



# Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting  
City Hall

Monday July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - 5:15 PM

**Park and Recreation**

[www.oelwein.fun](http://www.oelwein.fun)

**Call to Order:** 5:17 Jorgensen

**Roll Call:** Bouska, Burkhart, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Lenz, Meska, Stasi

**Attending:** Bouska, Burkhart, Gearhart – 5:23pm, Johnson, Jorgensen, Lenz, Meska, Stasi

**Absent:**

### Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting

Motion: Meska

2<sup>nd</sup>: Stasi

Aye: All

Nay: None

### Recreation Update

Burkhart stated that July is national park and rec month again and she is having popsicles in the parks. Burkhart stated that they had it at Wings and had around 40 participants and 50 at Redgate. They are completing yard games and blowing bubbles. Burkhart stated that they finished tennis camp this week with eleven people. Burkhart stated that kickball started on Wednesdays and have around thirty participants. Men’s softball has two more weeks then they will have their tournament. Burkhart stated that fall recreation applications are being completed. Youth flag football will be held at the high school stadium again this year. Youth volleyball and kindergarten soccer applications will be going out. Burkhart stated that they are getting close to school activities so some younger staff will be leaving soon, and they have been completing instructor training.

### Trails Update

Johnson showed the board the results for the first year that they had the trail counters up. Johnson explained that this is great information that they can utilize on their grant writing for future proposals. Johnson stated that there were over 20,500 hits on the two trail counters, one at Platt Park and one by Arlington Place on the west side of town. Johnson stated that this equates to 56 users a day on average. Johnson showed the board a map of segment three that is scheduled to start soon as he was told the end of July the contractor would get started. Johnson stated that the railroad gates finally showed up at the shop recently and will be used for the 4<sup>th</sup> street SW rail crossing on segment three. Johnson stated that he travelled to Decorah to attend the upper explorer land meeting this month. Johnson has also finished the cities REAP proposal for segment two, that he will send to the county for approval then it will go to the DNR for scoring.

## **Aquatics Update**

Johnson stated that they finished the first session of swim lessons with the summer school program in June. Johnson said that they have been working with Barb Schmitz for several years to bring the summer school program kids to the facility to get swim lessons completed. Johnson stated that the school was up at the pool for three weeks with lessons. Johnson stated that they are wrapping up the second session of group lessons this week. Johnson stated that they are having private lessons this week as well. Johnson stated that they had issues with the pool boiler this season but has it working now. Johnson has had chemical deliveries ongoing to keep the pool chemically balanced. Johnson stated that he found a large piece of the pool filter flake off that is scheduled to be replaced in the off-season. Johnson stated that they had their monthly meeting at the pool and went over staff expectations and did some guard training including back boarding, rescue practice, brick diving and lap swimming. Johnson stated that Miller Construction made it in to install the new window in the concessions room. Johnson stated that this will allow the staff in that area to see the pool facility to see what's going on and assist if there is a need.

## **Parks/Cemetery Update**

Johnson stated that the airplane project is looking great. Johnson went to the council meeting with Jake Blitsch this past Monday and the airplane area was approved to be named Saur-King Jet Plaza. Johnson stated there is a September 25<sup>th</sup> dedication date planned for the airplane plaza.

Johnson stated that this past month in the park department the employees have been mowing and maintaining the all the city properties with limited staffing. Nate replaced a seat on a picnic table that was broken at Platt Park and completing more spraying around City properties. There was a great turnout at the campground the two weeks with the holiday weekend and Celebration. The airplane project is moving along as they have put on the new stencils and ran the electrical lines for the lighting. On the first Monday of the month, Johnson met with the tree board at the shop as we talked out the tree planting coming up this fall. Nate took time out of his busy schedule to attend the safety meeting at Fire Department to learn more about hearing loss. The little library was installed at the new location by the Sacred Heart gym this week as well. The park department moved this from Wings School as it was being tampered with at the Wings location. At the campground there was a tree that fell over, luckily on the edge of facility and did no damage that was cleaned up. At Woodlawn the guys took some saplings out that were growing in the bushes up in Memorial. Also, at Woodlawn the guys took down a dead ash along 13<sup>th</sup> avenue and a dead arborvitae tree in section 13. Nate took the stump grinder out and took care of several stumps from dead ash trees we took out. Spraying of weeds and sweeping the trails as part of our routine was completed. Part of a tree broke off at Reidy Park so the guys got it cleaned up this week. At City Park we took out the center post of the main entrance while we had the loader out there and will remove the rest of the posts at some point as we do not need the old gates anymore. The end of last week we took down a dead ash tree near the airplane project. It took longer to get it down with the new light poles there, but it is down, and we will grind the stump when we can. This week we complete watering of the newer trees at Redgate Park as we have not had any rain for a while. Craig and Carolyn have been doing a great job keeping the campground looking nice and helping split wood for campers. The guys replaced a swing at Redgate that was cut by someone this past month. The department took advantage of the dry weather and removed a dead ash tree at Wings that was in a low area. This tree had to be taken down with the bucket truck as there were a lot of obstacles in the area to avoid. The employees have been busy installing anchors for basketball hoops at Wings Park this past week and spreading the last of the safety fiber in Reidy and Levin Park. The guys did some adjustments to the dog park gate to the little dog area so the dogs cannot escape. The guys did some work to a few campground pads to level them out this week as well.

Johnson stated that they were able to take the sickle mower out and knock down some areas along the trails. The guys started taking down some of the ash trees at Woodlawn as well that were planted along the waterway. Johnson stated that someone had planted 14 ash trees along the waterway years ago and stressed the importance of diversifying tree selection when planting trees. Johnson stated the park guys

installed new goal setter basketball hoops at City Park this month that are a CIP item. Johnson took the maintainer to the sports complex parking lot to smooth out any ruts. Johnson showed the board the totals for the campground, shelter reservations, cemetery burials, and a list of other projects that they have ready to start work on.

**Board Member Updates:** None

**Adjournment:** Jorgensen 5:58pm

**Next Meeting:** August 15<sup>th</sup> @ City Hall