



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
Oelwein Library Meeting Room
Jan. 18th, 2021 - 5:15 PM

Call to Order: 5:15

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

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

Absent: Milks, Stewart

Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the November 16th, 2020 meeting

Motion: Meska 2nd: Jorgensen

Aye: All Nay: None

Park and Recreation Master Plan – No discussion

Recreation Report – Burkhart stated that women’s volleyball concluded in January and coed will start this month. Spring registrations will be going out soon for little league. Burkhart stated that the junior husky basketball club has rented the wellness center for a couple of tournaments with another one this weekend. Burkhart said that she will bring in little league coaches and have a meeting and buy gear in February. Burkhart stated that the wellness center is a little busier with the senior population down. Burkhart stated that they are working on gaining corporate memberships, and CPR classes are planned as well.

Gearhart arrived at 5:21

Trails Update

- The trails committee has been meeting monthly to go over our progress on writing grants, easements, and raising funds. Johnson got the committee to start work on the state recreation trails grant through the DOT for matching funds for future trail development. Johnson attended a zoom meeting with upper explorer land with the enhancement committee where we talked about TAP funding for trails.
- Johnson showed the board what they have planned to complete with segment 1 this upcoming season to go to council next Monday for approval and put to bid ASAP.
- Dylan, Larry Murphy, Carrie Gearhart and Johnson met with the railroad to discuss easements for trails. The committee will need approximately 1,200ft of easement from Iowa Northern to complete segment 1c. Johnson is proposing to create a trailhead at 2nd street and 4th Ave. NW until the easement comes through.
- Other crossings include along 4th street SW and 6th ave SW which we discussed with them in the meeting as well. The railroad stated that they just replaced the light crossing setup recently so a trail crossing would be easy along 4th street. The railroad needs to replace the lights along sixth ave SW in the next couple of years so that will align with the trail project when we are ready.
- Johnson has been talking with property owners about getting easements for trail additions. Johnson stated that the City acquired a small wooded property to move along with segment 2 and looking to acquire two more to complete segment 2. Johnson stated that Sarah Scheel, Jon Biederman and himself met with Transco to gain an easement for segment 2 as well.

- Last month Johnson met with Fayette county economic development and tourism director, Mallory Hanson to demonstrate their trail counters that we are looking to purchase for the City to give us some much needed data point for grant writing. Both Mallory and Fayette county conservation director, Rod Marlatt came to Oelwein to talk with the trails committee to offer their assistance with trail development this past month as well.

- Consideration of a motion approving Segment 1

Motion: Jorgensen 2nd: Meska

Aye: All Nay: None

Parks/Cemetery Report

- In the Park department, they have been disinfecting the shop and equipment as usual. Jay does his daily rounds of checking on facilities and cleaning the downtown every morning.
- Jay and Johnson cleaned around the shop getting rid of material that has accumulated the past season with the various projects that were completed.
- Jay is wrapping up maintenance on all equipment, pool maintenance keeping the water pumped down into the diving well, digging graves and finished aerating the recreation fields.
- The playground equipment for Red Gate Park arrived the other day that was purchased through a \$8,818.00 grant through the RJ McElroy Trust. We received a new stainless steel free standing slide and a double swing set that were damaged in the tornado this past spring.
- The tree board met before thanksgiving and did some more trimming of trees in the downtown. Johnson stated that the tree board does an excellent job every year with tasks that they take on.
- Johnson stated that the employees gathered more milkweed pods this fall and they spread more milkweed seed at Red Gate Park to develop a monarch waystation as a part of our pollinator project.
- Johnson and Perkins took the south gate off at City Park to straighten it out and paint it.
- Johnson stated that the shop office was painted with a fresh coat of paint to clean it up for the committee meetings that they hold at the shop.
- Johnson and Perkins took advantage of the final warm weather in December, with the help of Chris and Dan with the Cemetery to install the roof structure for the shelter job at Platt Park. The foundation was failing on the old structure so they were able to pull the roof off and save it as we will replace some trim pieces and paint the top in the spring to finish this job. The employees will also finish pouring the sidewalk to the north to connect to the east/west sidewalk to make this shelter wheelchair accessible and will install a drinking fountain as well.
- Johnson stated that they came in to clear sidewalks from the snow events, which have been happening on weekends. Meska stated that he enjoys having the snow cleaned off trails for walking; Johnson stated that he has heard that a lot of compliments this season.
- Johnson made an order for supplies in bulk for the upcoming season from rite price this past month.
- Dylan and Johnson met with Doug Bryan on Dec. 11th to look into the Lake Oelwein project to go over some details. Johnson talked with the DNR Decorah fish hatchery to let them know where we were with his project and gave them a good idea of what fish the campers have been catching in the lake the last several years. Johnson showed the board an aerial map of what Doug is clearing out on the north end of the lake area.
- Community bank is donating money to refurbish the bridge that was gifted to the City. This bridge will be placed on the south side of Red Gate Park where the storm culverts will be removed so we do not have to deal with leaves plugging the culverts up anymore. The bridge is a memorial to Dan Steil that includes two train wheels as part of the setup.

- Jay finished work on the bike fixit station that was vandalized this past fall at Wings Park and maintenance on equipment.
- The ice rink arrived that the school paid for to be placed at Wings Park on diamond 3.
- The employees have been working on clearing delinquent sidewalks that citizens have not been clearing snow off after snowfall.
- Johnson signed Jay and himself up for their CPO continuing education course that will be at the end of this month.
- After several months of waiting, the department received the new cemetery dump truck. This truck hauls the material when we are preparing graves at the cemetery.
- Johnson also finished and turned the final monthly for 2020 and yearly report.
- On Monday Jan. 11th, Johnson gave the department's presentation for budget and CIP items for next fiscal year to council.

Board Member Updates

Johnson stated that council approved the red gate shelter and bathroom project in December. Johnson also stated that council approved the new electrical panels for City Park as well, as both projects will proceed when the weather breaks. Discussion about the Oelwein Celebration continued as the park and rec board concluded that they would like to see the celebration remain at City Park.

Adjournment 5:47

Next Meeting: March 15, 2021