

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, July 13, 2017 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, July 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. by Parks Chairperson Dave Wilz at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: Chairperson: Dave Wilz, Committee Members: Carmen Coey, Maurice Stoltz, Mike O’Keefe, Brian Hicks, Jim Mendyke, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Hull Road Foreman: Pete Kaminski. Katrina Hittner.

Others Present: John Finn

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 6, 2017 HULL PARKS MEETING.
Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2017 Hull Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed with voice vote.

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

4) ANNOUNCEMENTS; CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.

- Torun Road going through a wedge and overlay this summer from the outer City limits north to Jordan Road. The first 200 feet of Torun Road after turning off of Hwy. 66 belongs to Hull, then the road starting at the City Limits sign belongs to the City up to about the area of the mobile home park. After bidding it out, Hull had 5 years to finish job in order to get state funding assistance. There will be a 3 foot walking/biking/accommodation portion striped along the side of the road. One of the reasons Hull was able to obtain grant funds was because of the accommodation lane. The original cost was around \$191,000 and with the grant funds, Hull would receive \$46,000 back. The actual figures will be a little lower.
- At the September Hull Parks meeting, we’ll try to do a park tour/road trip to go around and see all the Hull parks after starting the meeting here at the Hull building. Dave Wilz said he would like to have Grant Larson here at that meeting too. Grant is part-time summer help with much knowledge of the Hull parks as he does the routine parks up-keep during the summer.

5) RECREATIONAL IMMUNITY STATUTE PRESENTATION BY RETIRED JUDGE JOHN FINN.

- Retired Judge John Finn gave a presentation on examples of recreational immunity. Judge Finn retired 2 years ago in 2015 after 27 years as a judge and now teaches on law every other semester at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
- JF gave a brief overview of property liability. There are some basic things needed in order to have a liability: based upon negligence. In order to be liable, you need to have a duty to somebody, been negligent and have not exercised ordinary care. JF gave some examples. Exceptions include trespassers of which there is no duty or responsibility to a trespasser other than there cannot be a deliberate trap set for a trespasser. There are some different standards for public places (safe places) like a supermarket or other public space.
- Recreational immunity started many years ago from hunting issues and the deer population. Farmers didn't want people hunting on their properties at that time because of fear of lawsuits. So recreational immunity was developed to allow people on their property, for free (no fee charged) for recreational purposes. Must be open to the public for free. If a person gets hurt in that case, the landowner or occupant of the land is not responsible.
- John F. said it's best to have insurance because then the insurance company will figure out whether or not a situation is covered by recreational immunity. If there is a claim, it's best to hand it over to the insurance company for review.
- Dave Wilz said we do have insurance and the parks are inspected by the insurance company every fall and supply Hull with a compliance report and any corrective action Hull needs to take. Hull takes the corrective action, signs off on a form and sends it back to the insurance company.
- JF indicated some people in the park may not be covered by recreational immunity. Hull employees maintaining the park, anyone who is conducting business there (non-recreation), repair crews, etc.
- Brian Hicks asked about the role of citizens paying local taxes and would that constitute a 'fee' in any way. JF indicated that would not be a fee, it's just considered taxes. But anyone can use the park including people who don't live in Hull.
- Jim Mendyke said between the Hull crew maintaining the parks, the fall insurance inspection and the spring Park Commission member inspection, he felt pretty good about our parks in terms of safety.

6) PARKING NEAR EASTWOOD PARK.

- A request was made by a Hull homeowner who lives across from Eastwood Park regarding traffic turning around on his lawn. Request came in June 2017. Request is for poles or signs to be put in front of his lot to deter people from turning around on or over his lawn area. Dave Wilz has met with the homeowner to discuss details and the homeowner showed DW where the grass has been ripped out by the vehicles.
 - Discussion by Park Commission members of a 'No Parking' sign which would require an ordinance for that specific location versus some other kind of sign (like Slow – Children at Play) that would not need an ordinance.
 - Pete K. said a pole/sign would be placed about 6 feet off the pavement if one goes in.

- Dave W. looked at Eastwood in terms of a gravel parking area. There is a large swale along the road and then the park raises up quite a bit. The shoulder along the road is only about 2 feet then the swale gets pretty deep. The swales are there to manage the water runoff. Near the enclosure, if a culvert was put in, there would be space for only about 6 cars.
- Katrina said the sign would be an easier/cheaper fix. It's uncertain if the traffic on the lawn is even related to the Eastwood Park at all.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks to table this agenda item #6 for now. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

7) STATUS OF STORM DAMAGE TO HULL PARKS.

- Pictures of storm damage to a swing set in Somerset were shared with the group.
- Pete K. gave update of the various parks and damages in each park from recent storms:
 - Somerset: 18 trees down, 1 maple, the rest Jack Pines, swing pipe damage
 - Kirschling East – tree down on neighbor fence – a big maple
 - Conifer – 8 oaks down, most were dead, a big Norway pine down on neighbor fence
 - Treder Park – 1 tree down
- Pete has asked Dave W. about having the tree stumps ground up and Pete obtained a quote on stump grinding that would be \$2 per inch so a 16" stump would cost \$32. To do all the stumps would run about \$600 to \$650. Pete does not have a backhoe. Although Pete could try to pull out the stumps with an end-loader, it would do so much damage to the grass that it would cost more to repair the grass than to have the stumps ground up. The stumps can't be cut flush to the ground because they would be trip hazards.
 - There is money in the Parks budget to cover this so Dave agreed the stumps should be ground up.
 - The Somerset swing set pipe that was damaged has been reported to our insurance company of which we have a \$1,000 deductible. The insurance company said put in a whole new swing set. But it just looks like one pipe is damaged. Pete felt he can fix the pipe/ replace it for around \$100. The group felt if Pete can fix it for a few hundred dollars and make it safe, he should proceed with that repair.
 - Although a lot of trees fell down in Somerset, amazingly they missed hitting anything significant other than the swing pole and didn't do any other damage to other equipment.
 - Conifer Trail had trees down. Crew has opened up the walking trails by shoving the wood off to the side of the trail. Discussion about leaving the wood there or hauling it out with about 7 oak trees, most of them already dead.
 - Brian Hicks asked about wood for fire pit use. Any wood the crew would bring back to the shop has to be collected and then bid out with money going back into the Town budget. Dave W. explained one of the Town ordinances says if a tree goes down and has to be removed by the Hull road crew, or if it's in the ROW and professionals have to remove it, what is done with the wood is it's offered to the landowner first. If the landowner doesn't want it, the road crew brings the wood back to the Hull shop, cuts it, cords it, stacks it and when there's enough of it, it goes out to bid. That money then becomes a benefit to the taxpayer. This particular wood is on municipal park land. Dave Wilz will look at it and advise Pete on what to do.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks to accept Pete Kaminski's report on the status of storm damage in Hull parks. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.

8) APPOINTMENT OF POSSIBLE NEW HULL PARKS COMMISSION MEMBER.

- Katrina Hittner attended our last Park's meeting to get a feel for if she was interested in joining, which she is interested and wants to join. Katrina's term would be until 2023.
- After tonight's motion/action, the Hull Board will need to approve both Katrina and Carmen at one of the upcoming Hull Board meetings.

A motion was made by Carmen Coey to nominate Katrina Hittner as a new Hull Parks Commission member. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

Katrina accepted the nomination.

9) UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF REPAIRS FROM SPRING INSPECTION SHEETS – PETE KAMINSKI-ROAD FOREMAN.

- Pete K. gave updates:
- Sorenson Park new grass has come in very nicely. One bench to paint. The cost to do the new grass, take out the old grass, re-seed, labor, rented machines ran about \$4,000 total (\$3,500 of which was labor-about 1 week of labor) but the result is no more lumpy grass and it looks very nice. Came in good this year will all the extra rain.
- Kirschling West, chips are in.
- Kirschling East, repaired broken board on picnic table, fixed and painted a sign, also painted a bench and a table.
- Eastwood Park, chips in. Wants to put in more sand. Some shingles replaced.
- Conifer Trail, plastic vapor barrier is breaking up. Needs to be trimmed or something.
- Meadow Manor Park, chips in, fixed park bench.
- Jordan Acres – new basketball net and chips in.
- Somerset Park – cleaned swing set, put in chips, painted bench.
- Treder – repainting park sign.
- Most of the work has been done in the parks and storm damage pickup continues.
- The old garage by the Fire Station will be repainted white (the original Hull town hall building now used as cold storage for Parks).

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the report by Pete Kaminski on repairs within the Hull Parks from notes from the Spring Inspection sheets. Motion was seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed.

10) REVIEW OF BUDGET (YTD)

- Labor costs high at the moment because of the re-seeding process of Sorenson Park.
- No new equipment bought or needed so far.
- Barb B. tracks labor costs for the parks. Although usually it's Grant Larson, the part-time employee, this year the road crew did the re-seeding project for around \$3,300 of labor. Generally, the parks are not otherwise charged for minor cleanup by the road crew members (other than Grant).

A motion was made by Katrina Hittner to accept the review of the Hull Parks budget year-to-date. Motion was seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.

11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Thursday, September 14, 2017.

- Dave Wilz will check to see when it gets dark that time of year. Suggested the meeting start earlier to make the trip to see the parks while still daylight. If needed, start the meeting at 6:00 p.m. That was acceptable to the members.

- Katrina will not be able to attend the September meeting as she'll be out of state at that time. She can check the parks out on her own and was encouraged to do so by Dave Wilz. If Katrina has any ideas or suggestions prior to that meeting, she can e-mail those to Dave Wilz or Patty A.

-At the September meeting while looking at the various parks, Carmen suggested that would be the time to determine who will inspect each park the following spring.

-As we do the parks tour in September, the last park we stop at, if the bugs aren't bad, we would finish the meeting at that park. All the parks have a picnic table.

-A possible future speaker for the Parks Commission might be John Jury and his involvement with the Green Trail which runs through Hull. The Green Trail started with around 25 miles and is not expanded up to 36 miles with new spurs. Dave Wilz will investigate having John Jury as a possible speaker for the Hull Parks Commission sometime in the future.

12) ADJOURNMENT. *A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to adjourn the Hull Parks Commission meeting. Motion was seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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