

**MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2019 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 Thursday, April 25, 2019 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, Jim Mendyke, Katrina Hittner, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Hull Road Foreman: Pete Kaminski.

Excused: Brian Hicks

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 HULL PARKS MEETING.** *Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2018 Hull Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Mike O’Keefe. 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; Park’s Chairperson and Park’s Commission members.**

DW April 30 the Hull Road Crew will be attending a training session on Wild Parsnip, a hazardous weed in our area that can cause bad blistering if encountered at certain times of the year. More information on Wild Parsnip can be found on the County website. Can be along paths, in ditches, and found in all townships except Linwood at this time. Hopefully Pete will be able to get material from the session that can be copied and shared with our people throughout the season.

DW Back in January of this year, a push by local residents/Pokasnoz group has started to request ATV use on certain Hull roads. ATV use is increasing all over the State. Hull will investigate it fully and see what the groups are proposing. Although this is a new topic for the Town, if anyone has ideas or suggestions, please share them with the Town. Hull is very urban so it poses additional challenges for ATV use. This would affect mostly the northern part of Hull. Town of Dewey already has some ATV uses/routes. Mike O. said they have a lot of ATV trails up in Vilas and Oneida Counties.

DW Green Circle update – they just opened another link in the Green Circle called the Schroeder Connection located along the riverfront area from Stevens Point into Whiting, near the old paper mill. Approximately 5.2 K in length. Named after Tom Schroeder, City Parks Director who is retiring and was instrumental in the Green Circle movement.

**5) Re-commission of existing member of Hull Park's Commission – Maurice Stoltz.**

A term is 7 years for the Hull Park's Commission and Maurice has done at least 2 terms already. The Park's Commission is advisory to the Hull Board.

*A motion was made by Katrina Hittner to nominate Maurice Stoltz for another term on the Hull Park's Commission. Motion was seconded by Carmen Coey. Motion passed.*

*Maurice Stoltz agreed to serve for another term on the Hull Park's Commission.*

*Recommendation for Maurice Stoltz to serve another term on the Hull Park's Commission will be passed along to the Hull Board as the Park's Commission is advisory to the Hull Board.*

**6) REVIEW OF SPRING 2019 PARK INSPECTION SHEETS.**

This information is shared with Pete K. who also passes it along to Grant Larson who does Hull parks maintenance during the summer season.

**Meadow Manor Park – Katrina Hittner**

One large limb down in ball diamond area.

Digger could maybe use paint this year.

Sandbox, maybe rake leaves out.

Overall – park was wet with a lot of branches to pick up.

Jim Mendyke has inquired about the ball diamond and how much use it gets. It's grass right now, but if it was dirt, it might get used more. Pete will dig down in the area to see what that base is like. He thought it was full of clay and it tends to hold water in the spring. He could spray the grass to kill it, then work the area up, till it. DW encouraged Pete to investigate the base and see what's there. Maybe there is sand down there already. Subdivision might get some use out of that with new families.

**The Pipe – Katrina Hittner** (not a park, but a recreational area)

Potholes need gravel or new logs. A lot of bumps on the way in.

Muddy from recent flooding, otherwise good.

Pete said when recently checked, the water level was about 4 feet above the road area out there.

**Red Bridge Area – Katrina Hittner** (not a park, but a recreational area)

A lot of wash out, mostly west/south side.

More gravel needed. A significant dip off the bridge.

Bridge needs paint. (Landowners out there are Jim Grubba and Paul Leonard)

Pete has talked with Tom Witt from Consolidated about the washed out Walkush Road. Consolidated reimburses Hull for labor, materials, time to repair the road. Pete will haul in around 30-50 loads of granite, etc. Last time it washed out bad was around 2010. In the 20 years Pete has worked for Hull, this is the 5<sup>th</sup> time they've needed to fix that.

**Somerset Park – Mike O'Keefe**

Bottom rail of balance beam needs re-staining.

Ball diamond infield needs to be worked up.

Ballpark could use its own garbage can.

All 3 benches need scraping and re-staining.

Blue bouncy button is cracked through middle of seat. (Pete has a new replacement to install)  
Both picnic tables need scraping and re-staining.  
One of the swings needs repainting. The repaint job isn't sticking. Pete will investigate a better paint.  
Mike said years ago, Sears made a product called Gutter Grip and it helps paint adhere to the surface.  
East path sign needs re-staining. Currently there is a cable line across the entrance.  
Dead trees on north and east edges. One leaning over and several have limbs broken off or hanging.  
Remove dead and leaning trees.  
Overall- park in good shape.  
Pete will cut down the broken and damaged Jack Pines.  
Mike noted there must be new families north of the park because weekends have good traffic in the park with kids and families.  
A cable of some sort was on the east entrance that went up a tree and down another. Mike didn't know how long that was going to be there. Looked like a utility thing put in during the winter until the ground thaws.

### **Jordan Acres – Brian Hicks**

*Brian was excused and not at the meeting. No report was submitted.*

### **Sorenson Park – Maurice Stoltz**

Garbage can lid is cracked.  
3 pine trees need to be trimmed because of snow damage.  
Overall- park in good shape but might need bark chips added by end of summer.  
Pete and the Commission felt it was okay to cut down the damaged Jack Pine.

### **Treder's Woodland – Maurice Stoltz**

Park sign might need paint by the end of the summer.  
Trees are in good shape. Although only about 4 deciduous trees left out of all the ones that had been planted previously.  
Overall – park in good shape.

### **Eastwood Park – Jim Mendyke**

Bench by horseshoe pit has warped boards.  
Jungle Gym needs paint.  
Dirt in horseshoe pit can be tilled/backstops need painting.  
Gravel on paths/trails could be tilled.  
Overall – park in good shape with plenty of equipment and trees.  
Pete said the City put in the walking trails and the City is supposed to maintain them but he is not aware of the City putting anything on the trails so far. DW will investigate the agreement with the City.

### **Pleasant View West – Dave Wilz**

Benches could use scraping/touch up.  
Some brush to be picked up.  
All areas with chips need work and some replenishing.  
Overall –park in good shape.

### **Pleasant View East – Carmen Coey**

Benches have peeling paint and need re-painting.  
Digger has peeling paint and needs re-painting.  
Picnic tables are peeling and need to be smoothed and re-painted.

Slide paint is peeling and has rust. Need to re-paint.

At the border of the park, suggest more trees to separate park from highway to help absorb sound. A good spot to put some of the trees from the DNR tree grant. Maybe White Pine which grows fast and spreads out.

Paths and trails need more bark/wood chips, some roots sticking out.

Overall – other items in good condition.

### **Conifer Acres – Carmen Coey**

Picnic tables are peeling and in need of re-painting and smoothing.

One of the trees is split and needs to have the hanging limb cut.

### **Plover Heights Conservancy – Pete Kaminski**

One big White Pine and 1 oak got uprooted this last summer.

There are 4 more dead Norway Pines under the power lines.

Also 1 big White Pine dead, big Norway Pine dead.

Water level high, about 1½ inches under bank.

Trees planted last year look good.

## **7) Pete Kaminski report. Status of park signage, trees, spring fertilizer, equipment.**

In Meadow Manor Park, there's a maple tree with a dead portion that needs to be cut down. Somerset – some Jack Pines need to be taken out. Trimming of the maples should be done by the professionals, a certified arborist. Don K. would like to meet the person first. Mike O. said there are a couple of professional arborists in this area. DW suggested Pete work with Mike O. on that. Do not need to bid out that portion. Pete would like to prune trees in Somerset and Jordan Acres this spring out of the \$2,100. DW reminded Pete to have 1 or 2 of the Hull crew watch the arborist trimming to learn how to do trimming. Somerset Park bouncy button will be replaced, Pete already has replacement. Jordan Acres-- will clean up branches. Conifer Acres-- clean up trails with limbs that came down.

Fertilizer will be worked on next week.

DW spoke about park signage, address signs for all the parks, putting a fire number on all the park's main signs. The sign would have the number, the street name and Town of Hull. Those signs could be any color. Nothing was specified but probably something other than brown, maybe red and white. All Hull parks have been assigned an address through the Portage County GIS system including Jordan Park which is a County park but located in the Town of Hull. At the next Hull Board meeting, DW will have the Board talk about the possibility of putting an address sign down at The Pipe. We did get an address for that area too. For safety and emergency issues, The Pipe should have an address sign. This was quite a project and took Barb B. a lot of time back and forth with the County. The County GIS will help us get the addresses into our website so it will pop up on maps. Once the Board approves the addresses, then the address signs can be ordered and installed on the main park signs.

## **8) 2019 Urban Forestry Grant – Re-establishment of Park Tree Program for Hull.**

Pete spoke about the tree grant which he applied for last fall. Hull was awarded the 50/50 grant; \$3,600 from the DNR grant and \$3,600 from Hull. Don Kissinger (DNR forestry for our region) approved the tree list and Pete sent out the list for bids but got nothing back. Therefore, Pete can now go out and get the trees from wherever he chooses. Pete will call Don next Monday. Trees can be planted in the fall if

necessary, but prefer the spring. Pete read through the list of trees and Mike O'Keefe commented on some of them. Mike indicated some of the trees on the list are difficult to keep growing (delicate) in a park type area and others drop pods so could be messy. Mike suggested some other options to consider. Don K. spent a half day with Pete and DW back in February and toured some of our parks. Don suggested doing either training on proper tree pruning or using some of the funds for getting a professional arborist in to properly trim existing trees. Hopefully, with Hull road crew watching to learn the methods for the future. Some discussion about maple trees. Although they grow quickly and well, they can be finicky and react to drought, too much water, sunscald in winter, cracking. Looking for diversity in trees for our Hull parks.

Jim Mendyke suggested getting Mike O'Keefe involved in the discussion with Don Kissinger, as Mike is very knowledgeable about trees.

Katrina H. thought getting trees more native to our environment was a good idea.

Mike O. said specimen trees are great in people's yards but they don't make it in a park setting because of the special care they need. Basswood trees do well around here. Flowering crab trees are good. Pete shared the tree list with Mike who has catalogs at home where he can look them up for details on those trees.

## **9) Update on Adult Park Fitness Equipment information (Katrina H.)**

Katrina H. supplied pictures she had taken over the winter of the new adult fitness equipment installed near the river in Wisconsin Rapids. Installed in early December 2018.

Katrina said members of her family plus a few friends had this idea to create a fitness park in Wisconsin Rapids and did fundraising to cover the costs. As it's right below the hospital, Aspirus contributed, the City of Wisconsin Rapids paid for the labor and there were other donators. They worked with an equipment company out of Eau Claire called Dynamic Fitness. KH shared a price sheet from Dynamic Fitness showing some of the prices of the various pieces of equipment. This company does a lot of cross-fit gyms with basic metal pieces, also high school gyms but starting to specialize in outdoor equipment. The Wisconsin Rapids park is maybe their 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> outside park. There is one in Eau Claire. One of the group volunteers is a coach and also a physical therapist and advised the Wisconsin Rapids group on what equipment would be best. They anticipate having a ribbon cutting ceremony possibly this June for the new park to give it some additional publicity. They chose around 7 different pieces of equipment. They will eventually install signs with each piece of equipment to inform users of how to use the equipment. It will also include a plaque to mention who the donors were. The Wisconsin Rapids mayor has already tried it out. Equipment is used for stretching, balancing, ab exercises, etc.

Katrina didn't know if this was a good fit for Hull and if so, which parks would be best? She thought if it could be in a park closer to the City, or somehow connected to the Green Circle, or perhaps develop a relationship with Stevens Point parks. KH spoke about possible ideas for funding such as partnerships, fundraising, connecting with Stevens Point parks (Eastwood is already a shared park with the City).

Discussion about possible locations. One idea being a few pieces in one park with the idea that people could bike to another park with some other pieces. Mike O. suggested having the information on the website and explain it there for users to take advantage of it.

DW said this is the first one of it's kind close to our area and he's interested to see how the Wisconsin Rapids park takes off. See what the interest level is to help guide us in our decision-making. Katrina doesn't have a lot of user information yet but will watch how it develops and keep us posted. She said because this is by a hospital and has a walking loop; it gets a decent amount of traffic. Hull's parks are more rural so may need a different connection to either other parks or in a park with a lot of homes around it. Mike O. said a lot of people jog or bike ride, even older people so if you provide something at a park where they can get off their bike, stretch a little; that might be a good idea to try a couple pieces.

Jim M. said all the equipment at the various Hull parks have gone through updates at this point. We added the Expression Swing even before Stevens Point had them and it's nice to be innovative. He felt in terms of other equipment, the parks are pretty well set with the standard type park equipment and aren't in need of any more kid-friendly equipment. So we're at a point we could look at this adult fitness equipment and watch how the new Wisconsin Rapids park develops in terms of usage.

Mike O. said there are a lot of different vendors out there and he has researched some on-line. But he felt going with a regional vendor is more appropriate.

Katrina said they chose the vendor because they were regionally located in Eau Claire and although the equipment was delivered, they could have picked up the equipment and saved more money (around \$500). This equipment is simple, functional, easy to use and subsequently should be easy to maintain.

Pete thought Eastwood Park might be a good choice since the City of Stevens Point owns half the park. It's a big park with walking trails. There's plenty of room in the park and it's surrounded by subdivisions, duplexes. Heavy residential area with maybe 80-90 homes just in the Hull area. Stevens Point has more residences in their area on the other side of Eastwood Park.

DW said all Hull parks are residential parks and you usually don't see the parks just driving around. More for those in the immediate area. DW said years ago, the Green Circle had some workout areas using natural elements with posts but there may have been some legal issues. DW thought it would be interesting to have the new equipment on a busy portion of the Green Circle since the GC has over 100,000 users.

Katrina asked about Bukolt Park, which is very close to the Town of Hull, but located in the City. Connecting to it was a thought since that is a very used area. But it's Hull residential next to it Bukolt Park and the residential land next to it might not be available to purchase for public use.

Maury said the only place the Green Circle is close to Hull is right across the street from the Hull Municipal Building. That part of the trail does get quite a bit of use.

DW said he's really interested in the usage of the new park in Wis. Rapids and Katrina will keep us posted via e-mail through Patty A. Although that area does flood periodically when the river widens during floods, this equipment will get a test of how it holds up under those conditions.

DW agreed with Jim M. that we wanted to observe/consider this new type of equipment as it comes into use in other locations. Want to get some numbers, some usage. He's glad it's happening in Wisconsin Rapids.

Katrina stressed that fundraising, memorials or working with some other larger organization could be considered, maybe foundations. Jim M. mentioned there is a very generous family near the Eastwood Park and Jim would be willing to help in the contacts.

Maurice S. said Somerset would be another busy park to consider. There are 400 homes in that area. It's fairly close to a portion of the Green Trail. It might be another possibility.

**10) Review of Hull Park's budget – 2019.**

*As it is early in the year, nothing has been spent yet to speak of for the Park's budget.*

**11) Date of next Hull Park's Commission meeting: WED. JULY 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**

*Discussion about Thursday meetings. Some of the Park Commission members found Thursday difficult to attend so it was agreed to change the meetings to Wednesday's instead. Everyone felt the time of 6:30 was still okay. Next meeting will be WEDNESDAY July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.*

**12) ADJOURNMENT.** *A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to adjourn the Hull Parks Commission meeting. Motion was seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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