

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION

Thursday, July 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, July 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, Brian Hicks, Jim Mendyke, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Road Crew: Nick Kaminski.

Excused: Mike O'Keefe

Others Present: Carmen Coey

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 14, 2016 HULL PARKS MEETING.**
Motion made by Brian Hicks to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016 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.**

Wilz We're in the middle of the summer and we do certain road projects in the summer. Starting next week we'll be doing chip sealing. We try to get it as close to the middle of July as we can. Originally we tried to chip seal 10-12 miles a year, then it went to a dollar amount because the price kept going up. We do about \$100,000 to \$110,000 worth of chip seal a summer. Chip sealing right now is around \$15,000 to \$18,000 a mile. We've got about 7 or 8 miles scheduled. Pete has said that preventative maintenance with chip sealing, they've been able to prove, even if the roads are relatively new and have been reconstructed, it'll prolong it by another 10 or 15 years. We're doing those road projects next week.

On Well #11 we are still working with the City and legal counsels on both sides to negotiate the situation there. We haven't done much of anything for the last month and a half due to summer lawyer schedules and it's hard to book anything with them. It's been going pretty well. I hope we can get this resolved this fiscal year. Anybody else have anything they want to add?

Stoltz What is this Town of Hull Survey piece of paper?

Wilz We got two more surveys since our last meeting. The first page is the cover sheet which shows all the information from all the responses then the two independent recent surveys. One was

taken in June and the other in July. I saw two significant things. The first one done on June 7th, areas most often used: walking paths. I thought that was interesting. Then question #8 was, our parks need more: care of invasive plant species already present in wild areas. Invasive plants are a big thing. What do you know about that?

Hicks I know Standing Rocks has a garlic mustard issue. It's pervasive and everywhere. It has to be hand pulled because if you cut it, it sprays it all over the place. It's getting better but I know that is one big invasive species.

Wilz I don't know where in the survey they are implying we have invasive plans. They said they were at Pleasant View West, Pleasant View East and Conifer Nature Trail. Conifer possibly, and Sorenson Park. The second one, taken on July 12th, question #8, our parks need more: walking trails. I keep seeing walking paths and trails. I was wondering if that might be in response to, "it would be nice if we had more Green Circle trails."

Hicks Connect all of our parks or something.

Wilz Yes. I think that's the future. We tend to buy equipment but will people use it that much?

The Survey notice did not get moved to the front page of the Town of Hull website. I'll talk to Barb tomorrow about it. It's under Parks and you'd have to click on Parks to get to it. We had wanted that to be one of the things that pops up on the Home page that says something like, 'Hey, take a survey of our parks, just click here to get to it'. Maybe we can get that increased.

Mendyke How long does that Survey Monkey stay on?

Hicks It might have some kind of automatic close date but I don't know.

5) DISCUSSION OF 'ADOPT-A-PARK' CONCEPT.

Wilz To give you a little background here, John Holdridge wrote me a memo a month ago saying a gentleman had stopped in, Eric Eckland on Ray's and Sunnycrest. He wanted to know if he or his church could adopt a park. I told John we'll put it on our next agenda (Parks). Since that time, we did investigation and in front of you is an Adopt-A-Park application permit which includes responsibilities, terms and commitments.

Stoltz I know we had this from 5 or 6 years ago when we talked about it. We came up with this.

Wilz The date on it is 2003. We don't have to recreate it. I spoke to Eric a couple of nights ago and invited him to this meeting and he said he would try to come but he volunteers at a lot of things. We talked about what he wanted to do. They're interested in possibly doing something for us if we choose, over at Eastwood Park. The church is Redeemer Church behind Fleet Farm. They wanted someplace close to the church. He said they knew they couldn't use equipment but they'd be willing to go over there and pick up sticks. He said he was with another organization that helped with Iverson one year, raking chips in under all the swings. They went in and did a work day. He said that's what he has

in mind. I said, okay, come in and share your story, or I will talk to the commission about this. This is pretty well laid out. It talks about visiting the park at least 3 times a year, inspecting the park and making sure branches and sticks are picked up. When I first read this I thought, why would we even need this? Our guy goes out every week and I think he does a phenomenal job. But I don't want to turn away anyone who wants to get involved in something for the town people. Is there anything else we could have them do? They could do this.

Amman It does mention in here that if vandalism occurs on a weekend, call the sheriff's department. That would be something they could be watching for that our guys might not see because they're not there on the weekend. That's under #2 Responsibilities.

Hicks When we get around to that park, they could be involved in picking equipment. That's their park. Getting them involved in the selection of equipment.

Wilz We have a program and I think we should move forward with these people but I'm wondering if we want to add anything to this, expand this or come up with some other alternatives. It talks about when they can do this and what types of things they should do like check the trash, pick up sticks. I'm thinking that's great but we do a pretty good job of that right now.

Hicks What about the yearly inspection? Having them do the inspection.

Wilz I'd be happy to have them do that.

Hicks Then they can come and see what it's about.

Mendyke I would think our crew could get through there quicker if the sticks are picked up and you've got an extra set of eyes looking over things. I like the idea of brainstorming to think of other things they can do.

Wilz I've got some good suggestions. It sounds like, involve them more at inspections time. At equipment time, get them involved as that is their park and we want to hear what they have to say. I'll get a hold of Mr. Eckland. I asked if he wanted to do it this summer or if he wanted to wait until next year. It didn't make any difference to us. We'd be happy to have them. He said call me back and see what you guys think and we'll decide that over the phone. Does anybody have any problems with us following through on this?

Mendyke It might be nice to recommend this in the newsletter and we might get some more responses.

Wilz I almost thought about recognizing them at the park somehow. We've got Adopt-A-Road and we put up signs recognizing that.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz and seconded by Brian Hicks to approve the follow through on sending out the Adopt-a-Park application to group requesting it. Motion passed.

6) DISC GOLF PRACTICE AREA IN A SELECTED PARK.

Wilz This is a concept idea from a message given to Patty Fritsche who takes care of the Hull compost area. A man a few weeks ago gave her a suggestion to pass on to the Parks Commission. It was could we put a practice disc golf stanchion in a park or two for a place to practice. I've called him about 4 or 5 times and he isn't getting back to me. But I thought that might be worth talking about because disc golf is pretty popular. We're not talking about putting a course in but a place for someone to hone their skills. What is involved in that? Do you need a lot of open space? I imagine it can't be too close to equipment in case one gets away. I just throw this out to you to hear your ideas.

Hicks Any idea on how much a basket costs?

Wilz I've seen them in the books but haven't paid that much attention.

Stoltz You would think a place like Somerset that has a baseball diamond, you could have it to the edge of that. Even at Sorenson too. There's area there where you could set one up anywhere in the middle of the park. Pleasant View East or West too, there's open space away from the equipment.

Mendyke I would use it myself while my kids are on the teeter-totter but my kids are grown. It would help me spend more time in the park myself practicing.

Coey I agree. It would be something for the kids to try that's different too. Instead of going to a busy actual course.

Wilz I don't know of any parks in Stevens Point where they have a practice area. We've got the disc golf right across the street here and you've got those designated areas. For equipment, this would at least be something different.

Hicks I think it's a good idea.

Wilz It would have to be a park that could accommodate the space, someplace with a ball field in it. Or a large open space.

Mendyke Could we find something for Treder?

Stoltz We really didn't want to develop that into a park.

Wilz It's a conservancy. There's not even a sign over there is there?

Kaminski Yes, there is.

Mendyke I was just throwing out ideas. It's a big open area. But it would probably be better at a park that has equipment.

Stoltz Like you said, when the kids are on the equipment, you can practice.

Wilz Let me do some investigation on equipment. I still want to get a hold of this guy because the way Patty sounded, he was really into it. You don't want to buy equipment that's not the cool thing that nobody is going to use and wished you had gotten a different brand. We need some expertise in this area. I'll try to connect up with this guy.

Stoltz Hang out across the street. They'd probably tell you what to buy.

Hicks I work with a couple of guys that I know play a lot. I'm surprised we don't have some. Because I know AIG has 3 or 4 of them in their yard. I'm surprised no one has asked. Maybe they have but we don't have any grass yet.

Wilz I'll follow up on this. Patty said he seemed very knowledgeable. Maybe we can put this on the next Park's agenda.

A motion was made by Jim Mendyke and seconded by Maurice Stoltz to table this discussion until Dave Wilz can get more information. Motion passed.

7) DISCUSSION OF NEW MEMBERS AND POSSIBLE ELECTION.

Wilz We have a 7-member commission here called Parks and it's in the state statutes that towns that have parks and are over a certain population have to have an active Parks board of at least 7. That's why we are organized that way. I checked into that to make sure of the requirements so we knew where we stood. There are so many meetings going on here for so many reasons, but this is a productive meeting and we want to continue. But the state statutes state we need to have this. The reason I asked is because we had this open position last year and we didn't fill it. Then we had another opening this spring which was not anticipated. I'm at a 5 member board out of 7 so we've got to get going on this. We invited Carmen last year and we didn't connect for whatever reason. But it's nice to meet you and have you here.

Coey I grew up in Hull and with 2 children, we like to go to the parks a lot. I work with the same group as Brian and that's how I got here.

Wilz A few years ago, we used to meet up to 5 times during the summer and maybe miss one here or there. There was a lot more involvement that way. About 6 or 7 years ago we re-did some things and we got the parks up to a certain status then about 2 years ago we cut it back to 3 times a year. Once in early spring which is a pretty active meeting because we send a group out to inspect the parks. We bring that back and discuss it with our road crew who will do the work. It's kind of a work meeting. Then we talk about the new things we want to do for the year. We meet half way through the summer to catch up on how things are going. Then we do a final meeting usually in the third week of September on how we want to close the parks down, what do we want to do, what tree programs do we want to apply for, those kinds of things. That's kind of how we are structured. We've never had a problem getting a quorum. You can be as involved as you want. One year we did a big tree planting program. There can be more things to get involved. I'm just giving you the minimum of how we currently function. We're pretty loose but we follow Robert's Rules of Order. We leave it pretty informal so we can get the

discussion going. If you would like to be part of this group, I'd like to have you here and I think so would the rest of the group.

Coey Yes, I would love to be involved with that.

Wilz Good. We're always looking for different things, do things differently, new ideas, new concepts. We have a limited budget. We're a pretty small town but we've got enough in there that we can do some things that make sense year-to-year.

Amman The term length is 7 years which can be renewed.

Wilz Don't let that bother you because people come and go as things change in their life and they need to step down. We say thank you and move forward. For the next meeting, Patty, have an updated list with contact information for everybody and their term. If it's a 7-year term, you might be in year 3 of the 7. You'll have the term limits and the expiration dates. If you can have that available to share next time.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks and seconded by Maurice Stoltz to nominate Carmen Coey as a member of the Hull Parks Commission. Motion passed.

Wilz As long as we're on this subject, we still have one position open. I was trying to talk Mr. Elkland into taking that role but he had a whole list of places he already volunteers for. I just suggested if he can come, to come. We're looking for people who want to be here.

8) UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF REPAIRS FROM SPRING 2016 INSPECTION SHEETS

Wilz Carmen, we do these sheets each year and every person is assigned one to three parks to inspect. Then we review it as a group and hand it off to the road crew. Nick represents the road crew and he is one of three full-time road crew and they are assigned the responsibility of maintenance of the parks and to oversee a part-time person who comes in to cut the grass and some seasonal work. Nick is about to give us an update on the last list we gave him and where we are on that.

Kaminski In Jordan Acres Park we painted the swing, new trash can, trimmed trees back, fresh wood chips in areas needed and took out the dead jack pine trees by the power pole.

In the Somerset Park we installed the new infant/parent swing (Expressions Swing), painted a swing set, trimmed trees and cut down dead trees on the south property line. We just pushed them over hoping the landowner will take the wood. We installed a new trash can.

Sorenson Park got a new infant (Expressions) swing. We replaced the 'no vehicle' sign there and the post. Painted a swing set. Replaced a child's swing seat. A new trash can installed.

Pleasant View Park East, fresh wood chips, painted a swing set, installed new infant swings and new garbage can.

Pleasant View Park West, painted infant swing and installed new garbage can.

Eastwood Park, painted child swing, new trash can.

Meadow Manor Park, painted a swing, picnic table and benches. There are couple of those boards that should be replaced soon, but we'll get to that. Also a new trash can.

That's what was done so far. We're still in the middle of summer.

Mendyke Did you use all the same color paint?

Kaminski I'm not sure what colors were used. Just matched whatever was already on there.

Wilz The parks really did well over the winter and they were in really good shape.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz and seconded by Brian Hicks to approve the report from Nick Kaminski on the repairs in the various parks. Motion passed.

9) UPDATE ON NEW PARK EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION-EXPRESSION SWINGS AT SORENSON AND SOMERSET PARKS.

Wilz We installed two of them. One in Sorenson Park and one in Somerset Park. Those got installed then adjusted but were up and running by mid-June. Around the end of June, I went down past Somerset and at that time of year, there's usually nobody in the parks, but there was a mother and a two year old that were getting off of it. I pulled up and parked and they were leaving going to their car. I said I had a question and she said she couldn't talk, she had to go. I said, "How's that swing?" She said, "It's really cool and I'll be back." That's all I've heard or seen about the new swing.

Stoltz We've got to explain to Carmen what the swing is. It's a baby swing where the baby faces mom like on an old Goshen swing. The dad or mom sits on here and it's all built as one and you put the baby here where you're facing each other and swinging at the same time.

Coey I did a little research on the parks and I have a picture of that on my phone.

Stoltz That's how we got started. Somebody had it on Face book and we saw it and started looking into it.

Wilz He brought in some information and we watched it on the computer and thought it really looked cool.

Coey Yes, to a child, that would be amazing.

Wilz It was about the eye-contact because you're laughing in that child's face and interacting. You're steering it. Instead of standing there getting a sore back pushing the swing. You're playing with the child on the swing.

Stoltz We have one in Sorenson Park. I haven't seen anyone on it.

Wilz What did the neighbors say?

Stoltz I was talking to a neighbor last night and she's been talking with others and she said she's heard a lot of good things about it. I've told a couple of people walking by with strollers, have you seen the new swing, told them about it but not talked to them after I told them about it.

Wilz There's a little instruction sheet on it too. If you went up to it looking at it thinking it looks a little odd, you can read it and figure it out real quick.

Hicks I was out running early in the morning around 7:00 or 7:30 and there usually isn't anyone at the park at that time, but as I was making my way through there, I heard this giggling from a half block away. This little kid is giggle, giggle, giggle, swinging back and forth. The whole time I was going by this kid was just having a blast and I thought, hey, I think we've got one.

Wilz And the adult? It was working easy?

Hicks It was perfect. I had dogs with me so I couldn't go talk to them. It sounded fantastic. I wish that I had an infant I could try it out with.

Wilz I was pleasantly surprised as how stout and sturdy it appeared to be built. It was not cheap. It wasn't cheap to buy but it didn't look cheap either. What did you think of it as far as an apparatus?

Kaminski I have my faith in it that it's sturdy.

Amman Does it have a weight limit on it at all?

Kaminski I don't believe so.

Wilz What you're really looking at is a parent swing. The parent side of it is built so well. The kid is not an issue, he just needs to sit there. Up to three year olds. The only requirement, which makes sense, is they wanted to make certain it was installed by itself and not next to a kiddie swing in the same stanchion. You have all this extra weight and if it was next to another child, they don't want it to collide. We removed everything out of those areas and then that was the only one that went in right in the center of that area. So we lost a kiddie swing in each situation but those were not used that much anyway. There were still regular kiddie swings left, they were just not right next to the apparatus.

Stoltz I noticed we lost one of the gliders/horses. I used to take the grandkids there and sit on there and swing with them.

Wilz I'm interested in hearing some more stories because I don't get to those two parks during the day.

Hicks It's a good one.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks and seconded by Maurice Stoltz to approve update report on the installation of the Expression Swings in the two Hull parks. Motion passed.

10) REVIEW OF BUDGET (YTD)

Wilz As you can see, our Parks budget is relatively small. We have \$22,000 of which we've used \$7,000 and have \$15,000 left. We're in line to stay well within the budget this year. We had put \$6,583 in the Playground Equipment fund and the Expressions Swings cost \$2,635 and I don't anticipate buying any more equipment right now. You might have to buy a few things.

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz Make certain we have extra kiddie seats and stuff like that. So if something breaks, we don't have to reorder it, we can just replace it from what we've got on hand. We're in pretty good shape that way. As far as labor goes, with our part-time guy, if you keep him at 24 hours or less per week, you'll stay within the budget. This commission has always felt we want the parks to be safe and well picked up and cut the grass, especially this time of year when it needs it. If it's burnt and it doesn't need it, we don't want to spend labor on that. That's a big part of this budget, the labor and you'll do well with that. What are your plans at the end of the year? Pete, in the past usually does the chip work.

Kaminski Usually in the fall is when we touch up the chips but I thought why not do it in the spring instead when you're going to start using the trails again. That's what we did this year, we kind of changed it. Besides the chips and minor stuff like trash bags, we aren't going to spend much more. Fertilizer in October, the right stuff.

Stoltz Did they load the wrong kind at J-Mar?

Kaminski Yes. There isn't any crabgrass there.

Wilz It was crabgrass eliminator. We, as a group, had decided that we would put down just fertilizer and not try to kill weeds because of the danger to infants. I did some checking on it. That wouldn't be that type of product where that would happen with youngsters. I always go over the budget because it's part of it but we're half way through the season and we're still in good shape.

Mendyke Do we have room to get a couple of baskets?

Wilz I think so. We've got almost \$4,000 left.

Hicks Maybe we could use that money this year.

Wilz I wouldn't mind. You guys have time to put in a disc golf basket or two this year, don't you?

Kaminski Yes, we'll have time. Dig a hole, put a bag of concrete in and we're done.

Wilz I'll follow up with this guy. If you (*Brian*) want to talk to some of your buddies that are into this to give us a heads up on what type of thing they recommend. Give me a name or a model number, stuff like that. They're in all the books we get. Disc golf stuff is in there like crazy but which one is better and why should I buy this type over this.

Mendyke They have world champs around here as its popular around here. If they're the experts, they could help us out.

Wilz Yes, we've got the money and we don't mind spending it.
Just an update regarding budget related things, Mary B. and I have not settled on how she wants this done. She was the lady that requested the teeter-totter in Eastwood.

Stoltz There is one in Eastwood but it's not like a regular teeter-totter.

Hicks There's one in Somerset too.

Kaminski It's like a wavy thing.

Stoltz I walked through there when I was cutting through the park on my walk and I saw that. I think she wants the old fashioned kind.

Wilz I remembered your comment about when did we ever have anybody suggest something and maybe we should follow through on that. You said there was plenty of room, and there is. They generally run about \$900. But there are about 4 different ones. I've got the pictures of them and I want to get together with her. It would be good if she could bring a picture of what her grandson plays on that he likes. I don't want to put one in and have him say it's the wrong color or type. We've just got to reconnect.

Stoltz The back story on that is she approached us and is willing to pay for it and have it installed. That's why we're talking about it.

Wilz Right, trying to make sure it's the right one. We'll partner with her, she wants to make a donation and we can do that and the town will provide the installation and concrete and labor.

A motion was made by Jim Mendyke to accept the review of the Hull Parks budget year-to-date. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 15TH.

Wilz This is about the same date as last year. We try to keep the three meeting on or about where they were in previous years.

12) ADJOURNMENT. *A motion was made by Dave Wilz to adjourn the Hull Parks Commission meeting. Motion was seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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