. Johnson stated that he arranged for the Iowa DNR Forestry department to conduct a tree survey of all the parks and the two cemeteries this month. Johnson stated that this will be incredibly helpful to the department when planting more trees as they strive to diversify as much as possible with each tree planting that they do. Johnson stated that the switched to a solar light setup at Oakdale Cemetery as the existing electrical pedestal was in the way of the new trail segment, thus removing the service will save the city money. Johnson stated that the guys replaced some boards on the bridge that goes out to the sports complex this past month. Johnson stated that with some of the wet weather they have had lately the guys will take advantage of this and conduct maintenance on the equipment. Johnson stated that they finished the second set of basketball hoops at Wings, repurposing the old tennis courts into an area the kids will utilize once again.

Johnson showed the board the monthly totals for the trail segments that he downloaded and provided a list of current projects and future projects. Johnson talked to the board about the cemetery with all the work they have completed in the past couple of years. Johnson explained that they have some great workers at the cemetery that take a lot of pride in their work.

Board Member Updates

Gearhart talked about lighting at diamond one and the new disc golf course at City Park.

Adjournment 6:10pm

Next Meeting: September 19th