



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
City Hall

Tuesday January 18th, 2022 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelwein.fun

Call to Order: 5:15pm

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

Attending: Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Lenz, Meska, Stasi, Burkhart-5:25

Absent: Taylor

Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the November 16th, 2021 meeting

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

Lenz Introduction

Lenz stated that he grew up in the Oelwein community. Lenz stated that he is excited to be on council and is interested in allowing side by sides in the community and would like to see streets and housing improvements continue.

Recreation Update

Burkhart stated that the 2nd session of dodgeball is starting in Feb to March and itty bitty basketball is ending in February. Burkhart stated that she is starting signups earlier this year for summer programs and is need of coaches/referees. Burkhart stated that Women’s volleyball concluded in December and started coed with 6 teams. Burkhart that the 9k in grant money for assistance is being used twice as fast, using them on 3 month passes for the wellness center, 50% on pool and 50/70% on rec. Burkhart stated that they are working on CPR classes for staff with adding two new staff members. Burkhart stated that they had one tournament and two more planned. Burkhart stated that she is going to talk at a Upper Iowa class and hopes to get an intern.

Aquatics Update:

Johnson stated that these past two months at the aquatic center contractors installed the shelter at the facility. The City was told this would be completed before the 2021 pool season started but contractors were busy with other projects. Local contractors Kevin Stickle and Steve Cockerham installed the 20x20’

shelter on the existing concrete pad. This shelter will be used for pool rentals and the City already has the picnic tables for this structure. The fence line will be rerouted so that the shelter will be inside the facility. Johnson explained that this will enable the north bathrooms to be used once again as it was difficult to keep an eye on them before with limited vision in the area. Johnson stated that a tell roof was installed that matches the rest of the facility.

Johnson stated that Eastern Iowa Surveillance stopped in this past month to replace a switch that was hit by lightning. Johnson stated that this company did a great job installing the surveillance system and their customer service is excellent. Johnson stated that this years' pool manager Kim lawless and he met with returning lifeguards over the school Christmas break. In that meeting, they talked about recruiting more guards and handed out several applications to give to friends. Johnson stated that interviewed 23 kids for lifeguard positions this past Sunday afternoon. Johnson stated that they are getting a jump on the hiring and completing the paperwork so that the beginning of the season will be easier. Johnson stated that he is working with other park and rec departments to setup lifeguard training classes to get the guards certified.

Trails Update

- Segments 2&3
- Trail Counts

Johnson stated that all the signs have been installed and that trail segment one is completed.

Johnson stated that council made the final pay request to Bacon Concrete LLC and closed out the project. Johnson stated that he is still working on getting approval for segment 2 as council does not want to help with the removal of the retaining wall on West Charles Street. Johnson stated that since the structure is not connected the household that that disqualifies her from grant funding. Johnson stated that council directed staff to look into assessing the individual to complete the project.

Johnson stated that the trails committee received another donation from Community Bank for \$2,500 for future trail development as part of their two-year commitment. Johnson showed the board the trail total counts for 6th months of usage in the second half of 2020. Johnson stated that the total count was 12,841 users for that period. Johnson stated that this great information to have for grant writing for future trail funding.

Site	2021 trail totals							ADT
	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct	Nov.	Dec.		
Arlington Place Oelwein		512	388	294	115	242	134	9.11
Platt Park Oelwein	2845	2523	2458	1676	950	704	60.45	

Total Trail Users 12,841

Parks/Cemetery Update

This month in the park department, Johnson has been busy with interviewing and lining up paperwork for the new park assistant. Johnson stated that they had a good response to the job posting with many applications accepted. Johnson stated that they had several candidates with supervisory experience and pool experience. Johnson stated that Nathan Weidemann was chosen with his supervisory experience and work history. Nate already lives in town, has already jumped into the maintenance of the equipment, and has done a great job so far.

Johnson stated that Chris and Willie came in during the month of November and poured twelve more disc golf pads as we are wrapping up concrete pouring. Johnson stated that all 18 pads have been poured and all 18 baskets are installed at City Park. Johnson said that in the spring they will backfill dirt around all the pads and wrap up the project with the signage. Johnson stated that this project was funded with a grant through the rotary foundation. Johnson showed a map of the disc golf course again with the entire layout.

Johnson stated that he took Burkhardt to Mt. Vernon this past month to take a tour of the Buresh Wellness Center. This new facility was just built before COVID hit in 2020 and is a fantastic facility. Johnson stated that they received the new mower for the park department in December that he ordered last January. Johnson stated that the swing replacement finally came after months of waiting. Johnson stated that all the snow removal equipment was ready to go as they have gone out three times this season so far. Johnson stated that he cleaned up the yard area around the shop as with the busy season and several projects that went through slowly cluttered the area over the season. Maintenance is ongoing with some of the bigger equipment so Johnson could get it out of the shop and into storage.

On Saturday December 4th Johnson and the Tree Board met downtown to trim the trees in the downtown streetscape. Johnson stated that this annual trimming is something he started several years ago. Johnson said this is to keep the trees off buildings and keep out of the vehicle lanes and away from street signs. Johnson stated that Oelwein is lucky to have a great group of guys on the Tree Board. Johnson stated that earlier that morning he came to pick up the mess left by the old time Christmas event the night before.

Johnson had Chris and Willie come in push in all the posts for the new block signs at Woodlawn Cemetery with the skid loader. Johnson stated that they had another wind event in December in which the parks did not receive much damage, just some broken limbs that were cleaned up right away. Johnson stated that he did go around to all the parks and cemeteries to pull the flags down before the storm came. Johnson took advantage of the warm weather early in December and power sprayed the remaining equipment. The memorial bench for the Reeves family was picked up this month and will be installed at the

sports complex. I have finished and turned in the December monthly and annual report for the park department and finishing the 2022 brochure.

Board Member Updates

Meska stated that he is excited about the improvements at City Park going in.

Adjournment 5:43pm

Next Meeting: March 21