

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, April 24, 2014 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 24, 2014 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: Janeen Cooper, Jim Mendyke, Maurice Stoltz, Roland Schroeder, Mike O’Keefe, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Hull Road Foreman: Pete Kaminski. Excused: Brian Hicks

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 PARKS MEETING.**
Motion made by Jim Mendyke to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Maurice Stoltz. 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 The big current news is the addition of the building here which is going on. It started half way through March when they were thawing out the ground. They say within 2 weeks the structure will be up then they’ll move relatively quickly so we are excited. Things have been going pretty well and we look forward to having it done. I think they’re talking the middle of September to have everything done?

Kaminski Actually I thought he said by August.

Wilz Snowplowing, I’ll just give you an update. Pete announced at the annual meeting last week that another record year included 22 snow events where the trucks went out to deal with it. That’s relatively high. I think we’ve had it that high once before.

Kaminski Last year, but then 2 years ago it was 12 times.

Wilz The average is about 14 – 16 times a year, the trucks are out moving. It was a very difficult winter for everybody but we made it through. As we speak, the other thing we were concerned about has been going well and that was with all the snow we had, the spring

thaw and/or flooding we would have. So far it's been going good. Pete went out tonight to check some areas we have concerns about. But spring came so gradual that a lot of it went away instead of running.

O'Keefe I appreciate that during this last snow, the truck drivers / plows went really slow down the street and kind of stayed in the middle and saved a lot of mail boxes I think. That was appreciated.

Schroeder That was some heavy snow.

Kaminski You've got to go slow with that heavy snow.

Wilz You had the wings off too, didn't you?

Kaminski Oh yes.

Wilz They were already dismantling the trucks. Luckily they didn't take them all off. Since we last met, our Fire Department and the Town of Hull officially joined the Metro Fire District which is a collaboration of the fire departments of Plover, Whiting, Stevens Point and now the Town of Hull. We have more of a Metro approach. The benefits to it, there used to be something called mutual aid. That was automatic mutual aid. Those 4 departments would go together. When a fire goes off in Stevens Point, if it's a structure fire, we get called up and we go. It'll create faster response time. The big thing with volunteer fire departments is having enough people on the scene to safely engage the fire. Well now we've got Plover and the others. Everybody had that manpower shortage and this is going to help with sharing our assets that way. We're excited. We're in the initiation phase for about another year and it's a neat concept. It was thought of a few years ago between Whiting and Plover, the 2 fire chiefs getting together and talking about utilizing everybody's resources wisely, so we are part of that now.

Just to give you an update on the well situation with Well #11 with our neighbors that live over in this direction – the map is up there with little red dots and blue dots indicating all the people that have been affected by this. We hired a hydrologist back in January. The process was, we went to the City. We tried to get them to work with us on it and they said, no. You know the story – “No, we didn't do anything wrong.” So we hired a hydrologist and then we requested all the open records from the City because they have monitoring wells all over the place so that has data. It took a long time to get the open records information. I want to say, do you know Patty?

Amman I'm thinking months.

Wilz It was months and we had to write them a check (*for cost of copies*) and they were dragging their feet. Our hydrologist just got the information for the first time about 2 or 3 weeks ago and we started this back in December and January. The hope is that he can see anomalies within the test to validate what happened or what didn't happen. It's got to be proven scientifically. As a town, we are advocating for our citizens and we're paying for that bill to try to get to the bottom of this. I think our main concern is those people, yes, but if it really was caused by that Well #11, I'm more concerned about the future, that's the big picture. Along that same line, I went to a water symposium in Plover back in January and water is a big issue all

through the state and probably all through the country now. Not just this situation, but water in general. The Wisconsin DNR was down there and they were talking about high capacity wells. We're in an area of the state where I think we have 80% of all the high capacity wells within the tri-county area right in central Wisconsin in the state. Right now the licensing and permitting is pretty open. You could have 10 high capacity wells and right across the street Jim could apply and say he wants to put 10 in there and they would say, okay. There's no cause and effect in what we're doing here. Citizens and agriculture have collided on this and have gone to courts. One hydrologist for one side says this and the other hydrologist on the other side says that and the judge is sitting there saying, who do I believe. Then he goes to the DNR and says, what do you think? And they go, well we don't know. So that's been the collision. Now the state has ordered the DNR to come up with 2 things. A model that can eradicate the dispute, scientifically and then use that model the next time somebody wants to put in a high capacity well, they can model the effects of the well ahead of time. Not that they would decline it but it allows them to manage the resource better. So it's really a management tool. Unfortunately they're 18 months out before they have this scientific model. But they are building this model, believe it or not, based off of all the geology right here with Well #11 and out in Stockton. They're using this from the state as the model base because there is so much data here because of George Kraft and the Plover River. They've got so much scientific data. This is the place to build the model to use other places. I wish they had that because then we wouldn't need a hydrologist right now. Those are my announcements. Pete, do you have anything?

Kaminski No.

Wilz Anybody else?

Cooper Something for everybody to think about for a future meeting; outdoor adult fitness equipment is getting really popular. It's in Europe, there are a lot of them out there. It's just something to think about because we have an aging population where we live as well. Our parks are brought up to specifications as far as children's playground equipment. If you get a chance, look on the internet and look around and see some of the things. It would nice, not just for older Americans but for moms when they are at the park with their kids. There are ellipticals and all sorts of stuff out there. Just something to kind of look around at and we can discuss it later.

Wilz The stuff is called outdoor adult fitness products?

Cooper Yes. It's really interesting and one of the reasons I wanted to get on this board is so I could do this.

Wilz Okay, that's a great idea. I wish Brian was here because he's got the connections with all of our vendors but I know some of them and could give them a call and see if they know anything about it.

Cooper There are an awful lot of different vendors out there.

Wilz I'm sure there is. Any other announcements?

5) REAPPOINTMENT OF BRIAN HICKS TO THE HULL PARKS COMMISSION.

Wilz Brian is not here so he is not here to decline it.

Mendyke Can we extend it? Like for 20 years?

Amman That's what he gets for not showing up!

A motion was made to approve the reappointment of Brian Hicks to the Hull Parks Commission for another term to be passed on for the approval by the Hull Board of Supervisors. Motion made by Roland Schroeder and seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed with voice vote.

6) REVIEW OF HULL PARK INSPECTION SHEETS.

Meadow Manor

Mendyke Meadow Manor overall is in good shape. I'm happy to see the edge of that sandbox is holding up compared to what we went through in the past. The sandbox edging is in great shape. The lilacs there are doing fine. We only have one other new plant with that tree planting.

Kaminski There were 2 I think but one of them died.

Mendyke Yes, the one new tree planting and the lilac.

Kaminski Did you notice I got all of those stumps out?

Mendyke Yes, I see that. I could see some of the remnants. Really the only recommended action is the 3 swing sets, the red swing set could use some paint as it's kind of wore off. You can see that it must have been a yellow swing set before that. So just some touch-up red paint. On that spinner where that crack was, it's holding up pretty well. You haven't had much time to get out there so it's just got some leaves and could use some more wood chips. I see some new wood chips in some of the parks.

Kaminski We did that last fall.

Mendyke I'm happy to report that it's in really good condition right now.

Wilz Great. You've got it all here Pete, then?

Kaminski Is it wet back in there now?

Mendyke No.

Somerset Park

O'Keefe I think overall the park is in really good shape. I was kind of questioning the ball diamond out there. Is that going to be ...

Kaminski You guys tell me, should I buy a tiller and keep it tilled?

O'Keefe It's got a real nice infield area.

Kaminski Oh yes.

O'Keefe If you go through it once or twice you should at least try to maintain that because there are a lot of parents that go out there with their kids almost all summer out there playing in the ball diamond. So keep it up and keep it in good shape.

Wilz What did you need Pete?

Kaminski I need a rotor tiller that would go on the back of the John Deere tractor.

Mendyke I think you said you could also use that for ditches.

Schroeder I thought we approved that last time.

Kaminski Last year I bought a box scraper then I bought a rake for leveling the ground, the ball diamond.

Wilz So this would run off the power take off?

Kaminski It runs off the power take off, yes. What it will do is mix everything up and the other piece, the rake that goes on the back, I can gather all the sod, haul it out and then probably once or twice a month I would go with that rake again and keep raking it to keep the weeds from reseeding back in there. But initially I need a tiller.

Wilz What does that run do you think?

Kaminski About \$1,400. Fleet Farm has them.

Cooper How did you do it last time?

Kaminski Last time I used Randy's. I hired Randy's.

Wilz We had a request a number of years ago from a guy who was really into baseball and they were using that, the teams, to practice all the time. He's now left the area but over the course of 2-3 years we have resurrected that infield. He was saying it's got good stuff in it. I agree that we need to maintain it since most of the work has already been done.

O'Keefe Some days and sometimes in the evening there will be a Little League group out there.

Kaminski If it was maintained better, like I say, with the proper equipment, more people would be out there.

Cooper Absolutely.

Wilz Okay, when we get to equipment, why don't we talk about that then. Go ahead Mike and Janeen.

O'Keefe I looked at the sandbox with the little digger in it. A couple of the spikes through the corners seemed to have pushed up. I don't know if we can push that down. Probably salt and ice pushed it up. I think there is one swing, the yellow one, it looks like it's flaking pretty badly, all the poles. I don't know if it's worth it to repaint it. If someone would go out there and scrape all that off of there and do a decent job of it, then prime it and paint it. It would be at least a days' work out there. I don't know if that's real critical to have that painted or not.

Kaminski I know we did it before. Last year we went through those sheets and did everything. It wasn't 2 days later when I was out there and some kid – I didn't catch him because it happened at night – but they used a stick on that fresh paint and knocked it off.

O'Keefe Maybe if you scrape it off and leave it off. There are galvanized poles underneath there.

Kaminski But it looks a lot newer and refreshed with that yellow versus that old galvanized.

O'Keefe I know but I guess its how often you want to maintain that type of thing. That's probably going to be a yearly task for you. On the north side of the field area there's a dead tree that fell over and is hung up in the jack pines. It looks like it's on the border. I'm not sure where the neighbor's property line is but there is somebody that has moved into that home there. Other than that, I noticed one of the maple trees which is out in the open field area, it looks like all the leaves on it died last fall and they haven't dropped off. I don't know if it will come back or not but I'll keep an eye on it. There is also a maple tree that the west side of the tree is forked right from the stem and the west fork of it, the bark has peeled off almost all the way around it. It might require you to go up and cut that branch off and put a sealer on it or something.

Kaminski Tree tar on it.

O'Keefe Other than that, I thought the park was in really good shape after the hard winter we had.

Kaminski Are the jack pine all still living out there?

O'Keefe Yes.

Cooper There's actually something that got cut off (*from the bottom of the copy of the inspection report*). Remember that jack pine on the northwest side of the ball diamond? You said it was standing.

O'Keefe Oh yes, there was another one that was just off the ball diamond.

Cooper And it was dead last year.

O'Keefe The second tier of trees back. But there is one that is dead but the bark is still on it. It's nothing that is urgent. It'll stay standing but when the bark falls off, that's when you've got to worry about it.

Kaminski I'll go look at it and see if it's a threat.

O'Keefe On the east side there is that fence that's in there and that thing is just shot basically. I don't know if that is on the neighbor's property or on the park property. That split rail fence.

Kaminski That's the neighbors I think.

O'Keefe That thing is basically shot and there are a lot of boards falling off with exposed nails on it. Stuff like that. I don't know if you can say something to the neighbor.

Kaminski He put that up so people would know where his property line is.

O'Keefe I understand that. But it's basically shot.

Mendyke Could we just give him a notice to fix it or remove it?

Wilz I don't know. Is it a safety issue?

O'Keefe Not really other than those nails that stick out. Every time I walk through there, I'm going to take a hammer with me and pull out the nails.

Wilz Take care of his problem. You've got a note here that the chains are still the old kind. Are they rusting?

Cooper Yes.

Wilz Do we still have a good amount of that left?

Kaminski No. That's gone. Every year I buy one box, 100 feet.

Cooper I just wanted to keep it on the top of your list.

Kaminski It's \$500 a box. But once we have them all done—I'll pick up another box.

Jordan Acres

Wilz The next one is Brian's Jordan Acres. It's pretty self explanatory. I do have a question, Pete. If you look under spring rockers and the merry-go-round, it looks like its moldy or it needs cleaning and I think the mold he's talking about is the plastic type. I notice that too. I wonder if there is anything you can spray that with that isn't going to hurt a child if they put their mouth on it to keep that growth from coming back?

Stoltz I use stuff at home that is called Tilex Mold & Mildew Cleaner. It's got bleach and stuff in there but you can spray that stuff on and it just kills it instantly. It's very good for cleaning anything that has mildew or anything on it. It's just a soap product so the first rain will wash it off.

Cooper How old is that spring rocker, do you know?

Wilz That one has been out there awhile. I think when you see the growth, it's really a function of not how long it's been out there but how much sun does it get versus being the shade and the wind doesn't blow through there and dry it out. In the right situations, it can get pretty funky.

Kaminski They've got stuff and I was going to see what kind of stuff they've got in here (*with the repair/cleaning kits provided*). There's red paint, glue, other stuff they thought we would need.

Cooper I would be really hesitant to put anything on it they didn't recommend.

Kaminski They don't send any kind of cleaner but I'll have to find something.

Wilz Why don't you call who we got the equipment from and ask them about this. Tell them we're looking for something to remove mildew that would be safe for children. I don't think we have a lot of it but I know where it is and it would take like a thousand feet of hose to get there to clean it. But other than that comment, I think Brian has done a pretty thorough job here. It looks like a little bit of paint missing and swings that need paint but everything else looked pretty good.

Eastwood Park

Wilz Eastwood is in excellent shape. The only thing that there is a concern is the horse-shoe pit area, we need some sand. That's it. Everything else is in really good repair. When I was out there, there was a next door neighbor, a young mom with her 3 or 4 year old and she said, "Yes, we're in this park every day." I said, "Does everything work?" She said, "Yes, we've tried it all." She just loves it out there. But that one is in really good shape. All the shingles are back on. They stayed there this winter for once. Usually the shed has some shingles missing.

Kirschling West / Pleasant View

Wilz Pretty good shape actually. There too, just a couple areas of concern, Pete. The park sign, the 2x10's or whatever they are, they're getting really punky and the paint is obviously starting to peel. Maybe it can be touched up for another season or two but it's disintegrating right now. It's been there a long time. That's one area and then the chips, they're all out and need to be raked back beneath the equipment. Along that tree line where we have the picnic tables located, there are some dead branches lying in there but other than that, the ball diamond and grass out there is outstanding. It came through real well.

Kirschling East / Pleasant View East

Schroeder Overall the park is in good shape. The park benches after the winter could use a little bit of paint. On those climbing towers, that's the old pipe and the paint is a little rusty but that's always hard to hold paint onto. The garbage cans are great, pretty full, so they must be getting some use. The park sign was in great shape. Everything else is great and we want the walking trails and that to look pretty much the nature look. Any of the trees that had blown over, they're pretty much cut and I didn't see any new ones that had fallen. I think you got them all last fall. Even if they go off the trails, it shouldn't be a hazard.

Conifer Nature Trail – Conifer Acres Park

Schroeder In Conifer, I think with the heavy winds we got a lot of fallen trees but most of them are cut. There is only one that is kind of close to Glenwood Avenue that maybe needs a little trimming back that could come down further and even if they are mowing, it could clip them in the head. The table under the shelter has got a burned hole in the table top. But I'm not sure that's our picnic table. I think they pulled it from the city because we never put one in there, did we? So I think it's one of the city's. The shelter is in good condition. The kids are staying off the top of it. That's about it.

Treder's Woodland

Stoltz Treder's Woodland right behind Target, all the evergreens are in good shape. The park sign is starting to fade pretty much but it's pretty solid. The trees, I can't really tell if they're going to live or die yet because they haven't started budding. All the evergreen trees are in good shape and the grass is good.

Mendyke How tall are those getting to be?

Stoltz I would say they are 7' or 8' tall.

Sorenson Park

Stoltz The one bench that is there, the one board is coming off of it. Everything else is in good shape. The bark could be raked back in under the swings. It's there but the kids kick it all out. The park sign needs paint on that one too. Other than that, the park is in good shape.

The backstop and everything is good. The ball diamond isn't made like a ball diamond but it's just grass but there's a back stop there and they use it for batting with the plastic balls. That park is used a lot.

Plover Heights Conservancy

Kaminski I've got Plover Heights. The only thing there is the 4 dead Norway pines underneath the power lines. I'll cut them out. The new trees are budding and everything else looks good.

Wilz It sounds like the parks made it through pretty well.

Schroeder We should do something in Plover Heights, we used to get a complaint every once in a while.

Kaminski On that side he cut a spruce and of course he dropped it on my park. Then there's a top that busted off on the park side. When I have the brush pick up I'll pick that up.

Wilz I think if we did anything out there, we would get complaints.

Kaminski When I cut down those 4 dead Norway pine, that's going to make a wider opening out there so he might complain.

Wilz That's okay. The last time I checked, it's is the citizen's park area. Is he still cutting the walking path?

Kaminski We do it. We just go one pass in.

Wilz I know but he was widening it and then he planted his own trees. He waters it and stuff.

Kaminski They want it left narrow there. Because I used to cut it more (wider).

Schroeder They didn't want it too wide, they wanted it narrower.

Wilz He wanted restricted access. But it is a pretty setting out there.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz and seconded by Roland Schroeder to accept the review of the 2014 Hull Park Inspection sheets. Motion passed with voice vote.

7) PETE KAMINSKI REPORT. STATUS OF PARK SIGNAGE, TREE PROGRAM, SPRING FERTILIZER, EQUIPMENT.

Wilz Pete, talk about the tree program first.

Kaminski When we talked last fall about signs, I was given permission to buy a router, right?

Wilz Right.

Kaminski We'll need to fix the Jordan Acres sign which is falling apart.

Wilz Right.

Kaminski Last fall the ATP transmission line company was giving out grant money which I applied for and we got a \$500 check which we can use for trees and we can use it whatever way we want. I would like to recommend we use it for landscaping around this new municipal building (*addition*).

Wilz Does everybody feel okay with that?

General yes.

Wilz And it's unrestricted, we found out that we can use it for any purpose.

Kaminski As long as we don't plant them underneath the power line. You can't do that. But otherwise, I was hoping to use some of that money around here. That sign by Hwy. 66, are we going to do anything, any landscaping around there this year?

Wilz The last time we talked about this, I think Jim, you were still waiting for some feedback to see if they would do it as a class project.

Mendyke That didn't work out.

Kaminski I would like to put some new landscaping, like an oval. Keep it inside that same area, just take out that plastic stuff which is all bent and warped. Do something nice there.

Wilz Leave the sign there.

Kaminski I'd like to change that too eventually. But if you have nice landscaping, then you have an old-dirty sign?

Wilz No, I'm saying the style of the sign could be freshened up until we develop something else.

Kaminski Do you want to give me a limit on how much I can spend on that?

Wilz I think we had talked about this and an idea for a new sign was a part of this.

Mendyke They even threw together a quick sample of a sign for you. It was just a rough draft of something.

Wilz We weren't real specific.

Kaminski We turned it down, remember?

Mendyke It needs some work.

Wilz So Pete, what are you thinking? If you want to do some different landscaping and take all that old stuff out and put new stuff on the ground and freshen up the existing sign so it has a fresh look.

Kaminski When is our next Parks meeting?

Wilz It'll be in July.

Kaminski I can get prices and give you guys an idea then.

Wilz That would be fine.

Kaminski If you okay it, then we would put it in around July or August. I was kind of hoping to get it done this spring and then pretty soon I would be planting flowers out there. But I can wait one more year. We'll get it done, I'll just plant my flowers in there this year.

Schroeder What would be a rough, ball park figure?

Wilz Because we do have money in our budget.

Schroeder You could do something like a first phase, like for a couple grand?

Kaminski It wouldn't be that much. I would keep it the exact same size. Just make it an oval or something.

Wilz You're talking about using cement or block.

Kaminski Block, like landscaping block. Randy and I would sit down since he knows more about this kind of stuff since he has his own landscaping business, and come up with a design, get an estimate and some prices. But it'll be under \$1,000. Do you guys have a color preference, red or grey block?

Wilz Randy is the expert. Ask him.

Schroeder Whatever you come up with, I'll agree with you.

Kaminski Something to go with that sign, more reddish or brown.

A motion was made by Roland Schroeder to give Pete Kaminski permission to work on updating the Hwy. 66 / Torun Road Hull signage area bedding and landscaping up to \$1,000. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed by voice vote.

Wilz Talk a little about the spring fertilizer.

Kaminski We opened up the parks already last week. All the picnic tables are locked. We emptied the garbage cans and trimmed the brush. You had to have the oak limbs trimmed by April 15th. When they are mowing, they were hitting their heads on the branches since they are coming down every year so we did that. The fertilizer we are going to put on in the end of May. We'll be putting on Greener by the Yard.

Wilz And we'll be doing bags?

Kaminski 50 bags now and 50 more bags in the fall.

Wilz This will be our first time of trying to do it both times a year.

Kaminski Again, today I talked with Randy, he's a landscaper, he said the best time is to wait until the grass is up so he recommended the end of May.

Wilz That's spring fertilizer. What about equipment now?

Kaminski Equipment, he and I were talking and those monkey bars, that old galvanized stuff, he recommended we should maybe start taking that stuff out. He claims it's dangerous. I've never had any kind of complaints. They are a lot of maintenance, you have to paint them and go back the next year and paint again.

Stoltz One thing about galvanized pipe, it's not really meant to be painted.

Kaminski But since we're talking about putting in that fitness equipment, I was going to recommend that we pull one out from every park every year, buy a small piece and replace it where that thing is sitting now. It would be a good time to buy some kind of fitness equipment, one park, each year, take one out and stick in something new.

Cooper I think our monkey bars are fine.

O'Keefe That one by me, that one is fine.

Cooper Is ours safe enough?

O'Keefe Oh yes, the kids are climbing on them all the time.

Kaminski Randy claims that everybody is taking them out, that they are dangerous, they can stick their heads in places and get stuck. I never heard of anything like that.

O'Keefe No.

Schroeder They are the only ones we didn't get condemned by the parks people when they came through. Everything else they thought we should get rid of.

Kaminski In fact our insurance man came through this last fall.

Cooper That's who I would ask.

Kaminski He said everything looked good. I've got a letter back in my office that says everything is good, right from our insurance guy. It would give us an opportunity. We could put in other equipment too anyplace.

Cooper Ours is in good shape.

Wilz I guess I would like to defer to data. Randy has an opinion and obviously that is his but I agree, if we had a parks expert come in and say, those are still fine and our insurance guy said everything looked good in the parks last fall, there's no data that supports his position.

Kaminski I think he's just tired of painting them.

Mendyke We have recreational immunity anyway. My kids are on them all the time.

Cooper Ours isn't painted either. Just parts of it are left painted. I don't think they should put any more paint on it. It's fine.

Kaminski I've been buying the best paint and they say you put this, this and this on and that's why I bought it, Sherwin Williams. It costs a lot of money but no matter what I seem to put on there, it just comes off.

O'Keefe Is there anything you can get to etch that surface of the metal?

Wilz Then you would rip the kids hands up.

Kaminski You could take sandpaper on a disc / wheel and kind of rough them up. They could still grab them, if you want to go that route.

Wilz The young mother that was out with the child the other evening, he just loves the old slide which you probably can't buy those anymore, she even made the comment, "Are those even legal?" I said, "Why do you ask?" She said, "It can't be because he really likes it." I don't think we can buy one anymore.

Kaminski Any of our newer slides come with that tube for safety issues.

Wilz But the slides in my park look wonderful, they're in great shape. Back to equipment.

Kaminski And equipment, like I said, if we would take those out and do that, are we going to buy any equipment this year, any little pieces? Because I've got a flyer with 30% off and it's good until April 25th.

Wilz I'm glad Janeen brought up her suggestion because I looked over the parks book the last couple of years and all the stuff we've bought. We've done a really good job. I don't want to get to a point of just putting stuff in because we feel we've got a budget and we've got a place to put a bouncy button here or there.

Mendyke I think we're just looking at replacing stuff.

Wilz Right now it's to maintain stuff or replace. Before the next meeting I'll do some good research on this because if that is the big thing and it's going to be possibly utilized, I would like to experiment with a park and see what that is about.

Kaminski I agree.

Wilz This would be the year to do it because everything I'm hearing out there, the equipment is in really good shape right now. We filled in some stuff last year which are some of the smaller items Rollie recommended that we had space for and filled in here and there. I think we are there now. So I'll try to learn more about these adult fitness products.

Schroeder The bouncy things would probably be if you were going to do a few in each park each year because there are a lot of young kids with mothers who stop in. When you get 2 or 3 children, they can't even exchange back and forth. Probably you should look at that because the younger groups are using the parks. If we move the adult way, I think you have to have them far enough apart just like we put the basketball hoop because otherwise they're going to be running through and it's going to interfere with the younger mothers and smaller children.

Cooper There are lots of things to consider.

Schroeder Right. Those are things we need to take a look at.

Wilz I need to start the process and see what this stuff is and how it all works in.

Cooper I had a bunch of brochures and I just sent away for a bunch more. When I get them, I'll share them with you.

Wilz Yes, just drop them off here and say, "Put these in Dave Wilz's mailbox." I stop by every week to check mail. If you've already started the journey, I don't need to re-create it.

Cooper Go ahead and look, I don't have a lot of stuff. I don't know where my old stuff is but I have a few more things coming in. I'm thinking there's got to be grant money around for these sort of things.

Wilz Concerning equipment Pete, let's talk about your recommendation for maintenance equipment.

Kaminski I would like to buy a rotor tiller for the John Deere tractor and I would also like to buy forks for that John Deere tractor. We have a bucket on there. When we are doing trees in the parks and the trails, I put my big one on and I can't get in there. I cut a tree down and with forks, pick the logs up and it makes things go a lot quicker. That's not a big investment, that's probably about \$500 - \$600 I'm guessing.

Wilz And what was the rotor tiller?

Kaminski I see them at Fleet Farm for either \$1,300 or \$1,500. It all depends what size I get. I think I bought a 6' box scraper. I would probably buy a 6' tiller.

Schroeder Have you got \$2,900 in the budget?

Wilz The equipment and maintenance is \$2,900, Pete. What goes under that category? What type of things?

Kaminski That is mainly to maintain the lawn mower. If I have to buy D belts, change the oil, buy blades.

Wilz That goes under there too. Last year's budget we had \$2,000 in it. We spent \$3,410 but we bought those pieces. This group increased the budget this year to \$2,900 that we're looking at. If we take \$2,100 for the forks and the rotor tiller...*(had to flip tape over)*

Kaminski The fertilizer needs to come out of there.

Wilz It's undetermined right now what we would spend.

Kaminski Why did we put \$7,500 in sign the town?

Wilz That's incorrect. This came off of the budget and it was put in the wrong line. It was playground equipment. If you look at the budget that Patty attached, I had last year's and year-to-date and how much we exceeded the budget by and the 2014 budget is off to the right. I got it labeled correctly.

Cooper So where is the money coming out from that we need for him? Is that coming from sign the town?

Wilz No. It would be out of equipment and maintenance. Oh, for the block? No that would come under landscaping.

Kaminski Fertilizer comes under landscaping and the wood chips.

Wilz Which might be a stretch this year but we've got other line items we can use. I'm in agreement with the rotor tiller and it has other purposes, Pete, that you can use it for other than one ball diamond.

Kaminski Oh yes.

Schroeder You could maybe get a little money from the town because you're going to use it in ditches and stuff. You'll probably use it 75% of the time for town work.

Wilz Maybe we should put this under your other budget which is called roads.

Kaminski I've been after one for a long time.

Schroeder He knows if we approve it, he can get it then he'll have to work his project and put figures in and get this one.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to authorize Pete Kaminski to spend up to \$2,200 on two pieces of equipment; forks for the new small tractor and a rotor tiller to run off the power take off which can be used for parks and ditches. Motion seconded by Roland Schroeder. Motion passed with voice vote.

Kaminski One other thing I would like to experiment with this year, I was talking to a guy from Polonia and they have a seeder for seeding grass which I can rent from them. I would like to go inside some of the parks where there is just a clump here and a clump there. This thing is supposed to drop the seeds out and it's got fingers that push it into the ground instead of working up the whole ball diamond. I would like to try that on one park which means I would have to buy 100 pounds of grass seed and rent that. In a lot of our parks the grass is just getting old and back 2 or 3 years ago when it was so dry, it dried up.

Stoltz It killed the grass and now you've got the clump grass.

Kaminski I think Somerset would be the one to try it in.

Cooper Me too. That's what I was thinking. They've got a combination of shade and open spots. He lived on Somerset for awhile.

Schroeder His business is in Polonia.

Kaminski Inside Jordan Acres Park where I dig the sod out, underneath those swings, we could experiment there. We dig the sod out from underneath the swings and put the chips in. Maybe the kids won't be kicking it out all the time.

8) REVIEW OF HULL PARKS BUDGET – 2014.

Wilz There's a new item in this year that wasn't in there last year called Bikes/Peds. Just to give you a little history on that, Portage County has put together a recreational plan for all of Portage County called Bikes and Peds. I represented the Town of Hull on this county-wide program. They had gotten a grant for about \$140,000 and they had professional consultants come in and look at everything in Portage County from every school in Portage County, are they set up to accommodate safe biking and walking. They went down to the really fine stuff. Along with bikers, what road should they be using. Recommendations for towns, villages and municipalities on infrastructure they should use in the future. If you're going to redo this road, this one should have a bike accommodation. It was kind of a master plan. I threw \$800 in there last year not knowing what this was going to be. I just knew this was coming up.

Schroeder Are you sure that \$800 wasn't for the sign the town? Because on the printed one it was zero, the Bikes/Peds, we didn't come up with a number. I think we're off a line item.

Wilz That's what Bikes/Peds was. I was anticipating that we would have to spend some money getting through this process but it didn't cost anything. Now they'll be rolling out in a couple of weeks their recommendations and it's a 199 page report with pictures with everything from safety to getting the kids involved at an early age to think it's cool to ride their bikes to school, trying to foster that, recreational opportunities and staying well. I'm excited it's done and I can't wait for the rest of it to come out. They went through every single road in Hull and made recommendations on anything that might enhance recreational at the time we redo the road. They're not imposing, they can't. I think it was done very well with the right intent. They had representatives from every township, the city. They split us into two large groups. One was metro and the other was urban. I sat on that (*urban and towns*) so I'm looking forward to utilizing that. They'll have a website and maps available for bikers so if they want to take a ride out to Amherst for the day, these will be the best roads and eventually they'll use universal signage throughout the county. When it gets there, it'll take awhile, it'll be good because the people that were involved in it are interested in it. The county is not imposing it. If they (*the municipality*) has the money, they'll do the stuff.

Back to the budget. The playground equipment, we'll just leave it as it is right now. Pete if you could, for the next meeting, get some up-to-date pricing. The line items might be off but the dollar amounts are the same. If, by the next meeting, you could have a current price for some of the small items that Rollie is talking about in some of the parks, perhaps we want to add a few things. Then I'll find out about this adult fitness equipment and I'll try to get some information on that too. But I'm in agreement with Rollie that we want to at least look at that. There are some parks that probably don't need them. There are other parks where you could probably use a number of them. Then we'll coordinate with Ron.

Schroeder I think in Kirschling West, I see a lot of young couples over there.

Wilz There are. In fact that's all there is. The real young ones.

Schroeder I think as a neighborhood cycle, we should just watch that because they do go through a cycle.

Kaminski That stainless steel chain, when that I buy that, I'll take the money out of playground equipment because with the equipment and maintenance, after I buy those other items, I won't have anything left. The chain I believe is \$500.

Wilz Going off what Rollie suggested, do you have money in your roads budget to pick up part of the cost of this rotor tiller? Because I don't think we're going to authorize spending \$1,500 or \$1,600 for one ball diamond.

Kaminski We can split it right down the middle. We'll pay half from roads and the other half from parks.

Wilz You'll let Barb know that then?

Kaminski Sure.

Wilz Because she'll transfer out the funds.

Schroeder It's just that if we try going the other way through the road equipment, it's hard to get it approved. If we approve it here, it's easier to split it. Anyway that seems what the history has been.

Wilz Then that gives you room for the \$500 worth of chain. Right?

Kaminski Yes, exactly right.

Wilz If you want to do something with the forks—

Kaminski Like I say, I need to find a price on that. I'm just saying off the top of my head \$2,200, it might be less or it might be a little more.

Wilz Any questions from anyone else on the 2014 budget?

Cooper Is this part of the budget (*parks maintenance grid handout*), somehow hooked on to that?

Kaminski That's work Randy did this year so far inside our parks. He cut limbs and cleaned them up so this is labor which is billed to our parks budget.

Cooper So it's in here (*the budget*).

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz Every time work is done inside the parks by the road crew, they keep track of this because we want to know how much was spent. I really want to know too because we allow only a certain number of hours per week that can be expended. It might be Randy, or Pete might

go out there, if Randy goes on vacation, Bill may have to cut the lawn. You'll see different names.

Cooper I didn't understand if it was included already or if it was an add-on or what it was.

Kaminski It was \$420 taken out of the \$7,000.

Wilz It's just a tracking device, that's all it is. This one that was attached is just something I put together on a spreadsheet. This one that Patty had laying here tonight actually comes from our expenditures and its one page of probably a 20-page monthly report.

Stoltz Just a question here on Randy's thing, like his health insurance for \$56.32, is that broke down by the hour?

Wilz Yes.

Schroeder Whatever the percentage is for FICA, that's what comes up.

Stoltz FICA is different here.

Schroeder I know but I mean those are the kind of benefits, pension, whatever.

Wilz Barb has it all figured out, the formula. It's driven off the hours he works here. We want to reflect the true cost. We started this when this committee, a few years ago, authorized our full-time people to work in the parks. The big concern from other parts of the town was, we can't pay people \$20 an hour to cut the grass, it would be too expensive.

Stoltz We were paying two guys (*part-time*) instead.

Wilz Nobody was monitoring them. I believe that having full-time professionals that are in charge of the equipment— We started with a budget in mind and said, Pete, this is what you've got to spend. Make it work, and we kind of backed into it and it has worked out wonderfully. I think our parks look better. We've got better equipment and we're spending less money than we did before. That was also at a time when we had 3 full-time road crew members and then we would hire a 4th to come in during the winter because we have 4 snow routes for roads. We were wondering if we could make the 4th one full-time, have a livable wage and parks was part of that. We started piecing other things that we were having part-time people do and create a full-time job. So that's how we track it.

Kaminski And it's working.

Wilz It is. Any other comments about our budget?

A motion was made by Jim Mendyke and seconded by Maurice Stoltz to accept the review of the 2014 Hull Parks budget. Motion passed with voice vote.

9) DATE OF NEXT HULL PARKS MEETING.

Wilz When I first started with the parks, we were trying to meet 4 or 5 times a year. Then when I got involved a little more, we were doing 4 or 5 times a year but somehow one always seemed to get cancelled because of some reason. It was either going to be an outdoor meeting and it stormed that night or whatever. Last year I had made a recommendation, I think it was backed by all of you, that we're kind of on our game right now. We've been doing this and certainly meeting 3 times a year would be enough. I still feel that way. Last year we met after the July 4th holiday was over. Our dates of the next meeting if we follow that same schedule would be either on Wednesday, July 16th or Thursday, July 17th.

Schroeder Wasn't Brian the only one that couldn't come on Wednesdays which I thought was a bad day for him?

Stoltz This time of year he had CCD and stuff but I don't know about the summer time.

Wilz But as a group we decided to stay away from Wednesdays. He was involved with confirmation and whatever. Let's make it Thursday, July 17th. Does 6:30 work out for everybody?

The next Hull Parks meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Wilz Janeen, if you could drop that information in my box to get me a start because that idea is intriguing.

Cooper It's going to take a year to just look at stuff.

Mendyke Wouldn't it be cool if we were the first ones in Stevens Point to have some of that kind of stuff?

Cooper That's what I would like. To build the first adult fitness equipment park area. It would be kind of nice.

Mendyke You could tone up while you're watching the kids.

10) ADJOURNMENT. *A motion was made to adjourn the Hull Parks Commission meeting by Roland Schroeder and seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed with voice vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

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