



Agenda

Park & Rec Meeting

Platt Park

Monday May 15th, 2023 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelweinparks.org

Call to Order:

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

Attending:

Absent:

Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the April 17th, 2023, meeting

Motion:

2nd:

Aye:

Nay:

Citizen Comments:

Recreation Update

Trails Update

Aquatics Update

Tree Board Update

Parks/Cemetery Update

United Way – Day of Caring May 5th

Board Member Updates

Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 19th



Minutes

Park & Rec Meeting
City Hall

Monday April 17th, 2023 - 5:15 PM

Park and Recreation

www.oelweinparks.org

Call to Order: 5:15pm

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

Attending: Bouska, Burkhart, Gearhart, Johnson, Jorgensen, Garrigus, Stasi

Absent: Meska

Approval of Minutes

- Consideration of a motion approving the minutes of the March 20th, 2023, meeting

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

Citizen Comments:

Sean Bentley and Charles Wengel spoke to the commission about an amphitheater project that they would like to raise money to install at City Park. Bentley stated that it would have bathrooms and be ADA compliant. Bentley stated that the council is aware of the project and would be willing to add matching funds. Sean said that they have bingo and food available on Sunday as a fundraiser. Sean stated that they would like to complete the project in sections, complete the foundation and raise more money and complete the project.

Anthony Ricchio stated that he is turning the soccer club over to the rec program. Anthony said the 3 goal sets would be part of the deal that the city would receive. Anthony said that he and Sean Sauser feel this would be a great way to expand the soccer program including in all in the rec program. Anthony spoke on what the club had for facilities and maintenance. Ricchio stated that there are currently 3 levels with 25-30 kids currently. Gearhart asked if there is room for additional fields and that they would have to use baseball outfields to accommodate.

Jake Blitsch asked if funding was received to replace the city park sign. Johnson stated that they were not given funding for the sign aspect of their grant proposal to the foundation. Jake stated that he has \$2-3k that he can contribute to putting in a new sign.

Recreation Update: Burkhart stated that they hosted their first soccer games this past Saturday at the complex. Burkhart stated that they have 18 teams k-6 with 155 kids. Burkhart stated they had pictures with the great weather that day. Burkhart said they are working on little league schedules and t-ball and blast ball registrations are coming due. Adult softball apps have been sent out and they hired a tennis instructor with hopes of another hired soon. Burkhart stated she is applying for a vista grant to purchase some new equipment. 5k preparations are being made for the sesquicentennial this summer as they will need route approval. Performance rehab is supplying volunteers for the event. Burkhart stated they are hiring umps and looking for a diamond maintenance person and the wellness memberships are around 1500.

Trails Update: This week Johnson submitted a grant proposal to AARP for a trails project. This past month Johnson received the yearly check from the charitable foundation for trails for **\$250,000.00**. Johnson stated that he had the employees conduct some trail trimming along the west trail before bushes and trees leafed out. Johnson has his assistant exchange signage along the trail crossings throughout town. Johnson stated that the new signage is the new highly reflective yellow-green signage with both the bike and pedestrian symbols. Johnson stated that he attended the upper explorer land meeting in Decorah and presented his

RRFB (rectangular paid flashing beacon) project to the trail enhancement committee for STBG (surface transportation block grant) funding for the 5th street crossing on North Frederick Avenue that he has brought to the commission in the past. Johnson said that unofficially he has learned that the project will be funded in the amount of \$46,140.80 as the grant requires 20% matching funds for a total of \$56,728.00. Johnson stated once again the price is to purchase the RRFB units, and all four corners of the intersection need to be ADA compliant with ramps and road markings will be included. Johnson stated that this is a great safety project for the community that will give everyone a safer means to cross the 4-lane highway.

Aquatics Update: Johnson stated that new manager Kim Lawless is doing great with getting things ready for the upcoming season. Johnson stated that they will finish up the remaining paperwork with the kids and then have the kids complete their lifeguard training. Johnson stated that they have plenty of staff for the season with several guards and staff returning. Johnson stated that he had a new concessions window made and the employees installed it this spring above the new window that was put in last year. Johnson stated that the employees installed the new stainless-steel low-board diving stand that was a CIP item. Johnson stated that it takes several weeks for all the park employees at the facility to get it ready for the season every year. Johnson stated that new cash registers were purchased for this season as the old ones were past their useful life and hard to reprogram. Johnson stated that he had the employees finish replacing the guard stand seats that were started last season. Johnson stated that the filter project was approved by council this past Monday to Carrico Aquatics in the amount of \$134,100. Johnson stated that the engineer is putting together the packet for the drain project for bidding as soon as possible.

Tree Board Update: Johnson stated once again that the tree board(city) received the 2022 Tree City designation for their work completed last year. Johnson stated that he learned that morning that the tree board was also awarded the Growth Award for 2022 as well. Johnson explained that this designation is given to communities that implement new programs in their curriculum that are built around tree-oriented programs. Johnson stated that after the tree boards last meeting they went and trimmed some of the trees at City Hall and the police department.

Parks/Cemetery Update: Johnson stated that the employees have done an excellent job this spring completing tasks as the weather has not cooperated. Johnson stated that they only need one more person and they will be fully staffed for the season. Johnson stated that Alliant Energy was in to install a new utility pole at Woodlawn to make way for the cemetery sign. Johnson stated that they have been keeping up on clearing drainage areas this spring with the melting snow and rain. Johnson said that the cemetery has been active lately, as after this week they have had 6 cremations and 11 full burials this year thus far. Johnson stated that he and Wiedemann removed two ash trees at Vets Park before the ground thawed out as they were in the middle of the park. Johnson stated that Chris J. has been busy grinding stumps, but the grinder had a mechanical issue and has been waiting on a part that the guys picked up today. Johnson stated that the disc golf signage has been installed at City Park this spring. Johnson stated that the guys have been working on the diamonds repairing and replacing fencing. Johnson stated that the employees have been completing various tasks including putting up volleyball nets, cleaning out shelters and grills, dragging graveled areas, and putting bathrooms together. Johnson stated that they removed several ash trees on the north side of Wings Park as Alliant had to drop the electrical service to the park for them to drop those trees. Johnson stated that they used the bucket truck to trim trees in the campground and along trails and in the parks this spring. Johnson stated that they set out the soccer nets, garbage cans and bleachers for the rec program and ordered portable toilets as well. Johnson ordered a semi load of mulch that the employees spread throughout the downtown area and other areas. Johnson stated that they burned off two of the prairie plantings this spring as they are prescribed burns every couple of years. Johnson stated to the board that he arranged for Alliant Energy to come in and install two new utility poles at the campground as an infrastructure improvement. Johnson showed the board a map of the poles that were removed and the new poles that they installed. Johnson stated that the lines were slack across the driveways and the way they aligned the poles there is no need for guy wires which helps with mowing the property. Johnson stated that they brought in 50 tons of road rock after they sprayed and evened out the camper pads to keep the built

up. Johnson stated that they hauled the new cemetery sign to Transco to be painted this last week. Johnson said the sign was painted black and will be put up on the existing pedestals on the east entrance of the cemetery. Johnson is hoping to get the sign installed before Memorial Day if possible. Johnson stated that the employees have been prepping some other small concrete projects so that they can pour them as well when they do the cemetery foundation pour. Johnson said that the ad was put in the paper for foundation orders this last week and citizens have until this Friday April 21st to submit their orders. Johnson also provided the monthly totals for the trail counts for the past year to the board. Johnson stated that the girls at City Hall are starting to take orders for shelter reservations as they have a pair this coming weekend. Johnson stated that the water has been turned on to most all the facilities.

Terms: Johnson reminded the board that they had two terms expiring this year, one has turned in renewal sheet, Johnson also stated that next month they will need to nominate a chair and vice chair – currently Connie Jorgensen is Chair and Gearhart Vice Chair.

United Way – Day of Caring May 5th: Johnson has been working with Joe Bouska lining up projects and material for the United Way, Day of Caring that will be in May. Johnson shared with the board a list of projects that they have planned for that day for the volunteers. Bouska talked to the board about the volunteers lined up and donations from local companies. Bouska stated that they usually start at 8am and that they finish between 12 and 1pm.

Board Member Updates: None

Adjournment: 5:52pm

Next Meeting: May 15th