

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 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 Wednesday, September 11, 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: Maurice Stoltz, Mike O’Keefe, Jim Mendyke, Katrina Hittner, Patty Amman, Pete Kaminski.

Excused: Brian Hicks, Carmen Coey

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 10, 2019 HULL PARKS MEETING.**
Motion made by Katrina Hittner to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2019 Hull Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Jim Mendyke. 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 announced a new task force is being formed by Hull for storms/emergencies. If anyone has ideas to share regarding items to go into a flyer the task force will prepare, let him know. They would like to prepare a flyer/literature/pamphlet as a citizen resource to inform Hull citizens how to prepare for, deal with storms and emergencies and what local resources are available including County and Town assistance. Trying to be proactive in sharing information before another emergency event. Flyer might go out with tax bills, or information included in Town newsletters, etc. If anyone is interested in being a part of this Town of Hull Task Force, contact Barb B. at the Hull Town office.

A presentation was made at the recent Hull Board meeting by Kelly Zagrzabski from Wisconsin Public Service on how WPS responded to recent storms and power outages. Over 170,000 people in the area lost power at different times and for different durations from that storm. They replaced over 26 miles of wire. One of the worst storm related power outages in the past few decades. Kelly had suggested people call 211 to find out locations to take refrigerated items, etc. during power outages. The Town would like to get the word out on resources and information to Hull citizens.

5) PARK INSPECTION ASSIGNMENTS FOR SPRING 2020.

In reviewing the spring 2019 park assignments, everyone was okay with keeping the same assignments for next year, spring 2020. If there is any park that, for whatever reason, one of the commission members can't get to for inspection, the other members are happy to fill in and take that park, or Pete K. was willing to inspect any park as well. Based on the spring 2019 inspection assignments, the following will be the assignments for the spring of 2020:

Meadow Manor -	Katrina Hittner
The Pipe-	Katrina Hittner
Red Bridge-	Katrina Hittner
Somerset-	Mike O'Keefe
Jordan Acres-	Brian Hicks
Sorenson-	Maurice Stoltz
Treder's Woodland-	Maurice Stoltz
Eastwood-	Jim Mendyke
Pleasant View West-	Dave Wilz
Pleasant View East-	Carmen Coey
Conifer Acres-	Carmen Coey
Plover Heights Conservancy	Pete Kaminski

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to duplicate the inspection list assignments for next year, 2020, from the 2019 assignments. Motion was seconded by Katrina Hittner. Motion passed.

6) REVIEW OF HULL PARK'S BUDGET VS. ACTUAL (YTD).

(This was included in with the discussion of #7, 2020 budget.)

7) DISCUSS PRELIMINARY HULL PARK'S BUDGET FOR 2020.

Dave Wilz shared a budget sheet with the Commission members showing 2019 figures and proposed 2020 budget figures. He predicted Hull would be at or just below the 2019 budget for the end of the year of 2019.

For 2020, DW proposed \$21,050 for Parks which is about \$3,500 less than 2019. This is because in 2020 there will not be the cost of trees that were planted in 2019. No tree grant and so no costs associated with that.

Pete K. said looking forward, he would like to purchase a new mower in the 2021 year. The current one was purchased in 2010 and it was projected to be good for about 10 years. The current mower is a diesel. Although it is running good now, it is important to plan ahead for routine replacement. Pete felt it would cost about \$15,000 for a new mower.

Pete will be doing fertilizer this fall for around \$980. Pete was trying to get wood chips but the usual supplier filed for bankruptcy and he cannot get them from there anymore. So Pete did not anticipate

getting any wood chips this fall. Usually we spend about \$1,500 a year on wood chips for the parks. Katrina H. will check with her husband about a source for hardwood chips and if she finds something, she will email the information to Patty to pass along.

Pete said he needs the clean hardwood chips for the fall zones under the play equipment in the parks but for the walking trails, something else could be used that might be more a mixture of chipped/ground up wood just to keep the trails from getting muddy. Pete will also speak with the City of Stevens Point who grinds their own wood/trees and may have some to share for use on our trails. There is no cost for this. Park Members felt this was a good idea.

A motion was made by Jim Mendyke to accept the discussion of the Hull Parks budget for 2020. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.

8) MAINTENANCE REPORT, UPDATE ON REPAIRS FROM SPRING INSPECTION SHEETS – PETE KAMINSKI.

Pete shared his list of items repaired from the spring inspection sheets. There was one load of wood chips left over from the tree-planting grant and that was hauled out to Meadow Manor Park. New boards were purchased and installed on the picnic table in the same park. New signposts were put in Kirschling East and Sorenson Parks. Some new park signs were made. Meadow Manor posts by the baseball diamond were painted. Swing seats that were cracked were replaced at Meadow Manor Park, Sorenson and Eastwood Parks. Kirschling East, replaced boards on picnic table and painted. Sand put in sandboxes in Sorenson, Kirschling East. Still to do is the fertilizer this fall. Mowing is still happening, probably until early October. Pete said if there is a need to mow, as long as he doesn't go over the budget amount, he will have the mowing done.

Dave W. brought up the fertilizing of the parks as it has come up at times with the Hull Water Committee and how that affects groundwater. Some years back, Hull went from a weed and feed type to just a straight fertilizer. Pete thought we've been doing that for the past 10 years. This was done to keep the weeds out and help the grass to fill in. This seems to have worked. The applications were cut in half with half being done in the spring and half in the fall. The Water Committee is concerned about nitrates in the groundwater. But the parks have been looking very good over the past several years and Mike O. said the Town has quite a bit invested in the parks and to not fertilize the lawns, it could cause a degradation of the lawns. Pete said many homeowners are fertilizing their lawns almost every week. But he does it twice a year. Katrina asked if we could go to one application a year instead of two and Dave W. explained we are already really at only one application but it is split in half with half in the spring and the other half applied in the fall. It used to be 2 times a year, full application each time. Discussion about the fact that if our parks lawns aren't any good, people won't want to use them or play in them. Dave W. shared that he uses some fertilizer in spring and mid-summer then fall on his lawn and his nitrate level is around 7 ppm. But by mid-winter, around Feb. when he tested the water for nitrate, it was down to 3 ppm.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to accept Pete Kaminski's maintenance report on repairs for the parks. Motion was seconded by Katrina Hittner. Motion passed.

9) IDEAS, GOALS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR 2020.

Discussion about ideas for parks to find different ways they could be used included using Treder Woodland, which is currently mostly just an open green space, for possibly a community orchard or community garden area. Although that park is identified as a drain field/county water management area in the middle of the property, the sides along the edges might be suitable for use for planting fruit trees or small garden plots. Discussion about how to water and what it might take to put in a hand pump/shallow point for seasonal water source. There is no electrical source either. Questions about spraying for insects for fruit trees. Grants that might assist this kind of project might not allow chemical spraying. Also, spraying would add more costs and labor. Parking is also a concern at this location. Currently not any significant parking space at the end of this cul-de-sac for Treder Woodland. Mike O. talked about what kind of fruit trees might do well in this area (pear, apple, plum). Katrina said we could start small and maybe add more over time. We would need to discuss idea with surrounding neighbors to get their input and Katrina suggested we reach out to these neighbors sometime this coming winter to see how they would feel about a community orchard/garden in this park because this could potentially bring more people into that area. Dave Wilz said he had talked with the owner of Happy Feet (Steve Schultz) who has a home bordering this park and this homeowner was open to gardens. Pete K. felt Meadow Manor might be another park that would have possibilities for this kind of idea. Water table is fairly high in Meadow Manor Park. Dave W. said this could be a possibility in many of Hull's parks as most of them have big, open areas that could accommodate something like this. Katrina was willing to investigate this idea more over the winter. KH would contact Barb or Patty first to see what the best options would be to reach out to the surrounding neighbors regarding this idea. Where water table is high, those parks might be a good candidate for a hand pump to water garden/fruit trees. Katrina H. suggested an earlier meeting in 2020 as fruit trees would need to be planted fairly early and the paperwork would need to be done beforehand. Dave W. will investigate grants for these kinds of programs. Pete K. suggested starting out small, maybe in one park. If it doesn't work out, then don't pursue it further. A test park.

Dave W. will contact Don Kissinger for updated information on grants. DW will also contact the new City of Stevens Point Park's Director to introduce us to him and talk about what we are thinking about with these ideas.

Discussion about nut trees in parks. Some varieties take a long time to grow.

Katrina H. offered the idea of a 'splash pad' for a park. Something similar to what is in downtown Stevens Point but larger. Used by 1 to 6 year olds during summer as water sprays for them to run through and play in but do not have standing water. Usually a cement pad with water shooting up that kids can run through. Places that have one include Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa, Port Edwards and the Town of Rome who have all gotten them within the last year. Katrina thought they got them through grants. Grants might be available for funding. Katrina is willing to do more research on the grants/costs. She'll check with Port Edwards to see how it works for them and the costs associated with it. There are questions about public utilities and maintenance. How to keep it safe for users. Does the water need to be chlorinated? Katrina thought the best Hull park for this might be Conifer Acres which is shared with the City. Maybe the expense could be shared between the two municipalities. Eastwood Park is another shared park with the City. Katrina said Portage County does not have a splash pad. Wood County has 3 or 4 of them.

Katrina said we don't want the parks to be a dying thing and what can we do to make them evolve into the next useable idea. What can we do different with the parks to make them come alive again with the new/next generation.

IDEAS:

Community Orchard (Earth Day in 2020 is April 22nd)

Community Garden

Community Nut Trees

Splash Pad(s) for small children in a park (Katrina suggested when Dave W. contacts the new Stevens Point Park's Director, perhaps suggest a joint project with the City on a splash pad project. Katrina would be happy to meet with Dave and the City Park's person as well if needed.)

Monarch Butterfly restoration/gardens

Prairie grasses

Disc golf (practice areas or a smaller 4-disc area)

Pete said the disc course next to the municipal building is busy all summer and

Maurice S. said the one on Patch Street is also busy.

A motion was made by Dave Wilz to follow up on the research of these ideas and suggestions, preferably before January 1, 2020, and if needed, call the Park's Commission together again before winter ends to discuss findings. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING FOR SPRING 2020 will be Wednesday, April 15th, 2020.

Wednesday seems to be the preferred day for meeting for this group for now.

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. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

