

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.



TOWN OF HULL MUNICIPAL BUILDING

4550 WOJCIK MEMORIAL DRIVE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54482

1) CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Hull Parks Commission was called to order on April 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. by Parks Chairperson Dave Wilz at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: Chair: Dave Wilz, Committee Members: Carmen Coey, Maurice Stoltz, Mike O’Keefe, Brian Hicks, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman.

Excused: Jim Mendyke, Pete Kaminski

Others: Katrina Hittner & Jason Wendt.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 HULL PARKS MEETING. *Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the Sept. 15, 2016 Hull Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed with voice vote.*

3) CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. AGENDA ITEMS ARE FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: NONE.

4) ANNOUNCEMENTS; CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.

- Dave Wilz explained the basic make up of the Parks Committee and how the meetings are run to the new prospective member. Although some years are spent getting/installing new equipment and trees for the parks, we are currently more in a maintenance mode with the parks. Although in the past the Parks met 6-8 times a year, we are now down to about 3 times per year.
- Well #11 Update – we have scientists and hydrologists involved trying to formalize a plan to address the strategy moving forward into the future. A scientific plan to get compensation for Hull citizens if their water is affected by the pumping of this municipal well. We hope to have this plan completed this year.
- The Hull Water Committee is working on developing a water monitoring plan for Hull in conjunction with a local hydrological consulting firm to help identify key areas of the town for additional water monitoring.
- The Hull Waste Site (leaves and brush) opened this past Saturday for the 2017 season.
- I-39W Speed/Safety group working on lowering the speed limit in that area. Working with an engineer and DOT. Lowering the longer stretches from 45 mph to 35 mph.
- U.S. Cellular cell service, a site visit will happen Monday. Looking at wetland delineation and waiting for the ground to dry out a bit. Should be done this year. Should help to give coverage to current areas that are lacking cell phone service.
- Conditions of parks are remarkable this spring.
- Grant Larson invited to this Parks meeting but was unable to attend. Park Commission members felt it was a good idea to have Grant Larson at an upcoming Parks meeting, maybe the summer

meeting, to share his perspective of the parks as he does the routine Parks maintenance and cutting of the lawns.

- Mike O'Keefe shared that the Green Trail system is planning an extension with a walking/biking bridge off the cross country ski trail to go over the Plover River and connect to Brilowski Road. Using the high line utility area.
- John Jury, who lives in Hull, was very instrumental in starting the Green Trail project along with friends and supporters.
- Katrina suggested a map showing the location of the Hull Parks. Dave Wilz directed Patty to find/get a map like that to Katrina.
- Katrina also suggested the possibility of the Green Trail connecting to nearby Hull parks.
- Dave Wilz will talk to John Jury.
- Katrina wanted to know if the Hull Parks Commission is open to new ideas, other than doing just maintenance of the parks and the Commission members said they were open to ideas.
- Dave Wilz shared the City is very active with bikes and pedestrians, getting a grant to do painting and restructuring of roads to create bike lanes. Hull is redoing some roads and as we do, we widen them and provide accommodation lanes on certain roads that get more bike/ped use. Dave has been in contact with the City to see how they are doing this to get ideas and information that could be applicable to Hull and possibly use the same type of signage.
- Information about the Expressions Swing, located in 2 of Hull parks, for parent and baby was shared with Katrina and Jason. The instructions for the swing are located on the swing. Dave Wilz said after we had put ours in, Stevens Point put some in the City parks as well.
- Jason volunteered to put in some time finding cost effective, environmentally friendly fertilizer for Hull parks and Dave Wilz said he would save an empty bag of what we currently use so Jason can see the contents. It's Greener by the Yard from J-Mar. Hull doesn't use any kind of weed and feed because of its potential hazard to children. Jason is familiar with different types of grasses that can be planted for different types of scenarios that wouldn't need fertilizing.

5) SELECTION OF NEW MEMBER TO OPEN PARKS COMMISSION SEAT(S). RE-COMMISSION OF EXISTING MEMBER.

Wilz We invited Katrina here tonight to see what goes on and afterwards, if you feel you want to join this group, we can talk and put it on the next meeting agenda to bring you in.

- Katrina is very interested in joining the Hull Parks Commission. Dave Wilz will be in contact with her and get her formally on the next meeting agenda to be nominated and approved.
- Katrina grew up in Wisconsin Rapids. Her dad was in parks and recreation his whole life and she attended meetings with him. She is currently working on a project in Wisconsin Rapids for a fitness park for adults with adult equipment. It involves grant money being used. Suggested the possibility of sponsorship for funding of possible future ideas/projects for Hull parks. She is willing to share information that she has found regarding this.

Wilz We have one other person whose commission is running out this year. Carmen came in to fill out another person's position that hadn't expired yet. Hull Park Commission terms are for 7 years. Jim Mendyke's term will be up for renewal next year and Maurice Stoltz in 2019. There are 7 members to the Hull Parks Commission and a quorum is 4 members.

Brian Hicks nominated Carmen Coey for another Parks Commission term. Motion was seconded by Dave Wilz. Nomination was accepted by Carmen Coey. Motion passed.

6) REVIEW OF SPRING PARK INSPECTION SHEETS.

Wilz One of the big things we do at the first meeting of the year is to review all our parks. We've assigned Park Commission members to go out into given parks with an inspection sheet to note how the park has made it through the winter and what needs fixing. After reviewing the sheets at this meeting, we normally give the sheets to our Road Crew Foreman. I will give these sheets to Pete Kaminski.

- Although the 4 member road crew oversees the parks, the actual work in the parks, mowing, etc. is done by a part-time employee, Grant Larson, who has been doing this for about 3 years from about May through October working about 20 hours per week.

JORDAN ACRES – BRIAN HICKS

The northern most park in the Fairview area. Looks amazingly good. Somebody had picked up most of the downed branches so there are a couple piles of branches there. All the equipment looks great except for the small swing set. The support pole has a dent where it's buckled. It seems solid but suggest it be looked at soon.

SOMERSET – MIKE O'KEEFE

Somerset is the park to the south of Jordan Acres, off the Fairview area.

The park is in really good shape. Couple of picnic benches by the children's playground area need scraping. The wood chips by the swing set were dug out and piled up in front of it, needs to be raked out. From the wind storm, 2 pines trees down. One right through the middle of the kid's playground, didn't hit anything. Other one on the north edge within a couple feet of the neighbors' property. East side of park, neighbor put up a new fence that looks great. Baseball diamond area could use raking out for the summer. Was rotor-tilled last fall.

TREDER'S WOODLAND PARK – MAURICE STOLTZ

A block or so behind Target. Consists of about an acre lot at the end of a cul-de-sac where we planted some trees and grass. Sign looks good. No equipment there.

SORENSEN PARK – MAURICE STOLTZ

Behind the Mobile station on Hwy. 10 East. In good shape. One picnic table needs paint. From last year, the decision was made to grind up the lawn, re-seed it. But the re-seeding didn't get done last fall. So there's no lawn there right now. Needs to be re-seeded this spring.

MEADOW MANOR PARK – JIM MENDYKE

Out by North Second Drive on the east side of I-39 in a subdivision. A picture of the spinner that is cracked was shared. Looks like they tried to repair it but the crack is getting bigger. Spinner is 4 years old at most. Leaves and branches need cleaning up. The rest is good.

KIRSCHLING WEST ALSO KNOWN AS PLEASANT VIEW PARK – DAVE WILZ

Located on the west side of I-39. Located in the Kirschling West subdivision off of Country Club Road. Adjacent to Industrial Park near Spectra Print and Ki Mobility. Wintered well. 3 benches that need touching up. Chips need to be raked and added.

KIRSCHLING EAST ALSO KNOWN AS PLEASANT VIEW EAST – DAVE WILZ

Directly across the interstate from Kirschling West park. Park includes a wooded area with a walking path. 2 dead trees there. We try to keep the path clear. Wintered well. Need Grant to go through the walking path because there’s a lot of debris because of the winds.

EASTWOOD PARK – DAVE WILZ

Located north of Aldi’s and the Holiday Inn Conference Center off Regent Street. A 2-sided park with Regent Street side being in the Town of Hull and the other side being a Stevens Point park. Stevens Point side has a baseball diamond, our side has trees and park equipment. Shelter needs some shingle repair, some curled up. Walking trails vapor barrier popping through and needs more gravel on trail. Otherwise park looks good.

CONIFER NATURE TRAIL PARK – DAVE WILZ

Just a nature path with walking trails through the trees down the street from Kirschling Park East. This subdivision built in 70’s to 80’s. Backside runs up against Brilowski Road. One side of park is walking trail and shelter belonging to Hull, other side is Stevens Point’s with a basketball court, some playground things. We had a tree go down onto a neighbor’s fence and we took care of that last week for about \$300.

(There was no report from or about Plover Heights Park which is also mostly a nature trail down to the Plover River.)

Stoltz There’s a sign down along Hwy. 18 lying in the ditch. It’s lying flat so you can’t see it.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the review of the 2017 spring parks inspections sheets. Motion was seconded by Mike O’Keefe. Motion passed

7) PETE KAMINSKI REPORT. STATUS OF PARK SIGNAGE, TREES, SPRING FERTILIZER, EQUIPMENT.

Wilz Pete isn’t here tonight but he did want to share a half sheet we prepared regarding fertilizer. We’re probably the only municipality that puts fertilizer down. Most can’t afford it. We are so sandy and don’t have a lot of topsoil that it was felt we want to try to enhance the growth of whatever grass we had. So we went with a natural based fertilizer and we’ve been doing it every year. We do half of the application in the spring and the other half in the fall. The price is about the same as it was last year. Greener by the Yard, \$14.60 x 50 bags for \$730.

- Last fall, Pete was unable to get around to applying for the 50/50 DNR tree grant due to financial issues. Will try to apply again this coming summer/fall.
- Did use this grant 6-8 years ago. Obtained trees. Identified various needs within the different parks and worked with DNR people to get trees, get them planted, usually with some volunteer assistance. Last time planted over 100 trees in 8 parks. (Jason volunteered planting assistance for future tree planning projects. He plants trees for a living.) After 7 or 8 years, about half of the trees have made it.
- Regarding disc golf practice area. Dave didn’t follow through on that last fall due to budget issues in other areas. This would have cost around \$3,000 to \$4,000. Dave does have all the contact names of people to call to help guide us through the process.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks to accept Pete Kaminski’s report information. Motion was seconded by Carmen Coey. Motion passed.

8) REVIEW OF PARKS BUDGET – 2017.

- Haven't started using any money yet so it shows the money budgeted for the year's work within the parks. Budget is about \$22,000 for this year for Parks, same as last year.
- 20 years ago, the budget was about \$40,000.
- Years that we were buying equipment for the parks, the budget was higher those years, like \$30,000 to \$35,000 to pay for the new equipment.
- The budget sheet shared at this meeting showed only the funds budgeted for each account as no monies have been spent yet for 2017 within the Parks budget.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks to accept the review of the Hull Parks budget year-to-date for 2017. Motion was seconded by Carmen Coey. Motion passed.

9) ADOPT-A-PARK UPDATE.

- Eric Eckland approached us last year on behalf of Redeemer church to adopt Eastwood Park to assist with monitoring its upkeep.
- Brian Hicks shared that Eric has since switched churches. A lot of fluctuating things going on.
- Dave Wilz will call Eric and talk with him about what his group would be comfortable doing in the Eastwood Park. If the group still wants to participate, maybe they can rake chips into the holes.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks to accept the review of the Adopt-A-Park Report. Motion was seconded by Carmen Coey. Motion passed.

10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. *Dave Wilz suggested for the next meeting, we will meet here, handle quickly the approval of minutes and announcements, then go out and visit all the parks on a road trip. Return to the Hull office to close the meeting.*

11) ADJOURNMENT. *A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to adjourn the Hull Parks Commission meeting. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman
Hull Parks Commission Secretary
Town of Hull, Portage County