

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, September 15, 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, September 15, 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, Jim Mendyke, Carmen Coey, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Hull Road Foreman: Pete Kaminski.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 14, 2016 HULL PARKS MEETING.**
Motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2016 Hull Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Mike O’Keefe. Motion passed with voice vote.

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

4) **ANNOUNCEMENTS; CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.**

Wilz I want to thank everyone for participating in the Parks. We’re ending another season with it being the middle of September. Thank you for your participation and I appreciate it.

I wanted to let you know there is a Water Committee that is formed for Hull and has been going for some time. One of the things they’ve done and that we’ll be doing is we’re going to employ, on a very limited basis, a hydrologist. More to give direction and come up with a plan on how we can, in the Town of the Hull, monitor various situations that are going on. For example, you’ve all heard the stories of Well #11. We have another situation that popped up a year and a half ago. A farmer owns 80 acres north of Emerald Forest. He was going to clear cut and put it in but there was a lot of push-back from his neighbors and he’s not done anything. Our problem was, that’s great there, but what if he had gone through with it, which he had a right to do. How would we know what affect, if any, that would have on us. You need to have data. Hopefully have data before something starts. The concept of hiring a hydrologist is to put together a plan of what we do in certain situations. In other words, our plan out there would have been, as soon as we knew he was clear cutting, we would have dropped in 3 or 4 monitoring wells and start collecting data on quality and quantity. Then, how do you do that? What are the aspects of doing it the correct way so if you ever need to use it, it would stand up in court. We’re in the final stages of talking with 2 companies. We put out a request for proposal. So we have plans in place from a professional on how to deal with things in the future. I think that’s going to be pretty important. Hopefully we won’t have to use them too much but we’re trying to be proactive instead of trying to figure it out afterwards.

Does anyone else have any questions about anything going on?

5) PARKS COMMISSION MEMBER - UPDATE.

Wilz I've got nothing to report on that other than I have one name that said she wanted to serve somehow in the community. I spoke to her a few weeks ago and she would do Parks but she didn't have any young kids. I said okay, we'll keep you in mind. I think I'll go to her next spring if we don't get any nibbles from our spring newsletter and the stuff we put on the website. That's just bringing you up to date on that one.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks to accept the Member Update report given by Dave Wilz. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

6) ADOPT-A-PARK CONCEPT – UPDATE.

Wilz Eric Eckland, we talked about him in July, he did meet with me. We followed up with the necessary park form we had. His church group filled it out and returned it and we're going to partner with them off of Regent (*at Eastwood*) starting next spring (2017). So that's going well.

Stoltz Talking about Regent, did that lady with her grandson and the teeter-totter get back?

Wilz I called her up and she said she'd think about it and get back to me but she never did. I think the grandchild is growing and found other cool things to play with. I didn't want to over-react to her original request. But I was remembering what Brian said, we've never had anybody tell us what they want, so maybe we need to listen when we get that one.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to accept the report Dave Wilz gave on the adopt-a-park update. Motion was seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed.

7) DISC GOLF PRACTICE AREA – UPDATE.

Wilz I called some manufacturers and got some information on what disc golf baskets cost. Then I went to a Wisconsin Towns Association meeting out at Stockton and they've got a brand new 9-hole disc golf course out on their land and it's going wonderfully. After the meeting, it wasn't too dark out so I went to look at it. Then I spent some time with the town chairman and said it's really nice, except your equipment is not new. He said no, it's not. They got it from Standing Rocks. I said, who put it in? He said, the people who put the new stuff out at Standing Rocks tore this down and brought it in and let them recondition it and re-install it. I asked for information and what that cost. He said it was \$500 a hole with installation. I'm waiting for Mike Bronk to get me the information on the contacts. I wanted to start there. I figured if somebody did that for a living and had some stuff and they could work with us, I would go that way instead of trying to figure it out ourselves.

Hicks A guy that I work with pointed me to 2 different places. UWSP's group that does disc golf. I haven't had a chance to look for who that is. They may know of people and designers. The guy that did all the courses here left town so he's not here. But there's a group up in Wausau that does some installation but the guy I talked to today didn't know what the name was. But I'll keep working on it.

Wilz Keep trying. What we're doing is a little different than somebody putting in a disc course. We're saying we've got some land we don't use, can we do that where it's not interfering with

the other kids. Where it will get utilized. We'll try to get the used stuff if we can because if it doesn't work out, at least it didn't cost us much.

Hicks They have 18 holes out at Standing Rocks, so if they (*Stockton*) only used 9 of those, there are still 9 left.

Wilz He said they have extra, they told him they have extra material left. We could take some off his hands. That's the update on disc golf. It's in process and we're trying to complete resourcing people that have worked with the Town of Stockton.

A motion was made by Brian Hicks to accept the report by Dave Wilz on the update of the disc golf practice area. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion accepted.

8) REVIEW OF BUDGET VS. ACTUAL – (YTD).

Wilz You've got a sheet in front of you and it's got all sorts of information on it. It's got our actual from 2011 through 2015 and it's got our 2016 budget year to date through the end of August. Then you see some hand-written numbers and those are mine. I predicted where we're going to end up in 2016 and I put together a preliminary budget for 2017 because we're in the budget process right now for the Town of Hull. In fact we started that about a week ago. You can see where we are and where we're going to end up in 2016 is quite a bit shorter of the budget of \$22,000 but we didn't buy much equipment this year. The other reason we're low is the labor in the parks, I've always budgeted the labor to be union because that's the way we used to do it when we had a 4-member road crew in years past. Part of the 4th man's responsibility was to mow the parks. We had years where we had \$6,500 or \$7,000. We don't do that now. We only have 3 road crew and we have a part-time gentleman taking care of the parks and he's not at \$22 an hour, he's at \$10 or \$11. But I left it at \$7,500 for 2017 for labor because there's been a request by the road crew to add a 4th full-time road crew member back on. If that's the case, I think it would be natural that he'd get involved in the parks again. I will say this, the full-time labor is definitely more expensive on an hourly basis but it's not more expensive on equipment.

Kaminski Our current lawn mower, we bought in 2008. I think I told you when we purchased it, that it would last 10 – 12 years. So we're talking maybe 4 years down the road replacing it. There's nothing wrong with it now. Its diesel and we do all the maintenance. Just something to think about for maybe 5 years down the road.

Wilz So any questions about this? The 2017 budget is very similar to the 2016 budget. I've left money in for more playground equipment and the higher labor costs.

Kaminski That Sign the Town, are you going to start putting up more street signs?

Wilz Thanks for bringing that up. I left the \$800 in the Sign the Town like we've always had for the 'Hello, welcome to Hull' sort of thing until we figure that out. The one underneath that is Bikes and Peds. My hand-written note says 'signage on selected roads'. I was involved in the Portage County Bikes and Peds program they put together a year and a half ago. It was recently adopted by the City and they're going to start utilizing that document. The document never got finished. That's why our Town

Board hasn't adopted it yet. But there are certain parts of it that are complete and we should start implementing it when we get the opportunity. One thing is bike signage. You put up bike signage based on if the road is bike-worthy or if it has a bike path, then you would have a sign. All our roads in Hull have been identified whether or not they are bike routes. Torun Road is a designated bike road according to this plan. Next year we're scheduled to re-surface and widen Torun Road.

Kaminski Maybe a foot wider. It's 32' wide right now. But I think the last time we talked about it, we thought we could get it 1 foot wider on each side to get in the walking path.

Hicks How much of Torun Road?

Kaminski Just from the City limits up to Jordan Road.

Wilz It's a big stretch. That's scheduled for next year. I think that's about a \$200,000 project and we got \$46,000 in road aid going towards it so that's the offset for that. When that gets done, it'll get striped. So we'd have a dedicated bike route. What does that look like? What are we going to put on the signage? The plan hasn't been completed yet because that was one of the things that we, as community members, were going to get together and say, what type of sign. The only one that has signs up right now is Stevens Point. I asked Tom Schroeder if we could come over and look at that, because if that's a good bike sign, why don't we universally agree to use it. The communities that bump up to Stevens Point would all use the same thing. But I started with \$500 in there. I don't know what they cost. If we do that there, we should put bike signs on Old Wausau Road.

Kaminski Old Wausau and Old Hwy. 18 also has a small portion with a bike path too.

Wilz Start looking at the roads that we already have that are wide and with a stripe there, let's start implementing it. I think it should come through this Commission. This is really recreation.

Kaminski Looking at Wilshire Road.

Wilz That would be the next one.

Kaminski I saw somewhere in the City where they basically have an arrow with a bicycle sign and a stripe saying bicycle and arrow here. They figure it out.

Wilz We need to be doing that and thinking about that.

Hicks As a member of the Town of Hull and someone that drives the Torun Road every day, thank you. And running. I run that every day. I think the cars know who I am now. When I first started running, it gets pretty hairy. So that will be nice, having it designated. There's a lot of foot, running, bike traffic on that stretch of Torun.

Wilz Yes, there is. The people that ran the process for this county-wide program were from Madison. They were instrumental in getting Madison their gold-star rating for bicycles. It took a very progressive mayor to throw out \$200,000 a year to get that done, for 5 years. It takes money down in a big city to do that. It's following through and saying, let's just start.

Stoltz Did the City just get a grant of \$40,000?

Wilz Yes, it was in the paper I think. It was more than that. The City had to come up with \$90,000 and I think they got \$150,000. Really what they're doing is painting. That's the one thing that came out of this study that I remember. They didn't care how wide your road was or how narrow it was. If you put a stripe down, that was everything in terms of safety and people noticing there's someone coming down here on a bike, or they're walking, with that stripe. So paint is cheap. Now stripes don't help you if the road is only 20 feet wide. That's where I threw \$500 in there. When we get these road projects done and get some of them refreshed, we'll start moving in that direction. But I've got to get the sign approved by the Board.

The other thing I wrote down on the bottom was the needs for 2017. Obviously chips. Fertilizer which we do 2 times a year. The disc golf apparatus, once we get that located, we'll need at least 2 of those. Then the bike signs for Torun Road and Old Wausau Road. And you're talking about Old Hwy. 18 and Wilshire.

Does anybody else have suggestions on other things we can do other than the traditional park stuff that this committee can be a part of and think about doing?

Stoltz Pete, on Old Hwy. 18 where it stops on Breezewood, is that where the City limits start?

Kaminski Correct.

Stoltz Would Old Hwy. 18 belong to the City then?

Kaminski Where we have it striped and where it's wider, that part belongs to the Town of Hull.

Wilz So we both own it.

Kaminski The agreement was, once we built that road, when the City did theirs, they'd put in the bike lane on theirs but that never happened.

Wilz As far as budget goes, this is what we've got. Any other suggestions on how we can reallocate some of this money that we haven't been doing some things on but we've thought about? That's what we're here for.

Stoltz What did we talk about earlier for equipment for next year for the parks, other than golf stuff?

Wilz The disc golf items might be \$1,500 depending upon if you have to buy new and get it installed.

Kaminski I was going to do some landscaping by the Hull sign by Hwy. 66. I was going to do that last year but couldn't do it. We had money approved for it last year for this spring but I wasn't around this spring. I think maybe it was like \$1,200 that got approved last year.

Wilz We may have gotten that out of the landscaping portion of the budget. That's why it went up to \$4,000 and we've kept it there. So in theory, it's still there.

Kaminski For the future, maybe next spring we could tackle it.

Wilz Then again, Sign the Town, we've never spent that money. Per Jim's recommendation, I threw it back to the Board and said we, as a group, couldn't come up with a plan for what that was and how it would look but we knew it was important.

Kaminski If we get signs next year, I'm thinking for 6 roads. If you put 2 signs per road, that would be 12 signs and they're at least \$45 to \$50 each.

Wilz What kind of signs are you talking about?

Kaminski Those bicycle signs, a picture of a bicycle with arrows. Once we talk with the City, to have the same signage.

Wilz I agree with that. But this 'Sign the Town' was for the Town of Hull. Like, 'Hello, Welcome to the Town of Hull'.

Stoltz We were talking about different spots in the Town of Hull.

Kaminski Yes, we should do that once, try it. Put up one sign and see what kind of reaction we get.

Mendyke Like, "Welcome – Thank You for Visiting Hull".

Wilz That's the problem, it comes in and out. It's a great concept. John asked about it years ago. Talking about the community of Whiting. When you go in Whiting, they've got the flags and the signs and you know you're there and when you leave, they say goodbye. But they're not broken up like we are. That's the problem.

Pete, regarding bike and peds, write on your notes, John Jury - signs. That's the walk/ride signs, wheels on right.

Stoltz Those we have by us on Old Hwy. 18.

Wilz But we haven't put up any more than the initial ones and we should put a few more of those up every year. 'Shoes on the left and wheels on the right.'

Kaminski I think people are actually listening to that. Most of the people I see, a lot of the roads we have are kind of narrow.

Coey It could be used up on Old Wausau because I know there are a lot of bikes from the parks that go up there.

Wilz This was part of a Safety Committee we had developed 5 or 6 years ago. With all the people using the roads for various functions, we have to embrace that to make it safe. That sign came

out of that. That's a Green Circle sign developed by John Jury. John lives in the Town of Hull on Old Wausau Road. He didn't have the sign (*yet*). He had business cards with that sign that he would give out to participants. When they were on the wrong side of the road, he'd give them one and that's what he used them for. We got the cards and they were black and white. We gave it to Pete and said make one of these into a sign. He did and he used red and white. John Jury came in and said, "Perfect! Put it up near my house." We put up a total of 8.

Kaminski They're all over, spread out. All of our main roads have got one, at least 8 different main roads.

Wilz We paid for half of them and the Green Circle paid for half. It was a collaboration. We didn't want to just plaster them everywhere. We wanted to see how it would go. It's been about 2 or 3 years since we did that.

Kaminski They're working.

Wilz We'll put some of those in for next year. So Carmen, there are at least 2 of them.

Coey I was trying to think, coming down North Point going onto Old Wausau.

Kaminski There's one on North Point prior to Old Wausau Road.

Wilz When you come out of Bukolt Park, past the lagoon, take a left going down Old Wausau Road, that's where Point and Hull meet. There's one right there too.

Coey Right by the cemetery?

Wilz It's before the cemetery. That's the first one.

Kaminski Yes, the Town of Hull starts there.

Wilz Any other suggestions for the budget?

Mendyke We were looking at some trees for landscaping around this building? Or did we already do that?

Wilz We didn't do that. We're not done with the parking lot.

Kaminski We got flowers and stuff planted pretty much around everything.

Wilz When it got done and we did our water management plan outside, if we had to do one, then if that meant we had a reconfiguration of the parking lot, whether expansion or whatever, then when that all got set, then we were going to do some trees. The trees we have out here now, the 2 crabapples are just full of holes.

Kaminski I'd like to take them out this fall yet.

Wilz To answer your question, that was going to happen when we got everything done. Pete was assigned, with the engineer, Dave Glodowski, a couple of weeks ago to put together numbers on what it's going to cost to finish that and what we need to do to finish it. Sometimes you need to have a water management plan, then sometimes you don't. Well there is a big difference between resurfacing the existing parking lot versus ripping it up and mowing all the trees down over here because we've got to displace the water. Pete's trying to get a handle on that. Have you talked to Dave about that? I know you've been working on roads.

Kaminski I left a message but no I haven't. I mentioned it earlier and he was going to come up with a plan. Whether he did or not, I don't know.

Wilz So that's where it's at. But yes, we're going to need them because all the trees are dead except for that oak. They're all dying and rotting.

Mendyke Is that funded for this year?

Wilz It's in this year's budget but if it doesn't get used, it's just going to end up in the check book. One of the things we're doing for the 2017 budget is, what is it going to cost to finish off this room and all these pieces I just talked about for the outside. To put a push to get this stuff done and over with. This one here, they're talking about putting pictures in here of Hull and little things like that.

Amman Why are our trees dying? Is there any particular reason? Does anybody know?

Wilz There are 2 maples out here. One, the top broke off years ago and that's just rotting from the inside out. There are 2 of them like that. Then the 2 crabapple trees, I looked at the sawdust from the holes in them from the woodpeckers. They've been there awhile so it's time.

Kaminski Being a sweeter tree, all the birds and insects go after it.

Wilz Any other questions on budget? Otherwise we can pass it and submit it to the Finance Committee.

A motion was made by Jim Mendyke to accept the review of the Hull Parks budget and pass it on to the Finance Committee. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.

9) DISCUSS PRELIMINARY PARKS BUDGET FOR 2017.

See discussion in agenda item #8 above. Lumped together.

10) MAINTENANCE REPORT – PETE K.

Wilz Pete, where are we on maintenance? Start by talking about where we are in the completion of the list we gave last spring. In July you reported you were about 3/4th of the way through that list.

Kaminski It was Nick (*Kaminski*) that was at the first meeting.

Park Status:

Jordan Acres: We put in wood chips this year. Replaced the garbage can. Painted the monkey bars and swing set. We put in 2 new infant seats that Grant put in last week. He cleaned up a lot of dead branches, trimming them off the lower parts of the trees that were dying.

Somerset Park: He painted the swing set. Put a new garbage can out there. Besides mowing every third or fourth day.

Meadow Manor: He painted a swing set. Put in wood chips. Replaced the garbage can. I got a deal on garbage cans at Lowes. I think I bought 12 of them. A lot of our old cans are rotten or rusted out. I got them for very reasonable.

Eastwood Park: He replaced the garbage can. Put in wood chips. Replaced seats on infant swings. He painted the swing sets.

Sorenson Park: He put in wood chips. Painted the slide and swing set.

Kirschling East (Pleasant View East): He put in wood chips. Took a dead tree out. Painted the swing set. Replaced the garbage can.

Kirschling West (Pleasant View): He put in wood chips. Replaced the garbage can. Painted the swing set.

Other than still doing a lot of mowing yet, are we going to put fertilizer down this fall?

Wilz Yes.

Kaminski I called today. I'm going to put the winter-blend mix which is \$13.20 a bag which is not bad. Before, we had been putting on Greener by the Yard which is \$14.60 a bag. I'll need about \$660 yet from the landscape money for fertilizer for fall.

Wilz We've got more than that, but that's fine.

Kaminski That's about it besides mowing the grass. I haven't had time yet because we've been doing our roads, but for our younger trees, I put that white paper around them so the deer don't rub their horns on them. That should have been done already but Grant is gone this week and we've been busy with roads. We'll do it Monday when he's back.

Wilz Along with this maintenance area, what is your opinion on trees for the parks?

Kaminski This would have been a good year, with the rain. I don't have much faith in them. Jim, you watered them. We were watering them. They seem to go good for a year or two. The soil here doesn't match the tree but yet we got the kind of trees the DNR told us to get for this kind of ground here. Out of all the trees we got last time, I think only about 15 are left out of about 30. They seem to do good for awhile then just like that, they just die.

Stoltz The deciduous trees, I think we lost most of those. The evergreens grew.

Kaminski The evergreens seem to be okay yet. The trees we planted there were some kind of maples down by the Conservancy, those are growing beautifully out there.

Wilz We didn't get a lot of maples from the order though. The reason I bring this up is because Don Kissinger and I spoke last week. Don was the one that put us onto this the first time. He said, "Hey, I just want to remind you, you would be eligible for it again." The program allowed us to get those trees but you have to wait a certain amount of time in between. Five or more years. If you didn't want to wait, then you had to get a different program and had to commit so much money to it every year. He called and said next year we should think about doing that if we want to. He asked how did it go last time? I said, not really well. Every time we turned around, we were pulling dead trees out over the last couple of years.

Kaminski They started good. We watered them religiously, but some of them after a few years just died.

Mendyke Like the one they helped us plant.

Wilz The one Don showed us how to plant.

Mendyke The lilac bushes were doing okay.

Kaminski Those seem to do well all over, wherever we planted them. I thought I read with the DNR, we've got until October 20th if we want to apply for a tree grant.

Wilz Yes, that's why he called. To see if we received it, and remind us if we wanted to apply for it. What does the group thing? Should we take a swing at it again? It would be for next spring.

Kaminski How many volunteers am I going to get to water them? First things first. Last time we had Park members help us. I wouldn't shoot for so many. Last time I think we had like 65. Maybe shoot for 30 of them. Maybe 2 or 3 or 5 in each park.

Wilz I'd still like to try a variety but stick more with the ones that actually work. Okay, I'll get a hold of Don.

Kaminski You're going to apply for it?

Wilz Yes, we will. We'll get the paperwork.

Kaminski Then you and I will sit down.

Wilz Sure. That's how we did it last time.

Kaminski For maybe 30 or 40 trees.

O'Keefe Do you need help putting those in when you get them?

Kaminski In the spring, yes. Last time, everyone kept their map and we mapped it out and there was one flat fee for everyone, it was \$15 to help put them in, per hour.

Wilz Jim was available at that point.

Mendyke I drove the water truck and got to fill it up by the fire dept. pump.

Kaminski Yes, you did a lot of it for 2 years.

Wilz If you've got the e-mail, pull down the application, then get a hold of me and let's fill it out together. Don said it was similar to last time but there were some minor changes. He said pay attention to them. So we'll try for it.

Amman Do we pay for these trees? Or do we get them for free?

Wilz We didn't pay for them last time. It's part of the Wisconsin Tree Program.

Amman So if they don't grow, is there any kind of guarantee with them? Will they replace them?

Kaminski Most of the trees are guaranteed for one year. All of them surpassed that mark. Usually two years down the road they decided to die.

Wilz We didn't pay anything for the tree.

Kaminski I've got to look back at that, I'm not going to say.

Wilz They had a really nice form. Then we brought Don Kissinger from Wausau with the DNR. I asked Don to come down here and do this with us. The three of us sat in the board room and said these will work out pretty good. He helped us put the order together saying, this is what I would do. Then he offered, with the ones that came in, to help train people, and he did. He was great about it.

Kaminski Wasn't it a 50/50 grant last time? I thought the Town had to pay \$2,500 and they matched it or something.

Hicks I don't know what we paid, but I don't think they were free.

Wilz But it wasn't very much. Our commitment was the soft dollars. We've got the truck, the gas, the shovels, the gloves, we're running out there and Jim is spending money running around burning gas with the watering. That kind of thing. But it was great and it was really noticed by residents. We got a lot of comments. "Hey, you guys planted some stuff!"

Kaminski Did all those in Sorenson die? Or is there one left out there?

Stoltz No, they're all gone.

Kaminski That's what I thought. I think we had four out there at one time.

Stoltz There were three across on the end of Floral. One was supposed to be a 60-footer and the other two were supposed to be smaller. Well there's nothing there now.

Wilz Pull the application down, get a hold of me and let's fill it out and get it moving. We've got until the second or third week of October.

Kaminski I thought until October 20th.

Wilz We've got a little bit of time. Anything else Pete? Any questions for Pete about general maintenance?

Kaminski The baseball diamond, do you guys see anyone using that stuff at Somerset?

O'Keefe I saw some out there in the spring.

Wilz They did work it up so let's keep doing it. We've got the machine. We bought the equipment to keep it there. Does Grant know how to do that?

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz If that means he needs to get in there twice a summer, then that is what needs to be done.

Hicks That neighborhood is getting young again, my neighborhood. I think we're kind of cycling back around to seeing lots of young kids walking through our neighborhood.

O'Keefe A lot more young families.

Hicks That diamond may come back more in use as those kids get older and get into softball and baseball.

Kaminski Some older kids at Somerset had put the picnic table underneath the thing they swing around. I carried it out and chained it up to a tree. Someone could get hurt if a little kid crawled up on the table and started to swing. There's always something in those parks. Everything has to be chained up otherwise there's trouble.

Stoltz At least there are kids in that park. I was saying earlier I haven't seen anyone in our park, Sorenson, all summer. Kids and old people on their tablets.

O'Keefe I see kids out there. I think someone is doing day care because they're sitting out there reading while all the kids are running around.

Stoltz There is a day care around Pine Oaks behind me. Every now and then they go with a big surrey with about 6 kids in it, towards the park.

Kaminski What do you guys think about the grass that is in big stubbles? Over the next couple of years, instead of putting in new playground equipment, let's start doing the grass in our parks. Work them up and seed them down nice. A lot of those parks have just balls of sod. We've got the equipment. It wouldn't take much. We can work them up and get them ready. Just have somebody

come and seed them. We don't have a seeder. Hire them to come and do that. Just something to think about for the future. In some of the parks, the grass isn't worth much.

Stoltz This would have been a good year for new grass.

Kaminski I know (*with the extra rain*). Next year, we don't know.

Wilz Carmen, do you have any suggestions of things you noticed, maintenance wise, in the parks you see?

Coey No, I really haven't.

Wilz The parks weathered well over the winter. This was the best spring inspections we've had, where there wasn't much to do other than the chips and that kind of thing. It was an easy, mild winter.

Kaminski Grant, he likes painting stuff. I haven't had a chance to get out to the parks other than drive by them and look. We're busy on roads. But I've been buying paint steady. He's doing a good job.

Wilz He's using it. He takes pride in it.

Stoltz A couple of weeks ago, he was just getting ready to cut in the morning when I got done with my walk and I told him he's doing a good job.

O'Keefe To work up the turf out there, what do you need to do? You use a rotor tiller?

Kaminski I've got that little rotor tiller they bought for that ball diamond. It has different heights on it. We can work it up. Maybe the Town should invest in a little 6 foot seeder to go behind our John Deere. We've got the tractor. You'd just have to buy a seeder and buy the seed and seed it down. I don't know how we'd cover it up. It's kind of hard to cover up such a large area. There are different ways. I know they blow that green stuff in there, you can use bales of straw. If I could hit the weather right and plant it extra thick, some would blow away and the birds get some, but I would cultipack it too after I seed it. You knock the seeds into the ground and in 2 weeks, you'd have fresh grass coming up. I think it's something we should seriously think about, especially some of those parks. Meadow Manor looks good yet. But know a few of them look terrible. When you hit a baseball and it hits you up in the head, it's time to think about that. Or maybe just get a giant cultipacker and bang everything back down again. Roll the whole park and flatten everything out.

Stoltz A lot of people will over-seed in the fall. They'll rough it up and plant seed. Eventually after a couple of years, it all grows nice.

Kaminski That fertilizer we put down in the spring, did you notice if the lawns in the parks look good?

Stoltz Yes.

Kaminski Now I'll put in the winter blend and in the spring, we do Greener by the Yard. I think everything is nice and green as far as I know.

Stoltz Yes, the parks have looked green all summer.

Wilz You're getting that from J-Mar?

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz What was that thing we were so concerned about 4 or 5 years ago about using certain types of fertilizer as far as young kids go? Do you remember the discussion?

Stoltz Oh, stuff that had weed killer in it.

Wilz This is just a fertilizer?

Kaminski Just fertilizer, yes. I've got empty bags of it. Besides fertilizer, there's nothing in it.

Wilz Then it should be okay.

Kaminski The fertilizer I'm going to put on now, the fall blend, it goes to the roots and keeps the roots revived and energized over the winter.

O'Keefe Is there a certain type of seed you plant out there for grass? What type of grass are you going to plant?

Kaminski I don't know right now. I'd have to do my homework on that. That one by you is all sun there basically.

Wilz Should we talk about this? Is that something we want to figure out tonight so we do one next spring?

Kaminski I'm all in favor of doing that one by your house, Sorenson.

Wilz You're talking about working up the whole thing.

Kaminski Except where the playground equipment is because of the wood chips. Wherever the tractor can get in.

Wilz When would you do that?

Kaminski We could work it up this fall. Get it worked up so you can get some of the quack grass killed off. I wouldn't go out there until October 20th. Go out there this fall and work it up and in the spring, work it up a couple of times and seed it in April 15th or May 1st.

Wilz Does that work? Grant?

Kaminski Between Grant and me. I could do it too. We would do it ourselves. The only thing, you'd have to rent is a seeder because we don't have a grass seeder. But I would get one that is big enough to go behind the John Deere tractor. You fill it up with seed and drive back and forth. Get a cultipacker and you can pull that right behind the seeder and get it done in one shot. That would be the way to go. I think I can rent them instead of buying one.

Wilz If you can get that done this fall, especially with all this road work.

Kaminski I'm not promising anything.

Wilz We had 3 roads, all in the same area out in the I-39 West area part of town. Parts of Granite Ridge, Pinewood and Driftwood. They're all related geographically to each other within a couple of blocks. They're all hydric. With the heavy water this spring, we used to always have problems out there, but these roads were literally exploding. There were areas that got so mushy during the spring thaw, that the school bus couldn't drive through there to pick up the kids. So we knew we had to do something major. You guys have been working on that now for at least 4 weeks. Re-ditching and trying to get down to the granite and put in different types of materials.

Kaminski A lot of those roads have clay in them. We had all that rain last winter and the water has no place to go. It sits on the road, can't get to the side, sits in a pocket. It's got to evaporate which takes a month or two, so it can dry out. We dug that down. All the bad soil is out. We put in 2 feet of 3" to 5" rock then we're putting in another 8" of 1 1/4" road base and then 4" of 3/4 inch road base. Now if it rains, you've got ditches and it can soak in and be shed by the rock. Whereas before, with the clay in the bottom, the water had no place to go. It'll be interesting this spring to see how things are going to work. We plan on chip sealing that.

Wilz But that wasn't planned. The initial bid, before we found out we could do some of the work ourselves, was pushing \$200,000, that was unexpected. But you've got to fix it. You can't say, oh, we'll get to it. You've got to do it. That's what they've been working on. But I'll tell you this, if you guys can get Sorenson worked up and stick with it in the spring, re-work it again, next year's budget should have plenty of money to be able to work with that.

Kaminski The seed shouldn't cost more than \$500.

Wilz We'll do one and use that as an experiment and see how it takes.

Kaminski And if that doesn't work, the following year we can plant all trees in that park!

Wilz Alright, that was out maintenance report. Thanks Pete, we appreciate it.

A motion was made by Dave Wilz to accept Pete Kaminski's report on the maintenance status of the parks. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

11) DATE OF NEXT HULL PARKS COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M.

Wilz This is a week earlier than normal.

Amman It was because the initial date you pulled would have been the week before Easter.

Wilz We tried to stay away from it. Our next scheduled meeting will be that Thursday, April 6, 2017. Which is the week before Holy Week. We've talked about this every year. Is Thursday still a good night? Is 6:30 p.m. still a good time?

Everyone was in agreement that it worked for them, except Pete who finishes work around 3:00 p.m.

Wilz We'll leave it at that then. Pete, you're going to get back to me with Don's e-mail and we'll hammer that one out together then and get some trees in for next spring.

Amman We usually do the inspections prior to that first meeting?

Wilz Generally, if we look back even further, we used to have our first meeting sometimes in late March. Then one year, 2 or 3 years ago, we could have waited until May because of the snow in April. I moved it to the middle of April because I figure it'll all be gone by then. This should work.

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