



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting

City Hall – Council Chambers

Thursday January 23rd, 2025 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelweinparks.org

PARKS / CEMETERY / TRAILS / AQUATICS / CAMPGROUND

Call to Order: 5:25 pm

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

Attending: Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Stasi

Absent: Bouska, Garrigus, Meska

Approval of Minutes:

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the November 18th, 2024, meeting:

Motion:	Jorgensen	2 nd :	Stasi
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Aye:	All	Nay:	None
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Citizen Comments:

Parks / Cemetery Updates: This past month we hired a new assistant for the department, Justin Beatty. Justin has a strong background in recreation with a BA from Wartburg and already had certifications completed before hiring. We are super excited to have Justin join the department as he is looking forward to moving to the community. With the skiff of snow, we received we were busy cleaning off trails with the tractor broom and clearing sidewalks. With the first snow we usually close the gates at some of the parks for the season. Maintenance with the vehicles was completed in December as the mowers have already been taken care of. We had a few final full burials at Woodlawn just before Thanksgiving on Wednesday. Monthly trail counts were downloaded from the two locations and uploaded to the website.

This past month Beatty and Johnson have been working on various projects as the temperatures have really dropped. On Saturday morning Johnson winterized the bathrooms once again at Depot Park after the old time Christmas event. We walked through the aquatic center to help Justin get acquainted with our facilities. They took the opportunity to blow a bunch of leaves out of the pool after the strong winds we had had to prevent the leaves from staining the pool over the winter. This week the employees had a full burial to prepare for Geilenfeld funeral home. Beatty and Johnson cleaned out areas around the viaduct and cleared the sidewalks through the viaduct as well to keep things looking nice. On Wednesday, Johnson attended the upper Explorerland meeting in Decorah to learn about the upcoming round of DOT TAP funding for trail projects. Beatty has been busy learning about the different areas, shops and studying for his pesticide license as he already passed his CPO certification before interviewing. Johnson compiled all the monthly department reports into the department annual report and submitted it to city hall.

This past week, Beatty had been preparing for his exams to acquire his pesticide license as he passed the core test already. The employees have been busy with burial preparations at Woodlawn as things have picked up in early January. There was a full burial on Tuesday and have a cremation burial today, and they have a full burial to prep for this Saturday. We were busy on Wednesday completing snow removal in the morning before the company lunch. On Tuesday, Johnson attended a DNR continuing education course where we toured a water plant the has an aeration and filtration system for their source water. Johnson completed the Paint Iowa grant follow-up report that we were awarded this year for green paint to cover the picnic tables at the campground. Johnson completed the DNR Community Forestry grant that was due at the end of the year. Pool manager Kim stopped in and picked up applications to handout to kids for the aquatic center for the upcoming season. Johnson stated that he took his education class for his pool operator certification in Cedar Falls this past week.

Tree Board Update: Johnson stated that the tree board discussed applying for the IRA community forestry grant that was being offered through the Iowa DNR at their last meeting. Johnson explained that this grant was a non-matching grant that was available to disadvantaged communities that was mapped out on the DNR website. Johnson stated that he received quotes from both Manske’s Corner Market and Cannons Greenhouse for the tree stock. Johnson stated that they received word that the city was notified that they are a recipient for the full \$30,000. Johnson showed the board the selection of trees the tree board chose, as they can plant these trees in any city location which is different from the Trees Forever plantings they have been completing. Johnson stated with the quotes he received this will be enough to purchase t-post, watering bags, rope to tie the trees and enough money to purchase 150 trees. Johnson stated that there will be four plantings over the next two years, a spring and a fall planting in 2025 and 2026. Johnson stated that the spring planting will more than likely take place in conjunction with the United Way Day of Caring on the first Friday in May. Johnson stated that the tree board applied for the Trees Forever grant proposal this past November and submitted it along with the follow-up report for the planting they completed this past fall. Johnson stated that the results for this grant proposal come out in March, with an amount of up to \$5,000 for a fall tree planting for street boulevards. Johnson said that he applied for the tree city, designation and the growth award through the arbor day foundation.

Trails Updates: Johnson stated that they are waiting on Transco to sign the temporary construction easement so the city can bid trail segment two out. Johnson stated that they will be sealing the west asphalt trail and as much of the east asphalt trail as possible this spring.

Bench: Johnson stated that he received a memorial bench proposal to install a bench along the trail between Wings Elementary and 1st Street NE for the Muller family. Johnson stated that their neighbors, the Rechkemmers, are helping them with this and are aware of where the bench is to be located.

- Consideration of a motion approving the proposed Muller memorial bench:

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

Plantings: Johnson explained that general fund departments are making large budget cuts and that they need to be creative in saving money. Johnson presented maps of different areas to plant pollinator prairie plantings in various properties to help reduce the amount of grass mowing.

- Consideration of a motion approving the proposed prairie planting locations:

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

Board Member Updates: Gearhart talked about Lake Oelwein for ice skating and ice fishing.

Adjournment: 5:48 pm

Next Meeting: February 2025

Additional Information: None

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for city meetings should notify city hall at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 319-283-5440.