



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
Redgate Park

Monday July 17th, 2023 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelweinparks.org

Call to Order: 5:18pm

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

Attending: Bouska, Johnson, Jorgensen, Garrigus, Meska, Stasi

Absent: Burkhart, Gearhart

Approval of Minutes:

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the June 19th, 2023, meeting:

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

Citizen Comments: None

Memorial Bench

a. Diamond 1- Jeannette Hoth

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

Johnson stated that Jeanette Hoth, wants to purchase a memorial bench in memory of Ray and Mert Duffy at diamond one. Johnson supplied a map to the commission with Jeanettes first and second choices at diamond one in Wings Park.

Recreation Update:

Burkhart absent

Aquatics Update:

I had Marc B. power spray the concession area to keep it clean as product gets dropped on the concrete. The swim team approached me this past month and told us that all the other communities that have attended their home meets at aquatic center have been giving them compliments on how nice the facility looks. I met with the engineer, contractor, and Alliant Energy this past month about the pool drain project. The contractor finished their previous job early due to the dry weather and will be starting this project immediately. The contractors moved in and started working on the drain line for the aquatic center on the south side of the pool. This week the guards are finishing up the last of the group swim lessons and finishing private lessons as well. The pool has been busy with pool rentals lately and concessions is doing a great job moving a lot of various products. At the aquatic center we had a group meeting to discuss an event in which a pair of adults had to be asked to leave and were very rude to our guards. We discussed any questions staff had and reviewed expectations and procedures with the employees. A few of the rescue tubes at the pool were replaced as a regular maintenance rotation. The basketball hoop in the swim lanes was put back into service as the backboard brace needed to be replaced. Johnson stated that on July 7th he found a pipe leaking in the pump room. The park department spent the day removing the broken line and fittings as it was in between three large fittings. Johnson stated that the piping is large 10" piping and was all overhead. Johnson stated that they work late into the evening and came in on Saturday morning to fix the piping. The piping was all replaced and bolted together as the pool was open at 2pm the next afternoon. Johnson stated that he is very proud of the staff that went above and beyond to help minimize the down time for the aquatic center. Johnson stated that new pool manager, Kim Lawless has done a tremendous job with the facility this season as a first-year manager. Johnson stated that Kim gets along great with the staff members and gets out on the deck and talks with patrons promoting our services. Johnson stated that Lawless has done a fantastic job promoting the concessions area, offering new items, healthy options and has more plans for that area in the future.

Tree Board Update:

The Tree board met on Thursday July 6th due to the July 4th holiday on that Tuesday. Johnson invited their Trees Forever representative to the meeting to discuss the carbon credit program with the board members. Much discussion was held over who was funding this program and Andrew went over some of the particulars of disbursement. The tree board received their hardware for their growth award they received from the Arbor Day Foundation for their extra work they completed last year. Johnson stated that they talked about a project for this fall making some gravel beds so that they could purchase bare root trees at a cheaper price to have more to plant in different areas. Johnson talked to the board about the community forestry grant through the DNR that will match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000 to purchase trees for EAB ash tree replacement.

Parks/Cemetery Update:

This past month in the park and cemetery departments the employees have been busy working on various improvement projects as the dry weather persists. Nate and Chris used the patch machine and completed some road work on the cemetery roads this past month. Russ and Cooper painted the bridge rails on west Charles Street downtown. Dion has been busy cleaning downtown, weeding and watering the hanging baskets every morning. The vandalism persists as someone removed a water fountain head at Redgate Park that we replaced. Johnson stated that they received the new backboard for the basketball hoops at Wings Park and put everything back after it had been vandalized. The park employees all helped with replacing boards and painting extra picnic tables at the shop so that we have them ready to go when needed. The cemetery employees were busy removing a few old utility poles at City Park that were not needed and removed two dead small oak trees. We have been taking care of watering at the depot park to ensure the hydro seeding takes hold and comes up in this dry weather. The cemetery employees took down two small dead ash trees on the back side of Woodlawn as the never-ending task of ash tree removal carries on. The park employees have been completing some extra trimming along trails and waterways to keep things looking great. Steve S. took the power sprayer to City Park and cleaned off the small children's playground

area as the small kids like to drag mulch into the equipment, and it makes a mess over time. Marc B. took the power sprayer to the brick pedestals downtown this week as well to brighten them up and the park employees stopped by the library and trimmed off a branch that was broken. Carolyn and Craig are keeping the campground looking great as always. The park employees painted some poles that we will install at diamond one for foul poles. The park employees mowed the rec fields and any other areas that need to be knocked down if necessary.

Nate and Johnson watered the depot park to get the soil saturated to give the hydroseeding a great start. At Woodlawn the employees took down an ash tree along the back side of the cemetery along the west property line. Nate had to step in for the rec department to drag a diamond for a little league game on Friday. At Woodlawn Chris J. has started working on straightening the waterway up front through memorial and 18. Storm damage was rather minimal as the employees spent a morning picking up a lot of branches and lost a bush at the cemetery. At Levin Park the park employees painted the bicycle art that was left from when ragbrai went through town. The park employees have been busy swapping out s-hooks and chains on swing sets and playground equipment throughout the park system. The guys also grabbed a bunch of couplers to replace ones that have failed to secure the tile around the equipment that holds in the safety fiber. This month the cemetery employees have had a few burials, which Johnson stated they have a total of 31 burials thus far in 2023. On the trail by the pool the park employees installed a set of handrails on the west end of the bridge as the slope down to the waterway is rather steep. The park employees replaced the flag at City Park that was blown down in the storm over the weekend. At Woodlawn the employees dug up the road to replace a waterline that broke last fall due to someone planting a tree directly over the line many years ago. On Wednesday, we all dropped what we were working on to go up to the wellness center to help get water out of the building and brought up our large fan to help dry things out. The campground filled up for the busy holiday weekend as the campground host is doing a great job making the place look great.

The park employees spent some extra time on the north side of City Park last week patching and sweeping the roads and trimming for the car show on Saturday July 1st. The new park truck finally arrived that was much needed for the department. The employees finished up the drinking fountain in the campground that the department received \$3,235 from the Iowa Delta Dental Foundation to purchase. The campground saw a lot of new campers come in for the extended holiday weekend at City Park. The cemetery employees spent some time painting the 1st Ave bridge railings to look great for the sesquicentennial. We are busy gathering supplies to get the second donated sign installed at Woodlawn Cemetery on the east entrance off 13th Ave.

These past two weeks in the park and cemetery department the employees have been busy working on various improvement projects on top of mowing and trimming all properties. The cemetery employees dug a grave sized hole at the library this past week for the time capsule burial on Saturday for the sesquicentennial. Two employees came in on Saturday to backfill the hole once the vault was lowered in the hole. The cemetery employees also spent some extra time at Oakdale Cemetery mowing and trimming to make sure the cemetery looked great for the cemetery walk on Wednesday evening.

The park employees were extremely busy in Depot Park putting the final touches on a lot of different areas. Flowers and hostas were planted by the employees and mulched. They push mowed the grass area as it had been saturated by heavy rains the past couple of days. The sidewalks were cleaned with leave blowers, benches moved, locks purchased and put-on electrical boxes and storage areas. The park employees brought an extra 14 picnic tables, and half a dozen garbage cans for the weekend festivities. Danny C. painted the posts for the lighting and painted the rails on the 4th street SW bridge as well. Nate W. went around and made sure all the welcome signs looked the best and did some weeding. There was some storm damage the past week that brought down some branches throughout the system that the employees cleaned up.

The park employees took some time working on the base supports for the new arching sign at Woodlawn Cemetery that will be installed as soon as possible. This project was started 5 years ago as the

school has had several kids take on this project as it was finally finished this spring. Johnson arranged for Transco to paint the sign free of charge and travelled to Waterloo to pick up rebar for the project. Johnson arranged for a donor to pay for the sign as this project has been many years in works. Nate W. took the 2305 and cleaned up wash outs at diamond in the skate park with the torrential rains we have received. Johnson had employees replace the sign at Levin Park as the old one was vandalized. Johnson stopped by and repaired the fountain at the library this week for Susan.

Board Member Updates: None

Adjournment: 5:43pm

Next Meeting: August 21st