

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015 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, Sept. 17, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. by Parks Chairperson Dave Wilz at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: Parks Commission Chair: Dave Wilz, Committee Members: Janeen Cooper, Maurice Stoltz, Mike O’Keefe, Brian Hicks, Jim Mendyke, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman

Excused: Pete Kaminski

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 16, 2015 HULL PARKS MEETING.**

Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2015 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; CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.**

Stoltz Today there was an article in the paper about the lawsuit for the wells.

Wilz What that is, there’s 2 potential legal actions against the city. The first one is from the Town of Hull. We submitted a claim back in mid-June or mid-July. Our claim is that we have scientific evidence that proves to us that Well #11 has drawn down the water table. We put a claim against them to modify it so it doesn’t get any worse, to pay our fees we had invested up to that point which are around \$60,000 to \$70,000. The city has 120 days to accept that claim to see if they want to do anything, to figure it out and give it to their experts. During that time they can do 2 things; they can call us and say, ‘maybe you’ve got something there and we should sit down and talk about this right now’, or they can let the 120 days expire then it automatically clicks into the legal system and gets assigned a date somewhere down the road. That was the Town of Hull saying you’re affecting the water supply that affects households and we need to get that corrected. This other thing you read today is from the affected people. Gary Dreier, an attorney in town, picked up that group and is organizing that. More than 25 claims from the people were submitted, according to the paper, and it adds up to \$230,000. Their 120 days starts from when they file.

Stoltz I'd like to comment that I think the building looks beautiful with the stain on it.

Wilz It's got to be redone.

Stoltz Did they use an acid stain?

Wilz That's a concrete treatment and the concrete was colored and when it dried, some of it dried lighter than others. So if you go out there, you can kind of see the shadowy effect. So they've got to go back and try to uniform it up.

Stoltz I thought they may have used an acid stain on there to make it look swirly. It still looks a lot better than it did.

Wilz Any other comments or questions?

Amman People at the Plan Commission were noticing how nice the sign area looked at the corner of Torun and Hwy. 66.

Wilz It does. I turned that over to the Board and explained we had brought it up several times in this committee asking what are we going to do out there. We had some ideas but couldn't agree on anything. I told them we needed to do something, especially since we were finishing this building and wouldn't that be a nice time to do something out there. So I gave that to them and it's not the Parks anymore. They said okay and let's fix what we've got for now so it looks decent. It does, it looks good out there.

Stoltz Are they going to cut the hours back at the mulch pile drop off in October because it gets dark already?

Wilz Yes. We voted Monday night. We can't use the same hours in the fall we use in the summer. There will be a postcard coming out on or before October 1st. There will be October hours, then November hours because of Daylight Savings Time. We're not adding hours, we're shifting hours. We're starting earlier in the afternoon and ending earlier. Same days. Saturday's will be the same time 10 to 5. But instead of going from 2:30 to 7:30 weekdays, we'll be going to 1:30 to 6:30.

O'Keefe Is that working out pretty good here?

Wilz It really has. It's accomplishing what we wanted to do. We don't want to take anybody else's stuff (from other municipalities). We don't want to take any stuff that doesn't belong here. We monitor it and that's what we've done. I've asked the crew in the back, where are we now compared to where we were this time last year. We're down 70-80%. There was a compost pile that was out there for years. People kept putting stuff on there and throughout the summer, a farmer or anybody in Hull that wanted compost could come and get it and if they wanted a dump truck load, we'd bring it to them in they lived in Hull. Throughout the summer, we'd do about 20-25 loads. We also had a guy who runs a farm up here and he said this last summer, could he come in with his own equipment and take some of it and I said take it. That's how we used to get rid of it but the pile kept getting bigger. If you look out there right now, there's no pile.

Stoltz I know the last week or so someone hauled it all out.

Wilz We've taken no more piles out of there this summer than any other summer and the pile is gone. The volume is down substantially so it's working well. Now are we going to do it again next year? I don't know. We've got all the information as we've tracked it by half-hour periods how many loads have come in, what kind of loads they were, brush or compost, and we're also tracking the cost. About \$6,000 or \$7,000 so far and that was not a budgeted item. We'll decide as a Board if we want to continue that or do we want to not do it or do we modify it.

Amman Do we save money by doing this? No? So it costs us more money. So it's more expensive than what we were doing before. I wasn't sure about that.

Wilz We tried to get our hands around those numbers because Pete would come and say he had 7 dumpsters that he had to haul out. He had hot water heaters and other things that would fill up the dumpsters faster and so there were more dumpster loads. So we had some dumpster costs that were close to \$2,000. We've had zero dumpster costs. But we've had labor costs of \$6,500 so there's this trade off. If we could get by, after we're all done, where it only costs us a few thousand, I'd be okay with that but I don't want to spend \$6,000 or \$7,000. But the Town Chairman said that's what people want; they want to know it's controlled. People say they like it because they can get in without a traffic jam now and not getting nails in their vehicle. We found a furnace in there once. A man who came in with his dump truck last weekend said this stuff is great, it's so clean. I said yes, because we're monitoring it. He said not only are there no sticks, but there's no plastic bags, no kitchen sinks and no garage doors! I said you've got to be kidding. He said he's got them stacked down at the farm (from previous years). It just became that kind of a thing. We had a \$500 charge last year for something that someone brought in a barrel. Pete asked what he should do with it and I said call the DNR. We had to get a guy to come in and do something and that's what it cost. So it was that kind of stuff. But it's working well now. I was over at the Stevens Point compost pile asking them how they do things. He said, do you check everybody, and I said yes we do, unless they come in so often we know them. If we don't, we check them.

Stoltz Yes, the guy's wife asked to check my address.

Wilz I said why do you ask? He said you wouldn't believe how many people come over here and complain they can't get in over there (at Hull). I said how many is that? He said 150 to 200 people. That tells us something. I was wondering if that was that big of a deal and I guess it is.

O'Keefe People will dump stuff anywhere they can.

Wilz We just can't do that anymore.

Stoltz People spoiled it for themselves.

Wilz We'll see what happens but we'll get through this fall.

5) POTENTIAL PARKS COMMISSION MEMBER – CARMEN COEY.

Wilz I spoke to her a few weeks ago a couple of times and even called her back and suggested she come a half hour early so I could talk with her and get to know her a little. We got her address and e-mail and Patty sent all the stuff to her. So I don't know what happened to her. I was hoping to introduce a new parks member. Maybe we'll have to postpone that.

Hicks I will see her tomorrow so I'll ask. She's in this neighborhood. She owns something on Old Wausau Road I think. A relative's house. She has young kids.

Wilz Let's just leave #5 as an announcement. There's no action. We'll table it.

6) SURVEY FOR PARKS – BRIAN H.

Hicks You'll notice I sent you all a link.

Wilz I played with it on-line.

Hicks That was the goal. I was hoping it was quick and easy. If it just took you 2 minutes, that would be perfect. Janeen did the hard work in writing the questions. This was relatively straight forward. Did I get all the parks?

Wilz That I didn't check. We can go over that. I have a question. How do we integrate this to get it onto our website to get people to utilize it? What has to happen, just a download?

Hicks At the last meeting, I mentioned that maybe we could make the URL pretty, but we'd have to pay for that. I was going to look at this then I thought, you know what, the website developer is just going to put a link on there anyway so the only thing that is going to look goofy is when they get to the survey and there's more mumbo-jumbo on top. But I don't think that's worth paying for to change to pretty.

Wilz So we can send that to our web-person.

Hicks Except that's not the exact one but it will be something like that. I can hit the finish button then it will give me what that will be and I can send that to the web-person saying put a link on our website.

Mendyke In the Town newsletter do we want to refer them to the website or to this?

Hicks To the website. I would do the website because the URL will be ugly.

Wilz We'll do that in the spring before the newsletter comes out. We'll tell them on the website there's a survey they can fill out and we'll put some pictures. What you could do, check sometime this week on #3 and make certain all the parks are listed. I think they are.

Amman I think we have 11 but one of them is not actually a park (Granite Ridge).

Cooper On #5 and #6, why does it switch over to this arrow thing?

Hicks A drop down list. You only get one choice so there are a couple of ways to do that. There's 2 ways to do that. The age at the parks, you can only pick one from that, it's called a radial set. Do we need multiple choices there?

Cooper Yes, multiple users.

Hicks Because maybe you've got a 1-3 year old and a 4-7 year old. I need to change that to checkboxes. Checkboxes, you can mark as many as you want.

Cooper That question and the drop down box for #5 where it said needs improvements. Excellent, good, fair, or needs improvement. On yours it said 'needs repair' I think. If you just want to check that because I don't think that's what you meant.

Wilz Patty, if we go back into your office, do you have this displayed? We turned her computer on so if we want to show you something, we can do that.

Cooper Just check that Brian.

Wilz Patty, I wonder if we can get Janet and Barb along with you to look this over carefully with a critical eye to come up with suggestions so we can get them to Brian to make changes and complete it so it can go to the web-person.

Amman Yes. And I sent you an e-mail. Did you get that, about the 'board' vs. 'commission'?

Hicks About the Parks Commission.

Amman We're a 'Commission'. The 'Board' is the Board of Supervisors and that's a different group so we don't want to confuse people.

Wilz Yes, and they'll look for those things whereas I just look at this and think it's really cool. But if you can do that. I'm pleased with it.

Stoltz It's simple.

Wilz I like the fact that Jim said it was only about 2 minutes.

Stoltz The only thing that might take longer is the comments.

Wilz Thank you so much.

A motion was made by Janeen Cooper to accept the parks survey sample with the possible changes from Town of Hull employee's recommendations. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

**7) REVIEW OF BUDGET VS. ACTUAL – 2015 Year to Date and
8) PRELIMINARY PARKS BUDGET FOR 2016.**

Wilz You've got the year-to-date on this and we're in real good shape. For the 2016 budget, where I am right now, is to mirror image the 2015 budget with the understanding the Board can modify that. What they modify is always a reduction. But I'm submitting for 2016 what was approved for 2015. One of the things we want to discuss tonight is a piece of equipment Maurice found and how it works and its background. We took the approach this year and told everyone they have to start at zero base because we're not allowed to increase and if you do, you have to take it from someplace else. We've been living well within our means for the last few years but we haven't purchased anything but I'm hoping we can still purchase this fall.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks to accept the review of the Hull Parks budget year-to-date as well as the proposed 2016 budget. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.

9) EXPRESSION SWING – GAME TIME.

Wilz We have a copy of the picture that we sent out and included with your packet information. Maurice gave this to me at the last meeting. I saw it on-line and we're going to go back and look at this on-line on Patty's computer because I don't know if you've seen it. They're about \$1,000.

Stoltz But I see you have to buy the rest of it.

Wilz About half way through August I called and said, 'if I order one, how long will it take to get here because we'd like to get it in before the end of the season so they could use it'. They said 2 things; it'll take about 4-6 weeks, they don't have them in inventory, they build them. Then they talked about e-mailing us some waivers and I asked what's going on there. They said they're getting challenged. You can buy the swing and you can buy the stanchion that it goes in. I think that's an extra \$1,200 which I didn't like because that cost more than the swing. Then they said you can put it in an existing swing. We've got adult swings and kiddie swings. So I thought we could take one of ours out and put one of the new in there. It's not really clear yet and I don't want to buy a \$1,200 stand for the \$900 swing. He said wait a few weeks and this should get resolved so they can tell us which way to go. He called me back after a couple of weeks and said this is the way it has to go, you can use an existing pole but you have to take off any other swings. I think the issue was with 2 people on this new one, you might start colliding with anyone else on a different swing close by. The kiddie swings we have usually only have 2 swings on them.

So I wanted to show everyone this on-line and get your impression of it. I'm okay with buying 1 to experiment with and maybe even 2 this fall to get it into this year's budget money. But I want you to give me directions. I don't want to spend \$1,200 for a stand-alone plus you've got to cement it in. But it means giving up some equipment to get this into place. The swing itself is \$995. I wanted you to see it first because we're going to lose some things and is it worth it to you.

The other thing is, where would we put this? So let's take a break and go into Patty's office and look at it on her computer.

Stoltz We've got a couple new babies in our neighborhood so ours might be a good test site.

Commission members went to Patty's office to look at the Game Time website to see a short video of how the Expressions swing works, the colors available, etc.

Wilz So you see what that is. I'd like to get 1 and I'm okay with 2. Where do you put it? Where do you think we've got enough equipment that we could give up something to follow what they're suggesting to put this in.

Stoltz For the kids at Sorenson, we've got 2 horses and 2 of the little kid's swings on there.

Multiple talking about where there would be room or a good place to use/install the Expression Swing(s).

Wilz If we order it right now and it comes in within 2 weeks, I'm going to have Pete put it up, we could get a month and a half of use out of it. I have a feeling if somebody finds this, I'm interested to see what will happen because I think it's really cool.

Hicks It would be great. We have a comments section in the survey and I'd love to hear back from people on it.

Wilz He got back to us saying we've got to separate them and it's got to be by itself.

Stoltz It looks like it would hook up just like a regular swing. It's not that wide.

Wilz If you went through the pages of that website, they'd tell you can buy a stand-alone, you can use it in your existing swing set or you can buy a half a stand-alone that would attach like a wing to what you already have. But I don't want the guys to have to put more cement in still this year. So should we get 1 or 2?

Cooper I think we'll use it. I don't think giving up that baby seat will be a deal breaker.

Wilz Not that I'd put it in Pleasant View West, we've got 2 sets of swings, the big kids swing is a total of 4 in the center and the kiddie swing is just 1 with 2 in there. Should we buy 1 or 2?

Cooper Buy 2.

Mendyke At this point, I'd go for 2.

Hicks Yes.

Wilz We wouldn't be putting up any more apparatus, just be replacing something existing.

Mendyke Were we going to do something with the adult fitness?

Wilz We were going to do the survey first. Okay, we'll get 2. Any preference on colors? I was thinking of a dark green.

Amman Do you know where you're going to put them or are you going to leave that up to Pete?

Wilz When they come in, we'll figure it out. Where little kids are going right now.

Amman Where you put them might determine the color you want.

Wilz In my neighborhood, they're all older.

Stoltz Do they still have the daycare down the street?

Wilz She does. I could talk to her and say, if we did that, could or would you use that. That answer would probably be no because she's the only adult there with all the little ones.

Cooper We have lots of little kids.

Stoltz For us, during the day, you go by the park and people drive in. They don't live in the subdivision but they come to use the playground.

Wilz We can figure that out. Over by you or maybe Pleasant View East. I notice at noon-time there are families that come in there. There are probably 2 or 3 places we could put them in.

Mendyke Maybe even rotate them.

Hicks Yes, I was thinking of that. They'd be easy to move.

Cooper You'd find out in a hurry who likes them and wants them back.

Wilz If they are used, I'd have no problem buying more. We'd finally have something that is really used.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to purchase 2 Expressions swings still this year. Motion was seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.

10) MAINTENANCE REPORT – PETE K.

Wilz Pete is excused tonight. I asked him to tell me what he's doing now and what he's doing in reference to all the stuff on the inspection sheets we turned in. His statement for that is: "all worksheets for all parks have been gone through and all work has been completed". In addition to that, they're continuing to mow grass, raked in all the play areas, added all the chips, changed a few swing seats, cleaned up any dead trees, painted where needed, pulled out dead trees that were planted in 2012.

Stoltz There's 3 in Sorenson that are gone.

Wilz Cleaned up maintenance equipment where needed. There was lots of fungus growing on equipment this year. Greased up the play areas, the swings. Work remaining to be done this fall, mow grass a few more times, put fertilizer down, wrap trees, the young ones especially.

Some general discussion about swing seats being changed out. Some confusion as to whether the seats were changed from hard flat seats to strap seats or the other way around. Complaints from Pleasant View East. Dave Wilz will talk to Pete about that.

A motion was made by Jim Mendyke to accept the Parks maintenance report. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion accepted.

11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING IN SPRING OF 2016.

Wilz Following last year's schedule, we started last year a week or 2 later than before because the winter was so long. We started in April last year. If we do the same time, the same week, it would be April 14, 2016. That's what I suggest. Is Thursday night still good?

A communal yes.

Wilz Is 6:30 p.m. still good?

A communal yes.

Wilz We don't know about Carmen, she has children, 6:30 would probably work for her. We'll leave it at Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Thank you everyone so much for serving.

12) ADJOURNMENT. *A motion was made by Brian Hicks to adjourn the Hull Sept. 17, 2015 Parks Commission meeting. Motion was seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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