

Johnson also showed the board the totals for the past two months of trail usage in Oelwein. Johnson stated that the numbers dipped in the end of August due to the windstorm but are rebounding back and that the west tower project has wrapped up so they expect to see numbers come up higher for the west trail segment. Johnson reported to the board with the last two months that the trails averaged 100.7 users per day with a total count of 6,268 users.

Parks/Cemetery Update

Johnson stated that this month in the park department, the rangers have been mowing and trimming all the properties despite being short staff. Both departments worked on Redgate Park giving it extra attention for Italian Days in August. Jay finished taking the newly painted tables out; Dan Ohl painted the memorial plaques on the small shelters. Johnson explained that the project is not complete as they are waiting on the bathroom partitions to be installed. Johnson stated that they opened the new bathrooms for the event to use even though Miller Construction has not finished installing the bathroom partitions. The countertop arrived recently and some landscaping around the shelter needs to be completed. Johnson said that they would be creating some parking spots along the drive so that people can pull off the drive and not destroy grass areas. Perkins power sprayed a few of the welcome signs around town. Johnson met with contractors about the pool filter this past month getting some more details about a future possible project. The pool concluded the season Sunday August 22nd with a dog dip from 5-7pm.

The EAA fly-in event at the Oelwein airport had a great turnout on Saturday morning. Once the rain cleared, they had eight planes that took kids up for a 10-12 minute airplane ride over Westgate the circle around over Oelwein and back to the airport. On Tuesday August 24th at 3PM, a powerful wind storm blew through town that did a lot of damage to all the parks, cemetery, and trails. All the properties had tree damage in one way or another. Woodlawn took the brunt of the storm AGAIN, as Perkins and Johnson spent a lot of time there helping the cemetery employees cut up trees to get the cemetery open as fast as possible. A large oak tree uprooted and fell on a storage building. A tree crushed an electrical pole with a live wire in the mess making it impossible to get equipment out. We called Alliant on Wednesday morning; they showed up at 10am on Thursday morning after a second call to disconnect the line so we could start working on clearing the oak tree. The campground did lose power on Wednesday, which had nothing to do with the power lines in the park and was restored that afternoon by Alliant. With our limited staff this season, we will continue to work through the storm damaged properties and trails as quickly and safely as we can. To sound like a broken record Johnson stated that they are short staffed this season and the rangers are doing everything they can to complete the cleanup and the mowing safely. The rangers have been doing an excellent job with the cleanup in both departments and have the majority of the cleanup done. At Woodlawn, they were able to get the bucket truck and get the large oak tree to the ground to see the extent of the roof damage. The park department spent an afternoon bringing down two tall trees along the west trail that had broken half way up in the windstorm. Johnson stated that they are utilizing the trail brush to clean the streets at the Cemetery to get it ready for patrons.

At City Park, Irvine Electric has started the electrical project that we received a grant to help pay for from the Northeast Iowa Community Foundation. At the pool, we have drained the facility and pulling down the shade structures when we have time. Johnson stated that they complete this work when they have rain days.

City Park had a couple trees go down on the west side of the park that Jay has been focusing on as the cleanup is concluding. I have been talking with the DNR Decorah fish hatchery about Lake Oelwein these past several months in regards to fish population. Theresa and Amanda with the DNR came down

on Tuesday Sept. 7th and set out six fyke nets at various locations around the lake. After they set the nets, they invited me to do some electrofishing around the lake. With this method, they stun the fish with short electrical pulses and we catch them with hand nets, drop them in a live well. We then counted, identified, and measured the fish that will go into their report. On Wednesday morning, Johnson was able to go out, pull in half the fyke nets with the DNR, and help identify and record the fish the nets had captured. There were a lot of fish caught in these nets that included; carp, yellow and black bullheads, large and smallmouth bass, black and white crappie, white suckers, bluegill and a couple of turtles.

Johnson stated that he is working on the year-end aquatic center report for this past season to turn in. Johnson stated that Alliant Energy has been in and upgrading the utility poles at the entrance of City Park as part of the electrical project. Johnson met with two seniors that want to complete their senior seminar project by completing some skate park projects. Johnson presented the board with some maps looking at different options for a future skate park. Johnson showed the board skate parks that Manchester and Independence have put in for comparison.

Board Member Updates: None

Adjournment 5:57 pm

Next Meeting: October 18th, 2021