

MINUTES – HULL PARK’S COMMISSION

Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018 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 Park’s Commission was called to order on Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. by Park’s 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) **ON-SITE VISIT TO HULL PARKS.**

On-site visits were done for 3 Hull park areas including Sorenson Park, Pleasant View Park East and Conifer Acres Park. This was the third session of on-site visits with two other on-sites done previously this year. This took about 45 minutes. The last of the parks will be viewed at on-site visits in 2019.

Sorenson Park – This is a good size park with mixed equipment (new and old) along with a grassy ballpark area. The grass was worked up and re-seeded last year and looks great now. Flat and green without all the bumps and weeds. Maurie Stoltz, Park’s member who lives in this neighborhood, said the park gets good usage by young families who live in that neighborhood. The park is located not too far behind the businesses that are on the south side of Hwy. 10 East. A fairly quiet area.

Pleasant View Park East – This park is located immediately east of I-39 and therefore gets a lot of traffic noise from the Interstate. But the kids and people that come to the park don’t seem to notice the noise. Nice equipment in the park, climbing wall, spruce trees planted years ago doing well. A chain-link fence that Pete K. thought belonged to the neighbor bordering the north side of the park. There is also a walking trail through the woods located on the east side of the park. If possible to fit it into this year’s budget, Dave W. suggested Pete might want to put more wood chips on the trail. Large roots stick up in places and could be a trip hazard.

Conifer Nature Park – This park is mostly trees, bushes and trails with a nice picnic shelter built as an Eagle Scout project. The park is contiguous to a Stevens Point park and there is a joint park agreement between Hull and Stevens Point for this area. The Stevens Point park has traditional park equipment, open grassy area and a nice basketball court with cement pad. The two parks complement each other well.

All three parks were in excellent condition and the Park’s members appreciated being able to visit and see for themselves what each park contained and looked like. Pete and the Hull road crew staff are doing a great job maintaining these parks and it shows in each park.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 12, 2018 HULL PARK'S MEETING.

Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2018 Hull Park's Commission meeting. Seconded by Carmen Coey. Motion passed with voice vote.

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

5) ANNOUNCEMENTS; CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS. *No announcements.*

6) PARK ADDRESSES UPDATE.

- Dave Wilz explained this is about 99% coordinated with the people at Portage County who assign numbers, with a few kinks to work out yet. DW needs to contact Mr. Schroeder with Stevens Point Parks regarding Conifer Acres Park. Hull has an address and DW needs to find out if he has an address to the City side of the park.
- Off of Y, the Portage County park – Jordan, is within the Town of Hull. There are two sections of those parks. DW needs to explain to the County park staff what we are doing with address signage so they understand why we'll be putting up address signage.
- The last item to work out is out by The Pipe. What type of signage to put at the corner bend of Granite Ridge/Pine Bluff. The Pipe is another few hundred yards down towards the river. "To the Pipe recreational area" was one suggestion with the number down by the river. This is a sensitive area and people that live out there don't want more signs advertising the area in any way. But it's a safety issue too and this area could be really in need with ice fishermen out there in the winter. Dave W. will run this past the Hull Board of Supervisors.
- After DW makes his phone calls (including a call to Mike Pagel who just numbered their township a few years ago) and runs this past the Hull Board, then the signs could go us either this fall or next spring.
- Katrina H. suggested a 'Park- this way' to indicate a Hull park in the area. But other members said we already have a lot of signage on our streets and didn't want to add more. Also, these are mostly neighborhood parks and the neighborhoods they are in know about them.
- Jim M. asked if this project was the idea behind 'sign the town' but DW explained the 'sign the town' was more of a 'welcome to the Town of Hull'. But with town boundaries going in and out everywhere, that has not been practical so far.

7) UPDATE ON TREE GRANTS.

- At the last meeting, we had a lot of good discussion on this. Got more information on the grants, how they work. Pete K. did a lot of work with Don Kissinger and understanding the tree grant. There are options on how to use the grant money. It could include thinning and pruning of existing trees, getting expert arborist advice or follow up advice from them on what we should be doing with our trees.

- After some discussion, it was decided to apply for the maximum grant amount of \$5,000 which is a 50/50 grant (Hull would spend \$5,000 and get a \$2,500 reimbursement from the DNR grant program).
- Some of the money can be used to reimburse for labor at \$15 an hour.
- Not all parks may need trees. Concentrate on those parks that need more trees.
- Pete noted the spruce trees planted along the highway are doing well. The spruce trees tend to grow well in our area.
- If we can't get the advice we need from the DNR, there are good arborists in our area we can tap into for advice on trees suitable for our area.
- Pete said we need to get the application in by October 1st. We would need to pick out trees by that time too. Last time we did a grant, we planted 54 trees. Pete listed out what we planted back at that time by the various parks, which ones lived and which ones didn't make it. A lot of the deciduous trees didn't make it despite watering them for a few years.
- Pete went on-line to find out the best 20 trees suggested for this area.
- Mike O'Keefe also did some research on trees that do well here. Balsam Fir, White Pine, White and Green Ash, American Basswood, Quaking Aspen, Big Tooth Aspen, Red and White Oak, Hawthorn, Shagbark Hickory, Common Hackberry.
- Pete would like to sit down with Don Kissenger and discuss the trees since Hull has to order them from a nursery. But Don wants to see what trees we would plant. Pete wants to inform Don that most of what was planted/suggested last time didn't make it so we need something different. Pete wants drought resistant trees.
- Discussion about which parks could use more trees. Sorenson Park could use some.
- Mike O'Keefe suggested getting trees that are more mature – 3 to 5 years old, that would have more established root systems. But Pete felt the younger the trees, the easier it is to get them established. Jim M. said we should allocate some of the funds for advice but we need to get a list to the DNR by Oct. 1st.
- DW said Pete should give Don K. a call and ask if we need to specifically pick out the trees now. Explain we would like to use some of the grant money to get some local professional advice on tree selection for our area, soil needs, etc.
- The Commission wants to go ahead with applying for the tree grant and DW has put funds in the 2019 budget to cover the possible expenditure for trees.
- Last time, the nursery used was McKay and the trees were guaranteed for one year. Most lived for 1 ½ to 2 years before they died.
- Pete felt if we get new trees, we'll need to water them for at least 3 years. We have a 1,100 gallon tank now for watering.

A motion was made by Katrina Hittner to authorize Pete Kaminski to apply for the DNR tree grant and learn how to maximize the best maintenance for our trees (current and new ones). Seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

8) PARK INSPECTION ASSIGNMENTS FOR SPRING 2019.

- Park inspection assignments for spring 2019 are the same as for 2018. See below:

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

- Park Inspection sheets are usually sent out to the members a few weeks before the spring Park's meeting.

9) REVIEW OF BUDGET (YTD)

- Dave W. explained he added \$5,000 for the tree grant by shifting funds from other areas of the Park's account (the playground equipment) over to the tree grant expense. The net expense for 2019 would be the same as it was for 2018. The goal is not to exceed the bottom line of the budget.
- Two bouncy buttons have been ordered to replace some cracked ones that were no longer under warrantee, at \$325 each.
- Pete said he will be putting fertilizer in the parks this fall which comes out of the landscaping portion of the Park's budget, which will run around \$1,800 to \$2,100.
- Discussion about what 'other – bikes and peds' included. Dave explained the County had put together a County-Wide Bike/Peds plan to identify best routes for walking/biking to schools etc. Every County municipality got a copy of the plan and maps. There was a metro plan and also an urban plan to travel throughout the County in the best, most efficient, safe way for bikes. The routes were all mapped out. There was to be special signage to identify these routes but the various municipalities either didn't agree on what the signage should be, or didn't get together on what to choose. The City finally did their own signs around a year ago. They've been painting bike lanes. Dave has spoken with the City and the City has invited Hull to send a representative to join the City on their Bike/Ped Committee, to sit in on the meetings and learn what the City is doing and see if we want to connect with that. Katrina H. is interesting in learning more about that or being a Hull representative for Hull at the City meetings.
- Pete asked about the 4-foot accommodation lane for the North Second Drive renovation next year, should we paint bike lanes there. Dave said we should check with the City and see how that is working out for them. The City got a \$50,000 grant to do this. There may be some area in Hull where this could be implemented.

A motion was made by Jim Mendyke to approve this proposed Hull Park's 2019 budget for submission to the Hull Board for approval. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.

10) DISCUSS PRELIMINARY HULL PARK'S BUDGET FOR 2019. See above (#9).

11) MAINTENANCE REPORT – PETE KAMINSKI.

- Pete Kaminski gave the following report on maintenance done in the parks:
 - Pleasant View Park West, cut grass, installed new kids swing, added wood chips, painted 2 picnic tables.
 - The Pipe, emptied garbage cans.
 - Meadow Manor, 15 loads of wood chips added, cut grass, cleaned out sod in play area.
 - Treder Park, cut grass.
 - Eastwood Park, cut grass, added woodchips, painted 2 picnic tables.
 - Sorenson Park, added 5 loads of wood chips, scrapped and painted 2 picnic tables, painted 1 bench.
 - Hull sign (by Hwy. 66/Torun), weeding, cut grass.
 - Pleasant View East Park, added 5 loads of wood chips.
 - Somerset Park, added 5 loads of wood chips.

- Pete has some additional wood chips to put out yet. Also fall fertilizer. Just mowing now but most of the work is done for the summer.
- It was felt the parks looked great this summer.
- DW talked about fertilizer concerns that have been raised due to the potential of groundwater contamination and other issues. DW spoke about how the Hull Park's don't use any pesticides and do not use any weed and feed products or anything with certain questionable chemicals in it. This was decided for the safety of the children using the parks. Hull uses just fertilizer in the spring and the fall. This application helps choke out the crab grass and thistles. The Park's Commission had decided in the past to try to have as much grass in the parks as possible by using the fertilizer. Since we have been using this fertilizing technique, it has been a success. Also, the fertilizing was cut back by half a few years ago. DW said unless someone wants to prove with water samples that this is causing a problem, he does not want to back off from this fertilization in the spring and fall. We don't want the parks to be used less because of poor grass conditions due to lack of fertilizer.

12) IDEAS, GOALS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR 2019.

- The Town of Hull is developing a new committee which will be called the Road Committee but will also incorporate safety issues particularly for walkers, bikers and runners and general recreational uses of Hull roads. It will have citizen involvement on the committee. Most of the property taxes paid to Hull are used for roads which is the biggest expense the Town has. For most towns, that is the case with the biggest costs in infrastructure/roads. We want citizens to guide how those funds are spent. Hull is looking for citizen members for this new committee which will meet around five times a year. If you know anyone who would like to get involved with this new Road Committee, pass that name along to Dave Wilz or Patty who will get that information to the town chairperson. About 6 years ago, Hull had developed a safety plan which was never formally adopted. Maybe it can be merged into the new Road Commission process. Hull roads are used heavily by pedestrians. We have great roads and beautiful areas for recreational uses.

- Mike O. asked if there is room for bikes along Hull roads and Pete K. said only on a handful of Hull roads at this time. DW said as roads are redone, they try to add bike lanes or striping for their use. DW talked about Old Hwy. 18 where Hull had added a bike lane but it only goes up to where the road becomes part of the City. The City was supposed to add a bike lane on the City's portion of the road as well but it became a money issue and it didn't happen.

- Katrina H. talked about adult fitness equipment. Katrina will be sending information to Patty regarding an Eau Claire firm that is providing adult fitness equipment to a Wisconsin Rapids park by the end of this September. Katrina wants to see how that Wisconsin Rapids equipment gets used, how it will weather, give it some time to review. It's across from the hospital there along the river where grant money was used to develop the waterfront area. Katrina will e-mail pictures of that equipment, once it's installed, to Patty to share with the group. DW said up to now, what has held the Commission back from getting adult fitness equipment is the fact we didn't know of anyone around this part of the state that had used this in their parks. We don't want to put up expensive equipment that won't get used. KH felt the equipment Wisconsin Rapids is getting is basic, low maintenance, functional equipment. There is a bike path going through that area, it's across from the hospital where people might use it during their lunch hour, it's a very visible spot. KT said there is a spot in Eau Claire where they are using this equipment and it's been there for a few years now. KT will get both pictures and pricing information to us. Mike O. said Minneapolis has some of this equipment along the Minnehaha Creek walking/bike trail. Mike will be visiting that area within the next few weeks and will try to take a look at it. Maurie S. said areas of Milwaukee have it too along the lake front.

- DW – for next year, working with the City of Stevens Point on the Country Club Drive area / Kirschling subdivision area on the possibility of connecting the Green Trail from Plover to the area by LaQuinta Inn. There was some interest from a retired doctor in helping to fund the laying of a trail down in that area. DW had worked with John Jury earlier in the summer and John had looked at the area but felt there wasn't room for a separate bike trail due to utility poles on the City side of Country Club Drive. The cost of relocating utilities would be too expensive. The question had come up about when Hull might re-do Country Club Drive, the Hull portion of the road. It's not in the immediate future at this point. John J. said if/when we redid the road, we could put an extra lane on the side that the doctor/donor would pay for. Dave found out Hull has an agreement with the City in the sharing of that area in costs and how the road is used. Dave will see if we can work with the City in extending the Green Trail in a safe manor for bikes/runners. Dave also said they can't really put a separate walking trail on the residential side of the road because those homeowners have already given up chunks of their yard for previous projects. There's no more room over there. That road gets a lot of traffic, 8,000 to 10,000 cars a day. It's a safety concern.

- Jim M. liked the new 'logo' that was put on the Park's agenda with the tree, park bench and deer and thought maybe that could be used for other things too.

- Jim M. also got another request from the homeowner that has solar panels on their house adjacent to the Plover Heights Conservancy trail, that Hull trim the trees that are blocking the sunlight from their solar panels. Pete said we did that once in the past. Pete said he can look into that but it needs to be done by a tree trimming company since it's too high up for Hull equipment. DW said we had committed to those people to trim those trees.

- DW said next spring, if the snow is off the ground, we can complete our on-site visits to the Hull parks with the final 3 parks.

13) DATE OF NEXT HULL PARK'S COMMISSION MEETING – THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

14) ADJOURNMENT. *Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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