

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, April 14, 2016 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 14, 2016 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, Brian Hicks, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Acting Hull Road Foreman: Nick Kaminski.

Excused: Jim Mendyke

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 HULL PARKS MEETING.** *Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2015 Hull Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Brian Hicks. 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.**

Wilz We’re putting a push on in the next few months to finish the little things in this building such as the AV equipment and stuff outside.

We’ve had a wetter than normal spring. Last one was about 5 years ago. This year we had to shut down a few roads that were overflowing. We had some roads out in the I-39 West area by Casimir that were blowing up with all the water.

With Well #11, we’ve met 3 or 4 times and it looks like we’re heading in a direction that will resolve our issues, that is our hope.

This is Nick Kaminski, Pete’s brother. Nick has been on our road crew for 15 years. Back in October, Pete had a medical event and he’s still out with that medical event. But when I saw him the other day, he’s heading in the right direction. Pete was the foreman and head of the road crew and we put Nick in charge because we had to have someone in leadership with the rest of them. So he’s in that role tonight.

Amman I had sent out a copy of an article to everybody. They mentioned something in there about grants. I went to the website and printed out the information about the Kaboom grants in case anybody is interested. Regarding an award of \$15,000.

Some general discussion about grants, grant writing and the fact that sometimes it takes 3 years of writing and requesting the same grant before you get it. Fire dept. got some grants after 9/11 but that equipment now needs replacing and there are no longer those types of grants available from the federal government. Grants are available through private companies that have their own foundations. Patty Dreier used to be a grant writer. Dave Wilz has suggested to her to have a grant writing workshop and Dave would like to attend such a workshop. The Town of Hancock, which Dave helped in picking vendors, got a \$15,000 grant from Kaboom mostly because the town had nothing for a park and this helped them at least start one.

5) SELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO OPEN PARKS COMMISSION SEATS.

Wilz Last year Rollie couldn't serve any longer. We asked for help and we got Carmen and had her all set up but she missed the last meeting. So that position remained unfilled throughout the wintertime. Since that time, Janeen Cooper e-mailed me a few weeks ago. Her term is up and she said she didn't want to go beyond that. So now we have 2 positions open. I have contacted Carmen and she does want to serve on this board but she needs to be excused tonight. I said we're not taking any action until she actually shows up. I'm hopeful that's going to work out and we can fill that position. So we've got another position that's open that we found out about 3 or 4 weeks ago. I throw that out there. If there is anybody anyone of you know, you can think about it and bring it forward. Otherwise we'll get the word out from here. I've got one individual who stopped by 6 or 7 months ago who was here for another purpose and said, my wife wants to serve somehow in government. I've got the contact information for that home. That is certainly a phone call I can make. I don't know what their idea of volunteering was. I hesitated to do it until I brought it up to the group here. Think about anybody else you might have because we still have a position to fill.

Hicks Voting the other day I saw a guy that I work with coming to the polls. I didn't know he lives over here. I think he's in the Kirschling East area. I work with him so if I see him in the next few weeks, I'll mention it and see if he's interested. He's about my age. I think he's got 4 or 5 kids.

Wilz And Carmen Coey has 2 or 3 young kids. That's the kind of representation we want.

6) REVIEW OF PARK INSPECTION SHEETS.

Wilz This is for you, Nick. We'll walk through these and if you have any questions, just fire them off right away to get clarification. This is us talking about what needs to be done and handing the problem off to you.

Hicks JORDAN PARK – no net on basketball hoop. Bench near road could use scraping and paint. All the new equipment and stuff that isn't even so new looks fantastic, not even weathered. The bouncy buttons need to be washed down.

Wilz How do we do that?

Kaminski We've never washed them.

Hicks With a pressure washer, they'd be done. It wouldn't strip anything off.

Wilz Do we have a gas powered washer?

Kaminski No, not at all. We could pull up a water tank and take some soap out there with a brush.

Wilz I thought about this in previous years like for the new equipment over by me, the same thing. The plastic shows dirt. Other things don't.

O'Keefe A bucket of water and a magic eraser and that would probably do it.

Amman
cleaner? Did it come with any instructions when it first came that it needs any kind of special

Wilz I don't think so.

Stoltz Those are mostly made out of recycled plastic.

Wilz It's meant to be outside.

Hicks The digger looks great. The garbage can over there is in pretty bad shape. It's really rusted. There's a big crack along the bottom. I think if you tried to pick it up, it would probably fall apart. Right now, it's about 1/3rd full of water. It's not leaking because of the plastic bag. The jungle gym, that round thing, it could use a little paint. Merry-go-round, I don't know if it needs chips or needs them redistributed because there are spots where there aren't very many chips. Some of the signs are showing age with some cracks in them. Maybe replace within the next couple of years. The picnic table is still bolted to the basketball hoop and needs to get moved.

Kaminski Do you think we should open the parks up?

Wilz You didn't need to until now.

Hicks It's the first weekend it's really going to be nice.

Amman The next 10 days are supposed to be in the 60's and 70's.

Wilz I never knew when they started the park work. Pete had that down but do you remember?

Kaminski It goes with the weather. Like now it's warm, so we've got to get on it. Two weeks ago there was 4" of snow.

Wilz Along with that, you're concerned about the fertilizing and you need to get going on that as soon as possible. I don't know if you do or don't. That's the last thing we do in the fall. So you might not have to fertilize right away.

Stoltz Do you fertilize in both the spring and the fall?

Kaminski We have been. I did it last October.

Wilz Remember we split it in half.

Hicks The sandbox looks good and those things around the outside of it, those look amazing. The slide could use a little paint. The steps are probably the worst, starting to get a little rusty because the paint has worn so thin. Those spring rockers are the same as the bounce buttons, need to be cleaned. The baby swing set desperately needs some paint, really chipping pretty bad. The big one, it could use paint but it's not super critical. I noticed the swings were facing the road, with the baby swings. I never noticed that before, maybe it's always been that way. The spinny thing and the teeter-totter look great. The lawn looks good but there are some branches and some of those pine trees that are 50-60 feet high and have needles only in the top 5 feet. They're looking kind of sickly.

O'Keefe Jack Pines?

Hicks Yes. I don't know if they should come down, because they do add something.

Kaminski Do you guys want a net for that basketball hoop?

Hicks What have we done?

Kaminski We put one up last year but now you say it's gone.

Wilz It's one of those things you put it up every spring, then somebody gets a hold of it. I thought he said he had bought several of them and it wasn't like it a \$50 item or anything, fairly inexpensive. Sounds like chips around and some scraping and painting as needed and look at possibly some painting on some of those swings.

Stoltz I think they were painted about 4 years ago or so.

O'Keefe SOMERSET – The park is generally in pretty good shape. Need to dump the garbage from the garbage cans, left over from last year. The east access area, that wooded fence is totally shot. Either the owner needs to take that out of there or we should take it out. It's laying all over the place over there.

Wilz Is it dangerous? Are there nails sticking out of it?

O'Keefe No but if you try to stand up the fence, it just falls right over.

Kaminski Is it Hull's or is it the resident's?

Wilz I think it's the resident's isn't it?

Stoltz I thought it was the resident's fence.

O'Keefe I don't know if once the fence is gone, we would need to demarcate the path there. Maybe some small shrubs could be planted there with some small trees just to get that buffer back.

Wilz If the fence belongs to someone, I'm not going to mess with it. Now if it's a danger and people have to walk there, then I could approach the owner and make him aware. That's why I'm asking, are there nails sticking out.

O'Keefe It's not nails sticking out but parts of the fence are still standing. If you go to lean on it, it's going to go over.

Kaminski It was pretty bad last year already.

O'Keefe Is it worth it to go and knock on the guy's door? Say this thing is about shot, you need to get rid of it or something.

Wilz How long is that fence?

O'Keefe It runs from the ball diamond out to the street. It wraps around the guy's yard. There's a new person living there who didn't even put it up. All the trees look really good. The only thing bad was the yellow swing, the paint is flaking off pretty bad. It was brown before, then they painted it yellow but it continues to flake off. I don't know if there's anything you can do with it other than scrape it so it's not so sharp. Underneath the swings, the chips are right down to the mud so we need to either redistribute the ones that are there or add new ones. Everything else was in good shape.

Wilz What did the diamond look like?

O'Keefe The diamond, that could be raked out. The sand is real soft. The deer have been digging in it. I don't know what they're after. Once the weeds start growing out there, you can go out there and rake that up.

Wilz We bought that machine to do that. Even though the baseball practices that used to happen there aren't there anymore, this group decided, we have the machine and we'll keep that at a very high level for play and hopefully others will find it and use it.

O'Keefe People do use it. I see a lot of dads out there with their kids throwing the baseball. I've seen people out there using it already. The picnic tables, you need to move them out of the playground area. Kids probably drag it over by that spin thing. I see kids sit on it when it's over there. Kids hanging out there. They don't cause any trouble.

Wilz I don't know how many times Pete would work on that diamond. I think he said he keeps an eye on it and does it as many times as he feels it needs it. If it's starting to grow back, they go out and hit it down again.

O'Keefe When you enter the park on the west side, on the right side there are 2 or 3 big oak trees that are hollowed out and look like they're ready to come down. I don't know if they're on our property or on the property line.

Kaminski By that old road that used to go in? There's that steel pole there still?

O'Keefe Yes. Right along the border there. There's one that's really big but it's all hollowed out. I don't know how much longer it's going to stand up. I'd hate to have that fall over sometime.

Wilz Is that town property there?

Kaminski Yes, it's in the right-of-way.

Wilz Maybe when I get to one of mine, I've got some tree issues, we can take a ride and look at all the tree issues. Just you and I, make some decisions there.

Kaminski Okay.

Wilz The parks I saw all seemed to weather the winter okay.

Stoltz SORENSON PARK – Good shape. We don't do a diamond over there, just grass. Backstop in good shape. Garbage can needs emptying. The small kids swing set could use paint in the future, its okay but it's starting to fade. The chips need top dressing and raking. We lost 4 trees last year, the ones they yanked out. One day they were there, the next day there were gone. They were dead anyway. Everything looks good. Everything wintered over well. Unlock the picnic tables.

Stoltz TREDER WOODLAND – Everything looked good. The trees look good. I see last year you must have painted the sign because I see it on there for last year. It's only about a 60 to 120 second walk around that park.

Kaminski PLOVER HEIGHTS – Out there, there isn't much stuff.

Wilz You can stand in one place and just look around.

Kaminski All the signs look good.

Wilz Are the trails clean? Brush and stuff?

Kaminski Yes, they're clean. But I did notice Ashland goes in there to top those pine trees where that walking path is. There's like 5 pines right in a row that are right next to the trail we hit with the lawn mower to go back to cut. I'm assuming we should take them down. They're completely dead.

O'Keefe If you cut them down, will they affect the power line that is there?

Kaminski No. Ashland topped them a couple of years ago so the branches are just below the power lines. It wouldn't take much to cut them out of there.

Wilz I'm listening to the story and I'm trying to connect it to what we had done. I know there were trees topped because it was blocking the sun from the guy who had solar panels.

Kaminski But these aren't actually those trees. These are different ones.

Wilz Different ones, and they're dead.

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz Get them out of there then.

Wilz KIRSCHLING PARK EAST (Pleasant View East) – It wintered well. I would just go over there with a scraper and a little paint. All the wooden structures, benches, some are perfect then some have a board that's terrible. Some are flaking in some areas that we at least have to get it scraped down. We could use the chips touched up by the swing and slide. Don't know if we need more, or just rearrange them. The parking area, need to rake up piles of stones from the plow. I think just a rake will take care of that. Other than that, that park is in really good shape. We had that walking trail adjacent to the park and I walked it and it's nice and clear. We let trees generally fall over and do their thing in there but there's a couple of oaks that are really leaning and I'm just waiting for them to come down. We should go look at them. We also have an oak that is leaning out over Glenwood. We need to probably get someone with a cherry picker to do that one. I don't want to just drop it on the road. We need to take a trip and I'll show you the trees.

Kaminski Okay.

Wilz EASTWOOD PARK – which is off of Regent, everything came out really good. The only thing is on the picnic tables, the seats need scraping and painting, just the seats, tops were fine. Sand box was a little low on sand. The shelter looked good. Over by the horse shoe pit there is a bench, somebody built it, it's in the ground and you can't remove it. There are boards on top and the boards are screwed in and the screws are starting to pop. I don't think we want anybody to sit on those right now without torquing those in a bit. That needs some painting and scraping. The activity centers look great. That's been there a long time.

Wilz KIRCSHLING PARK WEST – (Pleasant View Park), which is over by where I live next to Spectra Print. The benches, 2 are in really good shape, 1 by the slide needs scraping and painting. Everything over there looks good. Chips needed all around. Snow plow repair out by Mary's Drive, same as like the other, dug in and need to rake out some things.

Wilz CONIFER NATURE TRAILS – (Conifer Acres) Conifer Park is right next to it. This is one of our shared parks. Everything looks really good there. The parks sign looks like it may need some paint, it's fading. I wouldn't make it a big project but if he has a little extra time, he could take a look at it and spruce it up. The shelter is a big part of it and that's in great shape. Chips are thinning out on the walking path. In some of the areas the mud is starting to come through so it's getting kind of thin. But it was wet when I was there.

Wilz MEADOW MANOR – Jim Mendyke did this and he e-mailed it to us. All the equipment looks like it is in pretty good shape. Grounds, leaves and fallen branches need to be cleaned up. There are a lot of woods around that park. The 3 lilacs we planted have buds. That's probably the first ones that have made it. How long has it been since we did tree planting?

Hicks I'd say 5 years.

Stoltz Those trees over at Pleasant View East, we planted those along the highway, those are now like 12 foot. Now they really look nice.

Wilz In his general comments, it was overall in good shape, could use some chips.
 It sounds like overall, the parks are in pretty good shape with the exception of what Brian and Mike had brought up.

Stoltz Cosmetic. At Sorenson on Sunday, I went walking there and there was a big branch hanging so I pulled it down and laid it on the ground. Didn't want it to fall on somebody.

Wilz You had asked a question on when to open these parks and what I'm hearing everyone say is we've got to get the garbage cans dumped. How big of a deal is it to have someone run around and take the locks off the tables and put them out, change the bags in the cans, put new cans in if needed and go around once a week just to get the garbage? Is that a big deal?

Kaminski It's no big deal.

Wilz Let's open them then.

Kaminski I can do it tomorrow.

Wilz The garbage, it's garbage from November.

Kaminski When do you guys want Grant (*Larson*) to start? Going through picking up garbage, branches?

Wilz You can talk to Pete about this because he always had this thing organized. My understanding of Grant is he would do some of this maintenance and he was capable of it right?

Kaminski Oh yes.

Wilz Not just cutting the grass but he would take the lists and did a lot of it. You could ask Barb to pull his time card from last year and ask when we brought him in last year. Last year at this time is almost identical to this year. Dryness and seasonal wise. So we could mirror that. If you want him to come in and start putting a few hours in to get the maintenance done, once it starts growing, especially early summer heat, that's all he can do to keep up. He doesn't get time until later in July when it starts drying and we cut back. The other thing is when it comes to cutting grass, we cut grass when we need to. It's not on a schedule.

Kaminski Right. I believe that's what we've gone to now.

Wilz Because if it's a dry summer, we don't need to go out and push sand around and blow weeds around.

Kaminski I'd like your opinion, at the 2 Kirschling Parks along the highway, why mow between the trees? We've always done it, cutting up to the fence on both sides. I think right between them, just leave the grass grow wild. Cut up to them but don't be zigzagging in and out. It's a waste of time and nobody is ever out there playing in those trees.

Wilz On the east side, over by Conifer, across from me. Isn't there a walking path that goes up behind?

Kaminski It comes out of that far corner but it goes right into the park.

Wilz It goes on the other side actually.

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz Last year at one of our meetings, I said why are we cutting all this grass in all of our parks? I brought it up to Pete and the group for those 2 parks. Why don't we turn that into grassland? Why don't we turn it into natural? Low maintenance. Let's get with the green movement. Pete was a little shy of that because he said if we let it go, we could have skunks in there and rodents and mostly ticks. I thought about it and thought, well, maybe I didn't have a very good idea. But as far as what you're saying, I know the parks. I live right next to one. I'm in there all the time. There is no one that goes back that close to the highway, along those fences saying, gee, let's play ball in the big evergreen trees. They just don't. Have him back up 20 feet and cut a straight line.

Kaminski I thought we could mow up to them. Don't cut inside of them and around it.

Wilz That's fine. But if we get any complaints, we'll have to go back to cutting. As long as we're open to that. But I'm willing to try it. Ask him to keep an eye out in case it starts to fill up with paper. We want it to look good. Any other questions in general about this stuff?

A motion was made by Brian Hicks to accept the review of the Hull Parks inspection sheets for spring 2016. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

7) NICK KAMINSI REPORT. STATUS OF PARK SIGNAGE, TREES, SPRING FERTILIZER, EQUIPMENT.

Wilz This is where you come in and you may or may not have anything to say and Pete sometimes doesn't have anything to say. If you've been out, anything you want to report, anything you've noted, talk about your plans for putting on spring fertilizer. Any equipment we need to think about, those kinds of things.

Kaminski Fertilizer is \$14.60 a bag. Should I go forward with 50 bags again?

Wilz Is 50 bags what we normally get?

Kaminski Yes. We do 50 in the fall and 50 in the spring. I'm the one who spreads it.

Wilz That's fine then. What do you put the spreader on the back of?

Kaminski On the John Deere. We bought that 2-point spreader. You can whip that stuff 50 feet. It only takes a couple of minutes per park.

Wilz Go ahead. I'll leave that up to you as to when you feel that needs to go down.

O'Keefe Are they forecasting rain for next week?

Kaminski Actually Monday.

O'Keefe I think the grass is going to start growing but I'd wait until after the first rainfall then put it down.

Wilz Anything else? We've bought some good equipment over the years. I think everything is in pretty good shape. How old is that riding lawn mower?

Kaminski That's about 6 or 7 years.

Wilz But that's a diesel so that should still go.

Kaminski Oh yes, that will be good for awhile. Equipment, you had talked about some new stuff?

Wilz We've got that coming up still. If we need to buy weed whackers and stuff.

Kaminski We're in good shape.

Wilz This committee has done well by parks since I've been here. Gotten really nice equipment over the years and it's good. All the moves we made for equipment, saved us money. Especially with our zero-turn mower. We went from 44 hours a week to 20 hours a week cutting grass.

A motion was made by Dave Wilz to accept the review of the Hull Parks report made by Nick Kaminski. Motion was seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.

8) REVIEW OF PARK'S BUDGET – 2016.

Wilz There's nothing to review because we haven't spent any money yet.

Stoltz How much did they give us this year?

Wilz It's about the same as last year. If it's off, it's only off a few hundred dollars. We're going to spend some of this money this year for playground equipment.

A motion was made by Dave Wilz to table the review of the Hull Parks budget year-to-date as there was no activity in the budget yet. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

9) SELECTION OF PARKS FOR NEW EQUIPMENT.

Wilz Per the group's recommendation, we ordered 2 Expression Swings. I was going to get them last year to get them into last year's budget. When I went to GameTime, they started asking lots of questions. There was a pending law suit. They said they'd tell us how to put these things up and it's not really a manufacturer's problem but if you hear anything, that's what it's about. I decided to back off. We got back in touch with them this new year. There was a little bit of a redesign on one of their Expression Swings. I don't think it had anything to do with this other thing but it helped the price go up \$150 per swing. But they're stronger and more well built. What the problem was, I think, on the potential law suit, and he was vehement when I talked to him in the fall and he was vehement when I talked to him in the spring. We can only put one of these, if we put these Expression Swings out, all other kiddie swings around it need to come down. I think that was the problem. I'm talking about our toddler swings. We've got single frame ones and we've got double frame ones. But whether they're single or double frames, there are always 2 kiddie baskets under each stanchion. I think what happened was they took one down, left the other one up and of course this Expression Swing, it's an apparatus and it's got some weight. I could see an adult and baby get cranking and all of a sudden hit a child on the other one. So when it comes time to install these, and I've got the spec. sheets, whatever frame we use, whether it's a double or a single, all the kiddie swings come off completely and we put this one dead center in there. So we'll go from 2 baskets to one. What I want to do tonight is select 2 parks where we can put these in when these guys are ready to install. I want it based off of what you guys think will have the best chance for high use.

Stoltz Our park – Sorenson – has 2 one-year-olds and there's a baby coming this spring so we've got little ones in the block or neighborhood.

Hicks It seems to be getting younger again. This over here, Somerset and Jordan. They weren't for awhile then I can think of a couple of baby / toddlers I've seen and younger kids moving around that I hadn't seen before.

Wilz I thought of this area immediately. When we were doing some work on Well #11, from what we found out, from Highway 66 up to Jordan, from Torun over to Patrician Pines, about 1/3rd of the homes and 1/3rd of the population of Hull live right over there.

Hicks I'm going to guess those are Wards 4-7.

Wilz Our population isn't very concentrated in this town but it sure is concentrated over there. So we've got to have one of them over there. So what are you thinking? Somerset?

Hicks I think Somerset.

O'Keefe Those 2 baby swings they've got there? The apparatus would go on that?

Wilz They'd use the same frame. I ordered 3 ½" because all the frames I saw were either 3 ½ or 5 ½ . That's a single frame over there with 2 basket swings in it.

Stoltz We've got a double one with horses on one half then 2 baby swings on the other half.

Wilz We can take one over there. I want it to have exposure. With freight, we're spending \$2,600. As we've learned in buying park equipment, you don't get a whole lot, sometimes even for \$26,000!

Hicks Not if you want good stuff.

Stoltz Those little spring things, the paint on those is just beautiful.

Wilz What color is the frame over there? Is it aluminum?

O'Keefe It's silver I think.

Wilz What is it over by you?

Stoltz Red and yellow.

Wilz Okay. That will work. When I went around I noticed we had yellow frames, we had silver frames. They had about 8 or 9 colors. They had a dark hunter green and I ordered 2 greens. So what I'm hearing is we'll select the new Expression Swings to go up in Sorenson Park and Somerset Park in the toddler area. I'll share the specs with you, how to build it and how to attach it.

Amman Did you order them just recently?

Wilz I started communicating with them and we actually placed the order about a week and a half ago but when I spoke to him recently, he needed a purchase order number to get into their system. So the order sat for 9 days. I gave him a P.O. number.

Amman Do they have them in stock or do they have to make them as people request them?

Wilz They're making them a little different because there was a change so I don't think there's a lot of inventory. I think the answer is normally you could call them up and there would be one on the way by the end of the week. But he said they've got just-in-time inventory. He said it would be about 3 to 4 weeks and I said that would be fine. Then we got them on the phone to make certain they didn't need a down payment or anything. It'll be here sometime in May. He said we always say that amount of time so people aren't waiting. This is not a big deal to build this, but GameTime builds a ton of equipment. Really cool but expensive stuff. I'm excited to see how this will be used.

Stoltz It was on Facebook and there were sure a lot of comments about it.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to approve putting the new Expression Swings in Sorenson and Somerset Parks. Motion was seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.

Wilz I got a phone call from a Hull citizen last week and she asked if there was any way she could get a teeter-totter put in over in Eastwood. I asked why Eastwood and why a teeter-totter? Her grandson lives by the park and he love's teeter-totters and we don't have one. I said we have a plan for our parks, equipment is expensive. We've got to listen to people but can't react every time someone says I'd like to have this or that. She said maybe there is a way she could pay for it. I told her we're having a Parks meeting next week and I'd run it past the group to get some input. I said I appreciated the potential offer. But I don't know if we can even put teeter-totters up anymore.

Hicks We have one, a newer one in Jordan. The pinch points are gone and I even think it's spring loaded. It's not long. Not like the ones we used to be on, the wooden ones.

Wilz We've got to have a plan. Even if you were willing to do this, I don't know if we have a proper or safe place to put this. With a fall zone. We ask for suggestions for the parks, and I got a suggestion. So we can get them. I went on-line and they still make them and we've got one over here in Jordan I can look at.

Hicks So are we thinking to let them pay for it? Can we?

Wilz Would you vote to put in a teeter-totter if someone requested it at Eastwood Park?

Hicks Sure.

Stoltz We've got the money in the budget to put equipment in.

Wilz We do.

O'Keefe In the park over by me (Somerset), it's kind of like a $\frac{3}{4}$'s one. It has flexible ones in between them. I don't know if you use it as a teeter-totter. I bring my grandkids over and they love that thing. They walk up and down it. They bounce up on it. They teeter-totter on it.

Kaminski It just kind of waves.

O'Keefe Yes. A lot of people use it. Even adults use it. I use it.

Wilz Whether we put it in as an addition to our park and pay for it out of our budget or we share it with her or let her pay for it or whatever, one thing is for certain, it's going to be what she wants, especially if she's paying for it. I'm looking for some direction on how to proceed.

Stoltz Do you really want to, are you opening up something with taxpayers voluntarily paying for something?

Wilz I'm trying to get input from you. I need to have that conversation with John and the Board. How do we deal with this kind of thing?

Multiple talking/discussion about could they donate it to the Town and then the Town would put it in as a donation.

Wilz Because if we buy a \$1,000 teeter-totter, that's one thing. But there's going to be another \$500 worth of labor and hauling equipment and building fall zones and all the rest of it. Even though that's part of what we're paying for, there's still a cost to that. What I'm hearing is you're supporting someone saying it would be nice to put that in there if we could.

Hicks That's what we look for. I've been on the board for 6 or 7 years and this is the first time I've heard of someone asking for something specific. If we got an influx of things where a lot of people would be asking for different things, that would be different.

Wilz Of all the equipment you've ordered, I've ordered, he's come up with, we would have loved to have somebody say, get me one of these. Because we sit here and say, what do you think, I don't know, what do you think? Okay, I'll talk to her and say, if you're serious about it, I'll go review these and then I'll go to these and see what they've got, brand new. I want you to look at some options and see if that works for her. She's a nice person and she's trying to be helpful.

O'Keefe Those are the people you look for.

Amman She might be thinking too that other people can use this rather than if it just sits in their back yard, it's just them.

Wilz That was her intent, I can tell.

Stoltz In Eastwood, there's plenty of space there. It's a nice park to put it in.

Wilz I'll follow up with her. I'm looking for some guidance before our next meeting because if I can put it together, I want it to go in. I don't want to have to wait until the middle of July for you guys to vote on it. How do you feel about that, Nick?

Kaminski I think it's a very good idea. When I was mowing in there the 2 years that I mowed, there's always kids in there and they go back and forth to swings and the playground in the back there. It's a very active park.

Wilz In about 10 years, that's going to be about the prettiest park we've got with all those trees starting to grow.

Kaminski We installed the teeter-totter in Jordan Acres Park so we can put it in pretty well. We've got experience.

Wilz I'll go over and look at that in both parks because it's probably 6 – 8 years old and there's all these new catalogs out. I'll look up Lee which is primarily where we bought from.

Hicks Everything I bought was from Lee.

Wilz I'll look in GameTime too just to look and see. I'll get some opinion from John. I'll also have her look it over and pick something out.

Stoltz Suggest she take her grandson over to Jordan and Somerset and see which one he likes.

A motion was made by Mike O'Keefe that if it looks feasible to put in a teeter-totter at Eastwood, to have it done giving Dave Wilz the authority to move forward with that request. Motion seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.

10) STATUS OF HULL PARK'S SURVEY.

Wilz We've got it in place and we've had 4 people go to make their views known on this survey.

Amman Only four? You're kidding!

Wilz The problem is, one of them is me, to see if it would work.

Amman One of them was me! I did it.

Wilz Did you?

Amman Yes. So half of them are here!

Hicks And Barb was one! I saw the comments on one of them at the end. I saw, Dave, you had put a comment and then Barb put a comment, it was her testing. She was just clicking things.

Wilz I'm going to suggest the following on this, being that 3 out of 4 are opinions of us, which is important, but I was doing it to test things too.

Amman And you don't have any young children, I don't, and Barb doesn't unless she takes her grandchildren.

Wilz I wanted to see how it would come out looking (*when I did it*). So we had 4. Are the dates of when these completed on here?

Stoltz March 14th, yes, March 25th.

Wilz Oh, there it is.

Hicks The 25th is you, Dave.

Amman I'm the last one.

Stoltz There was one on the 31st.

Wilz The notice of how to do the survey was in the newsletter and that went out the last week in March because there was information about things happening in the first of April and we always try to get it out in a timely manner.

Amman We had some snow storms in between there and I'm wondering if, as people start to use the parks, and then go onto the website for something, then they might be more inclined to do the survey.

Stoltz If they remember the question was on there.

Amman If they go to our website for something, they might see that.

Hicks When is the next newsletter? Is this once a year?

Wilz We're talking about doing one in the fall.

Hicks I would, this will stay up, and we could mention it again.

Wilz I think what we should do, too, I wasn't explicit with Barb because I don't know anything about this, but I found it under Parks. I expected it to be on the website, TAKE A SURVEY, right there on the front page.

Hicks And how many people are going to look under Parks.

O'Keefe They're not going to waste their time looking.

Wilz So maybe that's what we do next time, move that icon up to the front page saying we have a new Parks Survey, please take a few moments, we want your opinion. But we're talking about a fall one. Let me ask you about newsletters in general. We have a different mix of folks here. You all get the newsletter. Do you read it?

Stoltz Oh yes.

Hicks Yes. Only because I'm on the Parks board. I pulled out the sheet that told me when garbage was, when throw my junk away day was.

Stoltz My wife keeps it in a file with our bills.

Wilz I'm the same way. I want to know this and this and the rest of it goes in file 13 or it used to before I was on the board. Because that other stuff, I didn't have a dog so I didn't care about that stuff. I'm just wondering about services we try to provide, what's the best way to get it out there so people actually look at it. Along the same lines, we ran this compost site here. I forget what the total

numbers were but we had about 5,000 or 6,000 loads that came in here. But our guess is out of over 2,000 homeowners, only about 350 use it. We kept seeing the same folks all the time. Not that this is bad but you start learning some things when you collect data.

Hicks We have the same problem at church. How do we communicate with people. We have a newsletter we send out but people don't necessarily read that. So we do e-mails but there's a lot of people that never look at their e-mails or wouldn't read it if it came via e-mail. So we do lots of different things.

Wilz Hoping that some of it sticks.

Hicks We've kind of changed what the newsletter is. It's more of a magazine than a newsletter, flashier, smaller, and more interesting. Then we do e-mails with similar things then different things. Then we also blast the website with every opportunity we can get. All of us have different ways of looking for that communication. This is a different place and situation than a church but something to think about might be some different ways to communicate. If we can gather people's e-mails, I would love that. If it was on my e-mail, I would read the whole thing.

Stoltz We get a quarterly thing from church and I'll grab the paper one before I'll read the e-mail.

Hicks That's why I think you need to throw out there lots of different things.

Amman It depends upon age. You (*Brian*) are younger and you're walking around with your electronic device all the time. As we get older, we might have those but we're not using them all the time. I'm like you (*Maurie*). If I have it in paper, I can walk anywhere with the paper and read it whereas the electronic thing kind of stays in one spot.

Stoltz That's our age group.

Wilz It's interesting you say that because, another board member is like, we need to get people's e-mail if they want to be electronic. Look at the money we'll save just on mail. I say, yes, I know that but on the other hand, we bulk mail anyway. You're not going to take time to pull out 150 names. It costs more money in labor. But I hear what you're saying. We need to do everything because some people gravitate more towards different things. I've seen Plover's newsletter and it looks like a book. It's really professionally done. It comes out twice a year.

Hicks That's what we did. We went from quarterly to twice a year. It used to be about 5 pages, folded in half so 10 pages in total. Now it's 4 and in color and flashier and it's just more interesting information. But if you take all that out, you need to point them to a different spot, all that other routine stuff, like when is leaf pickup, when is trash day, hours for that, that can all be directed to the website. It's hard. It's a culture change. It works for some but doesn't work for others. Just some experiences to think about.

A motion was made by Dave Wilz to put a hold on and not make any determination on the status of our survey until we re-try it again this fall. Motion seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.

11) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Thursday, July 14, 2016**

12) **ADJOURNMENT.** *A motion was made by Dave Wilz to adjourn the Hull Parks Commission meeting. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed. Meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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