

MINUTES

Town of Hull Park Commission

September 9, 2020 – 6:30pm

Town of Hull Municipal Building

4550 Wojcik Memorial Dr.

Stevens Point, WI 54482



1. Call the meeting to order: The Town of Hull Park Commission meeting was called to order on September 9, 2020 at 6:30pm by Chairperson, Dave Wilz at the Town of Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Dr. Stevens Point, WI 54482

Present: Dave Wilz, Maurice Stolz, Jim Mendyke, Mike O'Keefe, Katrina Hittner (speakerphone), Pete Kaminski-Hull Rd. Foreman, Barb Brilowski-Hull Deputy Clerk & Jan Way-Hull Supervisor attending as a guest.

Excused: Brian Hicks & Carmen Coey.

Stolz: I make a motion to move #5 (Plover Crossing Trail Presentation) up on the agenda to be presented before the rest of the meeting.

Mendyke: Second.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

5. Plover Crossing Trail Presentation:

Wilz: A little background; Jan Way, Brian Hicks, Jim Mendyke and I saw a presentation on this concept via Zoom. Since that point, the people from the Green Circle Trail regarding this concept have presented to our Board. It met a little pushback. I wanted to bring this to the Park Commission because it is an important concept and if any commission should look at it, it should be us.

Mendyke: The whole idea of the Green Circle trail is to hook up different parts of the community. What I liked about this idea is it will be extended off Hofmeister Dr. on the east side of town where you are landlocked. This will give people the opportunity to go down Hofmeister Dr., across the Plover River, through marshes and meadows and hook up by Golla Road located behind the old Fleet Farm, which will give people access to the Ice Arena and soccer fields and vice-versa without going through so much traffic. (Intersections on Hwy. 10). Therefore, it really completes the Green Circle Trail by encompassing the whole city and takes you through a beautiful area of Stevens Point that most people have not seen. I am very much in favor of this project.

Jan Way: Tori Jennings, alderperson in Stevens Point, contacted me. She wanted to know other people in the Town of Hull that had business relationships with the downtown that might see the benefit of linking those two sides of town. I suggested a few people I was aware of. Bannach School is in that area. The kids that live in that

neighborhood would be able to bike to PJ Jacobs and SPASH. All of my family that live here use the Green Circle Trail.

We have a Town of Hull Comprehensive Plan. In Chapter 10, we adopted in 2014 the *Portage County Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan*. It says: Providing opportunities for citizens to integrate bicycling and walking into their everyday life is essential in maintaining the vibrancy of the community and enhancing quality of life. Increasing economic activity and cleaner air are some of the benefits.

The Town currently has strong connections to the larger urban area and will work toward providing its residents with an internally efficient and useful non-vehicular transportation network that connects logically to the larger urban area network. That to me says it all.

Wilz: The three (3) players in terms of this movement are Tori Jennings, retired professor from the university. The second is Dan Kremer, the new Director of Parks for Stevens Point. The third is Steve Menzel, the current President of the Green Circle.

It is interesting that both sides of the trail begin in Hull and end up in Hull. That is why they have come to us to find out how this will work for the residents that live in those areas.

I am providing you with information on the annual usage of the various trails. I am providing this to you because we received pushback on this. It has been stated that this is a lot of effort for little usage. The following is the annual usage for the indicated trails:

University Trail – 54,492	Iverson Park Trail – 61,045
Riverfront Trail – 92,850	Moses Creek Trail – 10,653
McDill Trail – 42,409	Brickyard Trail – 26,660
Plover River Trail – 21,275	Whiting Crossing Trail – 26,717
Paper Mill Trail – 13,675	River Pines Trail – 32,912

It is interesting that the Plover River Trail which is the segment we are talking about is the lowest used of the trails with 21,275. However, if you divide this by 365 days, it is about 58-60 people per day. We are lucky in the Town of Hull if some of our Parks have 60 kids per month using them. If you look at this way, families can use this, not just kids.

The other issue is this is an extremely expensive endeavor. This will cost between 1.5 and 2 million dollars. It is important to get the grant in order to proceed. One of the things they want in preparing to get this grant is to get communities behind the idea. This is why we are talking about it tonight. I want this commission to ask the questions they need to and then vote if this is a good idea to continue to pursue. I will then report to the Town Board on the action taken tonight.

K. Hittner: We use the Green Circle Trail a lot. Is there any expense to the Town of Hull?

Wilz: Nothing is listed. They will try to get up to a million dollars in grant money which will not be enough money to finish this project. They will need to raise money and they may knock on our door but that has not happened yet. They are just asking for our support as a community member.

K. Hittner: Will we be doing maintenance on the trail?

Wilz: All the maintenance for the current Green Circle is done by Portage County. The Green Circle pays them to do the work. This part of the trail because Stevens Point is

applying for the grant has to be maintained by Stevens Point. This is a connectivity trail so it needs to "always" be open even during the winter. It is part of the grant.

M. O'Keefe: Are they going to provide a place for people to park?

Wilz: They need to have a public information meeting for immediate communities on both sides so they can ask those questions.

Mendyke: On the Hofmeister side, there is good parking there now.

As a member of the Park Commission, I make a motion to support the Plover Crossing Trail as outlined.

M. Stoltz: *Second.*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE!

2. Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2019:

M. O'Keefe: Motion to approve minutes.

M. Stoltz: *Second.*

Motion carried by 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 & Members:

Wilz: Huge election year. New Clerk plus Covid thrown into the mix. Pleased how things are coming together.

6. Selection of new member to open Park Commission seat(s). Re-commission of existing member – Mike O'Keefe – 2027:

Wilz: Mike, would you consider continuing with the Park Commission?

M. O'Keefe: Yes.

Wilz: *I would like to nominate Mike O'Keefe to continue with the Town of Hull Park Commission.*

M. Stoltz: *Second.*

Motion carried by voice vote.

Oath of office given by D. Wilz and taken by Mike O'Keefe.

7. Pete Kaminski report – Status of park signage, trees, spring fertilizer, equipment.

We continue to mow the parks and water the trees. Two (2) out of the forty (40) trees planted have died. One was at Sorenson Park and the one at Meadow Manor Park was actually snapped off. We first began mowing in May and we also fertilized in May. We replaced several of the Park signs, repaired some picnic tables and benches as well as painting. We spread wood chips minimally as the price was double this year. We also cut a few trees down.

M. O'Keefe: Motion to accept Pete's report.

M. Stoltz: Second.

Motion carried by voice vote.

8. Review of Park's budget – 2020 and 2021:

D. Wilz: It has been ten years since we purchased our current riding lawnmower. It probably has some life left in it but on the other hand, we may need to think about replacing it so we can have continued success. We plan to put it in our capital budget as replacement of that machine. Pete has been doing some research on other machines but it looks like we are leaning toward the same type of machine we have now which is a Kubota. I would ask you Pete, to check with the City of Stevens Point to see what they use.

The 2021-planned request is basically the same numbers as what we had in 2020. There is probably more money in there than we need but I know we did not do some things due to Covid. We have been at this budget level for seven or eight years but feel, we should be able to work with it.

M. Stoltz: You have the new lawnmower at \$13,500. Will you use some of our budget money towards that?

D. Wilz: No! We have some reserves that are designated for the Parks. I do not plan to use that but the Board could decide otherwise. I am going to put it into a request for large equipment. The \$13,500 is an estimate at this point and does not include the value of the current mower whether we sell outright or trade it in.

J. Mendyke: There is \$3,000 for playground equipment. Not sure what our most pressing need is. If we are going to look at adult exercise equipment, this may be the money we use.

D. Wilz: That dollar amount remains the same. We will pick this back up. Katrina, can you report on the adult exercise equipment from the WI Rapids area that you were monitoring?

K. Hittner: I can say people use it although I do not have a number. After 1 ½ yrs. it has held up very well. There is a trainer that would bring groups over to use it. I plan to look into Splash Pad ideas as previously discussed. I will report back as to the feasibility, pricing, etc.

D. Wilz: If there are no other questions, would someone move to accept this budget?

J. Mendyke: I so move.

M. O'Keefe: Second.

Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Date of meetings for 2021: Wednesday evenings @ 6:30pm

(4/14/21, 7/7/21, 9/8/21)

D. Wilz: It seems Wednesdays works best for most. The above dates are on the calendar. You will be notified as the time approaches.

10. Adjournment: M. Stoltz – motion to adjourn. M. O'Keefe – Second.

Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Brilowski

Barbara Brilowski, Deputy Clerk

