

**MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, April 11, 2012 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 Wednesday, April 11, 2012 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, Mike O’Keefe, Brian Hicks, Jim Mendyke, Maurice Stoltz, Roland Schroeder, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Pete Kaminski, Hull Road Foreman

- 2) Approval of minutes from September 14, 2011 Parks meeting.** *Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2011 meeting. Seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.*

- 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 For those of you who voted last week, we had it here at the Town of Hull (*municipal building*) and it went really well. It worked really well. There were some complaints in the past about using the fire station because of smells, etc. We decided to do it here (*at the municipal building*) because it’s more user friendly especially for the poll workers who are here for a lot of time. It seemed to be very organized. Did anybody have trouble finding a place to park when they came to vote? Was it pretty easy in and out?

Hicks I was here at 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. and it was busy but it moved very well.

Wilz We’re going to get a lot of practice out of this building with days coming up in May, June and the fall; a lot of elections in one year. I wanted to share a letter from last year; from the Point Fast Pitch. I wanted to share it at the last meeting and never got to it. This has to do with the Somerset Park and the efforts that Pete and his crew did in trying to restore a pretty nicely built baseball diamond and getting it in really top shape for fast ball. Last year was the second year they used it.

Stoltz We had T-ball at the other ones but I think last year was the first for this one.

Wilz            They used the heck out of it. Pete has already done Somerset twice this year as far as the infield. It looks wonderful. They were just so appreciative. They sent this letter to me. It's really a testament to Pete and his crew for doing it. If they're going to use it and we've got the facility, I don't mind keeping it up because that's what it's there for. One of the people listed on the bottom of the letter, Houston Parrish, is the original person who contacted us. We e-mailed each other last September and he said there were times they played on that field 3 times a week. Mostly practice but he said they used the heck out of it and he hoped we'd continue to keep it up.

Hicks            Spencer Rogers lives in our neighborhood, just down the block from me. I ran by there the other day and I think they were doing a practice. Parking was fine. They had all packed in that area there. There were probably 6 cars compactly parked in there so there was nothing on the road. They did good.

Mendyke        We had a couple of practices there with my son's group, the Stevens Point Youth Baseball Association as well as the Point Fast Pitch for the girls. So yes, it was used quite a bit.

Wilz            Stevens Point found it too then.

Mendyke        Yes. If the diamond was taken, then we were just out in the field. It worked out. We had more than 4 teams practicing.

Wilz            Well good. It's great to see them used, that's what they're there for. We e-mailed each of you awhile back about the new siren going out in the I-39 West area because we really thought it was going to get here in 2 weeks. It still hasn't arrived but it will be going up. I just want to announce that. Pete's got a location picked out as I described in the e-mail. Have you heard anything about where it is right now?

Kaminski        No. I talked with Dale S., that's the guy who is ordering it, he didn't know. He'll track it down and let us know. The other guy, Bushman Electric, was supposed to put in a meter box (for service) last week and they haven't done it. I was out there today looking. Within the next 2 weeks it should be up and running.

Wilz            Last evening we had our annual meeting. Annual meetings are kind of an interesting deal; it's by law that townships have to hold an annual meeting once a year. It even tells you it has to be the first or second Tuesday in April. It's a reverse meeting. The people that show up, the electorate, it's their meeting. It takes a bit of getting used to. The Board presents various aspects of the township and kind of gives a state of the union. Pete talks about roads, I talk about parks. We talk about big issues we see coming. They listen and then start asking questions. The role is kind of reverse. So if you ever want to experience something that is a little bit different, try to get to the annual meeting. John Holdridge would like to see a thousand people at the annual meeting. He says that's how we know what's going on.

Brian, did you get connected with Big Brothers?

Hicks            I did. He actually helped me do the park inspection. I brought him over to Somerset and he loved that wave rider. I knew he'd love that. We had a good time.

**5) Review of Parks Budget – 2012.**

Wilz I've got the budget handout here; an update, just in a different format. I wanted to quickly review how we ended up at the end of December preparing the budget for this year. Basically the first column is the 2012 approved budget. Parks came in at \$22,249. It's within \$50 of what we all penciled down when we worked on the budget last year. I think we increased one area and reduced another but it was within about \$50. They approved what we submitted and we've spent \$146 so far this year and have \$22,000 left. Any questions about it?

*A motion was made by Roland Schroeder to accept the budget report as given. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.*

**6) Discussion of New Park Equipment Placement, Purchased in 2011.**

Wilz I want to revisit our new park equipment placement from last year. There's a memo in here to Pete from me dated June 29, 2011. These were the pieces that were ordered. To the right side, you'll see the parks that we had agreed where we wanted to place these pieces in. I bring this up because we never got them installed last year. For a variety of reasons. Number 1, because the equipment came in late. Then we had the storm and the guys were tied up for 3-4 weeks cleaning up. So we just stored it until we could put it in. We can either go with this plan or we change it. It doesn't make a difference, it's all here. The only thing I had a question on was on the overdrive at Somerset. Mike, you tell the story.

O'Keefe I was visiting with my neighbor Sunday afternoon who lives adjacent to the park on Sunny Crest. I mentioned that we're going to put a new piece of playground equipment in there for some of the older kids that play at the park. They got really upset about it. So I told them to call the Town of Hull here. They complained about the kids being out there at 11:00 at night, because they go to bed at 10:00 and stuff like that. I tried to calm them down as best I could but they just got overly excited about it.

Wilz I spoke to them twice. I talked to Ken; I didn't talk to Rona (Ramage). They live at 1425 Sunny Crest. The fence line of their house has the swings up against it so that would be on the north side of the park, on Sunny Crest. There's a swing set then there's a large open area. The playground equipment begins about central park and continues down to the southside. I think you removed some sandpits that were in there.

O'Keefe Sandboxes, yes, we needed to open it up.

Wilz Mike had mentioned that we were putting in a piece of equipment that was designed to attract older children. So he (*Mr. Ramage*) immediately converted that into, we bought it for the teenagers and it just went on from there. I said no, they don't design equipment for teenagers but we wanted to get a piece of equipment for the bigger kids to see if we could hold them longer. I said that I didn't know where it's going to go. With that in mind, do you recall...because you picked that out, does that take a big area?

Hicks I don't remember at all.

Wilz It's the one you hang from.

Mendyke It's the merry-go-round...*(multiple talking)*

Kaminski It needs a 19'x19' use-zone around it.

Schroeder All the parks have a 10:00 p.m. curfew.

Stoltz I think there are signs that state that.

Hicks I thought it was 11:00 p.m.

Kaminski Here's a picture of it *(piece of playground equipment)*.

Wilz So it has a 20' landing. There's room in there to put it by the other equipment.

Kaminski Right on here it says it's for children 5-12 years old. If somebody 18 wants to hop on it, so be it. So for 5 to 12 *(year olds)*.

Schroeder All of our equipment we get is for 12 and under.

Stoltz I don't know, some of our equipment holds 60-some year olds!

Mendyke It's a nice piece of equipment, we planned on putting it there. Kids are going to be in the park whether that's there or not. If you buy a house next to a park, you've got to expect there's going to be kids playing.

Wilz I assured him of 2 things. One, that's it's probably going into that park; that we would not accommodate and change our plans. If he got a petition together where there were 150 names of people that lived over there, then we'd obviously listen to that. But I said we would take into account a proper placement. I said we generally group our playground equipment together. We don't just hodge-podge it all over the place. He said okay. He had settled down at that point.

Mendyke If it's a curfew issue, then that can be handled by Portage County.

Kaminski That's right.

Mendyke If it's curfew related, then that's different.

Wilz I explained to him, I said, "If it's too loud or if it gets out of hand, you call Portage County Sheriff's Dept. That's how you handle that." Unless you're going to go out and police the parks.

Hicks Who's park is that? Let's make that person the sheriff! Mike? *(laughter)*

O'Keefe I live right next to there and I don't have a problem. I hear kids out there when I'm out on my deck in the summertime. I can hear them talking and stuff, teenagers, high-school kids. They sit on the tables or that little tire swing. They sit there some time, the guys and gals go over by that walking board (balance beam). They talk over there but it's just generally....it's wide open. Their side-yard is wide open. So sounds travel.

Stoltz If they don't like the noise, they could put a fence up.

O'Keefe They put their patio right there on that side of their garage.

Wilz I'm not really concerned. I just wanted to make certain that our plan....because the last time we met on this equipment, we gave Pete authority to make proper placement that he felt would work. That should work over there. So let's not change it.

*Multiple talking.*

Wilz Most of the playground equipment starts at the central part of the park and moves south. Then there's a big area from where it ends at the south side of the park and on that side, it's just a wooded lot. Nobody lives there. It would make sense we would move in that direction.

Mendyke I think originally we made good placement using that volleyball court because I didn't hear any complaints of anybody upset that the volleyball court wasn't there anymore. That really worked out well.

Wilz So I guess we'll just follow through on this plan and Pete, when you get to the point of putting it in, just pull the trigger. The only thing I would ask of you is when you put in that piece at Somerset, give me a call. I'll call up Mr. Ramage and let him know what's going on and what day.

Mendyke If you could let us know what day, perhaps some of us can come out and volunteer.

O'Keefe How high does that stand off the ground?

Kaminski It doesn't say on here. It's more than 5 feet, 60" maybe.

Wilz When you get your work detail figured out, Pete, just let Patty know and she'll e-mail the group on what days you're planning on installing and anybody that can participate, that would be great.

*General talking about the size/height of the equipment and ages it is designed for.*

O'Keefe When you decide to put it in, give me a call.

Wilz I did tell Ken that when we put it in, we'll call him ahead of time so he knows and he can come and inspect the work. He said that wasn't necessary but I said, come on over and say hi. He's calmed down.

O'Keefe They're already upset with that vacant house behind them, a foreclosure I guess. Maybe somebody bought it but I don't know who.

Wilz There were a few of those over in that area.

Schroeder I think you just cycle through, smaller to older and then in 3-4 years they're gone, then they'll come in and they'll be back into the racing bikes and cars. We had that earlier in Somerset when I first came on the board.

O'Keefe In February I think it was, when they sold it (*house*), the owners had the septic system pumped so the guy came out and started pumping it. He kept pumping and pumping and filled up his truck and it still was full. A pipe had burst in the basement and there was 4' of water in the basement and he was trying to pull it all out.

Wilz So that's the review of our purchases in 2011. We'll stick with the original plan. Pete will let Patty know when he's going to do the work and we'll communicate with the group and call Mr. Ramage and we'll be fine.

#### 7) **Review of Park Inspection Sheets.**

Wilz Was everybody able to get this done and turn them in?

Schroeder I didn't.

Wilz Okay, everybody else though? Good. Let's go through those, Patty made copies for everybody.

Mendyke **Meadow Manor**: Overall, the park condition was good. The grass was starting to grow. I see the branches were picked up already and put into a pile. The only real concerns at this point is that merry-go-round. If you move it, it's got pretty good give to it, it's pretty wobbly. Pete, I don't know if there's a way to reset that.

Kaminski I know when we re-did them, we stuck in brand new bearings. We got everything tight on there. It's just the way it is. I can take it off and look at it again. Maybe pack the bearings with more grease. I looked at that already last fall.

Mendyke I don't know, maybe once it gets going, it's not as wobbly. But that's one thing I noticed. Then there's another piece of equipment, the spinner and it's cracked up at the top. I took a picture of it, if you want to pass that around. It's cracked on both sides where it's....so I don't know if there's still a warrantee on that. I don't know how long ago that was installed. I don't know if it can be sealed. On both sides, kind of the same way.

Hicks I don't remember, I don't think I bought for Meadow Manor. I think that was before my time.

Kaminski That was put in about 2003 or 2002.

Stoltz There would be no warrantee for that?

Kaminski No.

Mendyke So like I said, I don't know how long the warrantee would be, but if there is a way to seal that or just even remove it so it doesn't pinch. It looks like the new plantings are doing well. Those 3 lilacs in front are really doing well. I couldn't quite tell if there were buds on the other trees.

Kaminski I was out there today and walked around. Everything is coming out good. I take that back. We planted one new one in there last year, but it's dead. We had gotten 3 and I planted one outside here (*at the Town Hall*) which is dead, that one there is dead. So I'll probably just go to Fleet Farm and buy 3 trees. If not, I'll just yank them out and put some grass in there.

Mendyke I said the branches have already been picked up and overall, it's in good shape. I wish I had more to tell you but when we do the chips, we just need some chips here and there. It's the first time I noticed that one of the swings doesn't have any of the fall protection under it. Maybe it's grandfathered in.

Schroeder We had decided to do all of them.

Mendyke There are 3 sets of swing sets. The one swing set in the middle doesn't have any. It's just grass. I didn't make a note of that because I just realized that.

Wilz Jot that down on yours, Pete.

Kaminski On Monday we just stuck up 3 brand new seats out there.

Mendyke The molded ones?

Kaminski Yes. Then some plastic ones, I think he put some out.

Mendyke So that's it for Meadow Manor.

Wilz Great, thank you Jim.

**Eastwood Park:**

Wilz Eastwood is an interesting park. It's relatively new but we have the Town of Hull in one part of Eastwood and the City of Stevens Point on the other part. They have the baseball field. I walked through theirs and it's full of weeds and sand because they don't fertilize. As I walked up to our part, it was lush and growing. We needed a haircut already. That one is in

pretty good shape with the following exceptions: all the benches, anything that's wood and stained was really starting to crack and chip. By the horseshoe pit, there's a bench over there that needs to be sanded. Screws were popping and could do some damage if you sat. But look at the overall stain on everything. It looks like it's been there awhile. On the shelter, it's in great shape but we're missing quite a number of shingles. The wind must have gotten it on that storm last year. There were a couple of broken pieces on the ground and there were some shingles that were lifted too. We need to get on top of that. I noted that there under "shelter". The climbing wall looks great. The newer activity piece that was put in a few years ago, that looked wonderful. Walking paths, it looks like someone put some gravel in but it could use some smoothing out.

Kaminski      The City is supposed to do that. Have they been doing that for us?

Schroeder      They said they were going to go last year when I talked to him.

Wilz            It looked like somebody went in there to do it and they put it down then they just left it, they didn't spread it.

Schroeder      They have a machine, they're supposed to spread it then go over it and compact it.

Stoltz           Last year they did the Stevens Point side but they didn't come over to do our side.

Mendyke        They stopped at the border!

Kaminski       Well you should call them up.

Wilz            I put on here that the walking path could be smoothed out a bit. General comment: "Chips look very plentiful." A lot of chips, it was in great shape. We might just need to rake them back into the areas that they are missing them. I don't see that we're void anywhere. Other than the wood, it's in pretty good shape out there.

**Pleasant View West** -it's in my subdivision. That one is in excellent shape. All the stained pieces there are beautiful. There's no checking. I know you move from park to park and you redo them, but that one was in great shape. A couple of areas need some chips, raking for sure but it may be void of some chips in some areas, especially around the merry-go-round. The climb around jungle gym; it's getting really rusty and I don't know what we can do with it because it's the galvanized stuff. I don't know what you do with that. It's meant to crawl up. You grab on and slide down. But if you put paint on it, I don't know how that works. Take a look at it, Pete, and see if there's something we can do to extend the life there. The last thing was, and you can talk to Janet Wolle about this, I put under the swings, big and small, check small seats (tip over). Janet uses that park for her grandchild who lives in that neighborhood too and she told me that she had her grandchild on the kiddy swings. I don't know if there are 2 styles of seats. She said all of a sudden he started crying and she turned around and looked and he was upside down, it flipped over on him. I looked at those swings and I don't know how that happened. But if you could just ask Janet to describe it to you and if she can remember which swing it is or which seat style it is. I really don't know how that happens. When we go to the parks, do we ever oil the swings up where they are connected?



Kaminski Yes. They'll get done once a spring.

Wilz I oiled the ones last June at this park because I'd be walking by and they'd be swinging and it would be going squeek squeek and it drove me nuts. So I wondered if we did that sort of thing. But other than that, that park is in great shape.

**Plover Heights Conservancy:**

Kaminski Everything is in good shape there. On the south side next to John's place, 2 spruce tops are on our property. Then the neighbor north of us, he's got some brush that I think is on our property again.

Wilz Is that the one where you cut the trees off for him?

Kaminski Yes. There are 4 or 5 big branches that were dragged off his property. So when we get time during the brush pickup, I'll grab that stuff. Otherwise everything looks good.

Wilz Are we cutting that walking path? Have we narrowed that?

Kaminski We have. I feel we shouldn't because those 2 guys that are living out there are taking full advantage of that. They don't want anybody in there. They're using it for their own private junk yards. Me, I would like to open that up. Let the people use that. Those guys are totally against that. I know they want it for themselves. I'm not saying junk yard, but branches.

Stoltz Didn't he have beehives or something on our property a couple years ago?

Wilz He had a bee thing going on?

*General comments – oh sure, yah.*

Wilz I wasn't aware of that.

Kaminski I was out there today, on that side, he's got a brush pile. When we topped those trees, those were our trees and they were blocking the sunlight. Now today, there's a pile of brush going on our side. There's a pile here and a pile here and then whatever trees were topped, which we can't help that. But somebody is using that for.....we know who's doing it.

Wilz I'm going to take a walk out there because when I talked to those guys, it wasn't this year, it was last year, the request to narrow the walking path, it was before your crew was doing it, it was with Lenny and....they were taking the big mower in and taking a swipe in and a swipe out. It was 8' or 9' wide or however wide that was. The guy that has the solar panel, he was in there planting trees, which I honestly never thought much about. He said, "You know, if you can make that narrower, sometimes I plant my trees so close that your guys cut them off." I said, "Well, you know...."

Kaminski He's planting trees on public land. If you go out there right now, there's like 15 young ones. Where I cut from last year, now he's got it all planted again. Now when they grow up, the Town of Hull is supposed to go out there and cut them again because of his solar panel?

Wilz But his request was fine, we don't need a 10' wide walking path. We talked about this last year and you guys have reduced that.

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz Okay, very good. But I will go out there and take a look around to see what you're saying because parks are for everybody.

Mendyke And if he's not, put him on notice and hopefully he'll clean it up. I know with the brush cleanup, he could bring them out to the road for you. How are the new trees out there?

Kaminski They look beautiful. Budding out.

### **Somerset Park:**

Cooper There was actually 2 of us that did that, Mike was out of town so I had Marcia come with me then we did meet up with Mike. This is just going by what people were telling me because I didn't know.

Wilz It looks like you did fine.

Cooper The digger needs to be painted and oiled. Around that sandbox, Marcia said there was a big deal about the edging. You got a different kind of edging. This stuff is great. I don't know how many years it's been in here. A couple of years? She said it was always popping up, but it looks really good. The picnic tables, one of them has to be sanded and painted.

Wilz Were they getting checked, they weathered really....

Cooper Not even checked. One of them was...

O'Keefe The really weathered picnic table is the one by the light pole. In the old playground area. It's checked on the surface. Needs to be sanded and re-stained.

Cooper One of those garbage cans is supposed to have a no-dog waste sign on it. Was that taken off?

Kaminski Probably by somebody who wanted it.

Cooper But not by you?

O'Keefe There's a bolt there right above the garbage can. You could unscrew it real easy. It looks like there was something there, some type of sign.

Stoltz            Yes, there's a sign by the cans, "no animal feces".

O'Keefe         Well that sign isn't there anymore.

Hicks            It's sitting in somebody's dorm room right now!

Stoltz            And there's probably some doggy-do in the garbage can.

Kaminski        Those dog signs are fine, but us guys that have to go out there and actually clean that out of there in those cans, man you've got to hold your nose and three quarters of them are full of crap. Nobody wants to do that job, just so you guys are aware.

Mendyke         Even though it says "no dog waste"?

Kaminski        Randy did it last week and Somerset there, from all winter, the can was  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. Terrible.

Cooper          You might want to put that back up (*the sign*). I didn't know about this but on the side of some of the slides, the plastic stuff is getting some mildew. Can you clean that up?

Kaminski        I'll have to look at it. There's probably some kind of cleaner I can use.

O'Keefe         When you wipe it with your hand, it comes off on your hand. Mostly on the slide. On the stairs going up, I don't know if it's a mildew that's growing on it. It's probably from all the little kids rubbing their hands on it.

Cooper          It's got a texture on it and it's in the shade so I think it's mildew. It's not going to get better.

O'Keefe         Go out there with OxyClean and wipe it down.

Cooper          The same thing on that play-motion thing. Then Mike noticed that somebody started a pile of brush next to the side.

O'Keefe         I don't know, how far does the property go back? By the ball diamond, there's a whole bunch of brush laying in there.

Kaminski        We've got it all marked with steel pipes. From the road it goes straight across.

O'Keefe         It's behind that house there.

Cooper          Some of those post signs when you're going down that path, Somerset Ave. or whatever, some of those are getting really hard to read because of the brush so you might want to look at those.

O'Keefe        The walkway coming in from the east, the ball diamond, there's that picket fence that is there. I'm assuming it's the neighbors. That's almost shot. Just to be aware of it because I think what is going to happen, sooner or later, some kid or somebody is going to lean on it and it's going to go.

Cooper        That split rail one?

O'Keefe        A rail fence. It is so rotted that it just....so if the neighbor complains, I looked at it and it's about ready to go.

Cooper        Where you guys are probably taking your trucks in, other people are using that to drive in as well. I've been seeing people that have been having picnics there. Probably all you would have to do is move one of the...

Kaminski      Where those ruts are, I was going to fill those in with black dirt. We use it because we drive out to the baseball diamond to work up the park.

Cooper        That's fine but people had said there were those having picnics back in there.

Wilz          You mean driving in on that walking path?

Cooper        Not the walking path, the one near Sunny Crest.

O'Keefe        Right off the cul-de-sac there. They're driving in, where the ruts are. They back up their trucks there.

Cooper        I haven't seen it myself, it's only what I've heard.

Wilz          There seems to be enough mulch up there?

Cooper        I thought so.

O'Keefe        Yes, it looked great, plenty of mulch.

Cooper        You were talking about the painting of the jungle gym, they had actually done that to one of those out there and the paint is coming off. It doesn't look terrible, it doesn't look great but I sure wouldn't paint it again. It doesn't stay. The rust spots on that are a lot like the ones on yours. It's the rust spots where the feet are.

O'Keefe        The park sign is pretty wobbly. The big one.

Cooper        He looked at the trees a lot more.

O'Keefe        There's a dead jack pine in there.

Kaminski      There's actually 2 of them in there.

**Jordan Acres:**

Hicks All in all, the park was in good shape. I think we're seeing the same thing on those metal climbers. I don't necessarily want to say that it's chipped or that it needs paint. It just looks like it's part metal then part paint.

O'Keefe Is it from rubbing your hands on it?

Hicks Yes, but it's also like spots where paint chipped off. It's not bad. It's just that you look at it and say this thing looks really old. But it's solid. Kids love it. The first thing my little one did was run up to that thing and started climbing it.

Wilz That's where all the rust comes off!

Hicks Right! I think the worst thing I saw out there was that slide. It is full of graffiti along the bottom and side. It looks like somebody carved their initials in the side of it. The steps are very, very rusty on that thing. Again that's old-school. They don't make those anymore. They don't put you 8' in the air, 9' in the air and go down the slide anymore. It's rock solid, it's in good shape. The sliding part itself is in good shape. It's just the side of it and the bottom have been graffitied a fair amount. I didn't notice that anything needed any staining but I probably didn't look that closely at that. So that may be something to look at again. Otherwise everything else looked great.

Wilz Thanks Brian. Maurie?

**Treder Woodland Park:**

Stoltz It's like a conservancy. I would say the evergreens seem to be struggling over there. We had a pretty wet summer last year, it wasn't too bad. They're all growing. The deciduous trees all have buds on them.

Kaminski Should we start watering them? I don't think they need water yet. I'd rather water them than have them die.

Wilz With all those tree plantings there, it really transformed how it looks.

**Sorenson Park:**

Stoltz The park itself is in very good shape. The paint on all the stuff looks really good. You must have painted last year because none of it is peeled or chipped. Bearings seem loose on the merry-go-round. You shake the thing this way. But when you spin it, it sounds like a dry spot when it's just spinning. Is that normal? It's like something is catching. I don't know, if the bearings could use a re-packing. That one top pipe on the big swing set is bent.

Kaminski I've got a new one. It's in the shed there.

Stoltz That's been there a couple of years. Randy was changing some of the chain to the stainless steel chain the other day when I was out there inspecting. He was putting some of the hard seats in instead of the strap seats. There are a couple of branches on that far side that broke

off under the power line. I don't know if Randy said anything. They cut grass the other day there. The tops of 1 or 2 trees on the east side of the park are laying there. It's under the high-line so I don't know if it's ours or the neighbors but it fell on our side.

Kaminski      Of course, it always does!

Wilz            Thanks Maurie. I've got one other to report:

**Pleasant View East:** over by Rollie, Jim Kruzicki lives over there and at the meeting last night he said, have somebody look at the fence that runs along the highway. He said a car came over a while back and came down and hit that fence. He said it bent it all up and somebody tried to push it back but there's some unsafe things. So I drove out there today and the supports, that's a chain-link fence, so I'm guessing it's steel?

Kaminski      It is.

Wilz            The support that runs up and then goes across, that was bent all the way over right down to the ground into the park. Then the fence went back but not all the way but literally about that much of that support is sticking out right along the edge where the walking path is where all the people walk their dogs. You can almost see a walking path over there. It's right at angle height. I can see somebody out there walking at night with their dog. When you get out there, could you have somebody look at it? The gate is still up.

Schroeder     There's been a couple of accidents in that area.

Wilz            You might want to enlist Portage County on that because on the other side of the highway where I live, Portage County came through this summer. They started at the park and right behind all of our homes, right along that gate. They cut part of the ditch, away from the fence and into our yards and made a clear right-of-way for maintenance. It was all Portage County trucks. If that is DOT, maybe they contract with the County to do it.

Schroeder     There is a certain amount of highway that the County has to be responsible for.

Wilz            Right. They need to have access. So I'm just letting you know that Portage County was doing the work on our side, maybe they're contracted by DOT to keep things up.

***A motion was made by Brian Hicks to accept the reports on the park inspections. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.***

Kaminski      I have one more question on Meadow Manor Park: the border timbers around our play area, probably 70% are rotten. What should I replace them with?

Mendyke      Because it's kind of a raised deck there.

Kaminski      It is raised. I was out there today. A lot of them are those 6" jack pines. A lot of them are rotten so this year we need to address that. What do you want us to put back in there?

Schroeder     You could go with those 4x6 plastic things.

Kaminski     Those are not cheap and we're talking about a big area, probably 60x60 or 80x80. It's a big area. I know because I was the guy that put that back in around 2002. We used jack pine we got from the woods for a border. That stuff is all shot now. Just so you guys are aware.

Schroeder     There's a lot of oak down, those aren't too big. Oak would last for quite a while. There are a lot leaning. It is a little unsafe, that area.

Wilz           If not Rollie's suggestion, what were you thinking (*of doing*)?

Kaminski     I don't know yet. I'm asking you.

Mendyke     If we don't have to buy anything, that would be great.

Wilz           Make it natural.

Hicks         Especially from that side.

Kaminski     I would suggest using used telephone poles if I could get them. They're treated. They're not going to rot. Once you put them in, they'll be there for awhile.

Wilz           Yes, what about creosote?

Schroeder     I don't think the telephone company ones are so bad but the electric company ones are bad.

Wilz           Well they usually creosote just the bottom.

Kaminski     The bottom 4 or 5 feet. Zip them off and dig them in.

Wilz           I'm okay with that. That's more natural than buying....

Schroeder     Do you have any connections?

Kaminski     Yes, I have some.

Mendyke     Without knocking them down! (*laughter*)

Kaminski     Should I go ahead and do it when I've got time?

Wilz           I don't have a problem with you taking care of it. I think you are hearing that we'd like it to stay as natural as possible. But we don't want to have to replace the pine every 5 or 6 years.

Kaminski I did that once already. This is the second time around. That is the only one where we did that because it's a raised thing. The other ones, we go out and dig them down.

Wilz Anyone have any issues with Pete just handling it?

*General No, that would be great.*

### **8) Discussion of Future Equipment Needs.**

Wilz In general I want to talk about where we are in terms of our parks. Do we need to continue to purchase equipment this year? Do we take a break? Should we shift that money to something else? I look at the 2 parks that I always inspect and they look pretty good. I see maintenance coming up down the road but I don't see the need for anymore equipment.

Mendyke Jordan Acres is the last one we needed to update. That'll be done. Then I think we were just going to go on to maintenance, if something needs it.

Schroeder Right. Then we were going to put just small, little things in and around. My concern is that if we don't do anything, we'll get back to like it was when I first came on-board. Then trying to get back into the budget if we didn't spend it...boy, that was one total...I think most of the Commission pretty much gave up. John finally came in and asked what do we need to do to keep the Commission going? I said if you're not going to give us anything to do anything with, why meet? Then he made the commitment that we would have the support.

Cooper My understanding is that the Town of Hull doesn't ask subdivisions to set aside land anymore? Is that correct? Because when my children were young, they not only had to set some land aside, they also had to give some money towards it. The problem was that the Town of Hull didn't earmark anything. Is that correct? Is that the way it is now?

Wilz That's the way the law had evolved.

Mendyke That's how we had the neighborhood parks.

Wilz That's how they came to be.

Cooper Which brings me to the new area out by Patrician Pines / Whispering Pines; is there something set up for that area?

Stoltz They haven't followed that for a quite a few years.

Wilz That's about the only new development that we've had since we switched. With that being said, the Town of Hull Plan Commission is working on a new subdivision ordinance. That's their project for this year. They're using a framework from Portage County because we follow Portage County's. I said when the Plan Commission gets to a point where they talk about recreational opportunities, they need to let me know so I can get the Park Commission together and get input because that's important. It might not be parks, but it's got to be recreational opportunities. It could be connected to the Green Circle or whatever. Communities need to have



those things. You just look across the street over here. There's a disk golf course back here. The reason that sprung up and got developed was because it's right on the Green Circle. Those were the first lots sold. It's important.

Cooper        It's very important. As a community, we ought to do something about it to make sure that some of this stuff gets done. There's a lot of homes over there.

Wilz            I told John Holdridge that twice. That the Plan Commission cannot finish this without input from the Parks Commission. Maybe we won't have anything specific. They said when they get to that point, if we don't have something specific, to write a position paper and submit ideas and vision and they would include it. They agree.

Cooper        But there's no going back to the mistake we made with that area?

Mendyke       We even talked to the owner about donating a lot or selling a lot at a reduced price to the Town. Patrician Pines, that's why I'm on the board because I thought it was ridiculous that we don't have parks in that area. The owner's a nice guy but he's got just enough space for each one of his lots that he wants to sell. Plaski. We thought if we could get one, we could fill it with equipment. We did a proposal. The fact that if there was a park in there, those lot might move quicker. That's why we should fight for that in the future. Add some verbiage that it's required in the future.

Wilz            The old zoning on subdivisions follows Portage County too plus Town of Hull had an old subdivision ordinance but in that area, it said we follow the State mandates. The State mandate was that when a subdivision went up, you had to give a lot. As that went away, it wasn't required anymore. It was probably a mistake to have that language in which had been in there since the '60's but nobody ever thought the State was going to change. You've got to follow the State too. Or put these other nuances in it. They've been alerted that we want to make certain that if we grow as a township and we continue to have the opportunity for subdivisions, that we get our say in it. The other thing is the minimum size lots are still 2 acres except for subdivisions. Out in the I-39 West area it is a 5 acre minimum to slow that growth down and keep that look out there. We don't want to ever lose that, it's a gorgeous area.

Mendyke       Whispering Pines is 2 acre minimum. Patrician Pines is 1 acre but for every 1 acre of lot there's one acre of free space. They call it conservancy.

Wilz            I see that happening in other areas of the State where they'll put up a subdivision and they'll have a green zone and everybody partakes in it. That's becoming common.

Mendyke       It's difficult to get 25 lot owners to agree on putting in a park or green space.

Wilz            But it does need to be addressed. We might change our zoning for lot sizes. There was a water study commission that is just finishing. They did a tremendous job with information on the quantity and quality of water in the township. We have 2,200 wells and we don't know much about them. We have the U.W. involved and they're just wonderful. They got information that no one ever knew. The committee learned some things. When you are drawing

water on a 2 acre lot and you're also supporting a septic system, that is really not large enough for the septic system to do its thing and not possibly contaminate your water. The data is there. They're going to run at this a couple of different ways and from a health standpoint, there may be a recommendation to change minimum lot sizes moving forward because who would want to contaminate their own water? It's also about which side (*of the house*) do you put the septic on because the water moves a certain way. Three quarters of our homes in Hull have their wells downstream from the water flow (*of the septic system*). That's also part of the nitrate problem. That with the potato fields. Most of our water that is heavy with nitrates is coming from our neighbors in Stockton. The nitrate levels built up there. It's been a very interesting study. We might end up getting larger lot sizes out the deal. We'll have to see.

Back to the future equipment needs. Based on the parks you saw, is there anything...I'm hearing what Rollie is saying. If we're going to take a break from buying equipment, that's fine. But we don't want to take a permanent break. We've got to keep these things going.

Schroeder I think we can spend a little.

Hicks What about port equipment like bike racks, benches? I'm racking my brains on other things we've thought about but didn't put in before because we really needed other stuff. A bike rack, maybe I go to the park and I just throw it on the ground, that's not super-necessary but....I can look at the books for port equipment unless somebody has something specific in play equipment.

Schroeder Maybe in Plover Heights, we could consider putting a chain-link fence. We had one neighbor on Pleasant View East, I walked along and said we're doing an inspection, not a report but it appears all of this stuff along this border wasn't necessarily from the park. They really cleaned it up good. I think those are some of the things you should look at. I know there was concern with Jim Firkus and Conifer there. We tried to find where that is with the electric thing but maybe just a plain chain-link fence because when you get to the back of that, it's hard to tell who owns that pie.

Stoltz Lots are odd shaped.

Schroeder People say they don't. Remember we walked that and where the stakes are, so do we fence some of that off where there could be some question? It's just for down the road.

Wilz Out at Plover Heights, isn't there a fence on that one side already?

Kaminski Yes.

Stoltz The Boy Scouts are on the City side there on the Boy Scout land.

Wilz That's a suggestion.

Schroeder I'm just piggybacking on what Brian said where we should look at some of the other things. We went out to Meadow Manor and when you look at that park, you go down below where there's a stream. If you would clean that out a little bit so the air would come in.

It's just a beautiful area for people to walk down and take their picnic lunch. It's really nice down there if that was cleaned up. When I had that park, I talked with some of the neighbors that came over and asked if that was ever considered, to clean that out a little bit. I think that has some real opportunities. That's a true neighborhood park up there.

Wilz            You've mentioned that before.

Schroeder      It's what the people up there talk about. But I said that we were concentrating on just getting some play things in. They were pretty adamant that we would not move those big swings. I think those have 4" or 5" holes in there.

Mendyke       Do we need any equipment to maintain the ball fields? Something to till it with?

Kaminski       Yes.

Mendyke       Bases?

Kaminski       Bases, we'd need to have them locked up.

Wilz            One of the things Pete and I were talking about that came up earlier in the discussion about Somerset, and the fact that there's a pretty nice baseball diamond there that we brought back and it's being used like crazy and that's wonderful. Should we consider doing that? We've got baseball diamonds in other places. There sand in some of them. Should we consider doing that in other places with the hopes that it will be discovered again and maybe start being used? If we were to take that approach, Pete asked last year and he brought it up saying, "I could do that but I'd need a piece of equipment." We could spend money on equipment too for maintaining parks and not just park equipment. If he had the equipment, we could do more things like that.

Schroeder      We could keep our walking trails up better too. In Conifer, those trails, the blackberries are getting about that round and their looking for sun. They come across at certain times. It's pretty hard for parents who are pushing their carts and stuff through with their kids; they're going to get ripped up. So we do need equipment to take care of that rather than go in there with a scythe and break it up. Maybe chop it up.

Wilz            There would be other purposes for this equipment. He's talking about a relatively small tractor with a little motor, maybe 20 or 30 HP which is what we're renting now to keep that field up over there. He had mentioned that the guys at certain times of the year do a considerable amount of cleaning, brushing and reconfiguring of ditches for water flow. Then they're supposed to plant, seed and all the rest of that but they have nothing to get in there with. They can't get in there with the big Holland. That thing is as big as half of this building. So that might be something to consider.

O'Keefe        If you want to take a break on buying stuff, then why don't we just put some money towards that at this point?

Stoltz            You could get a used one, right?

Kaminski        I bought one for myself that I found on Craig's List; a 2009 New Holland, 30 HP, 4-wheel drive that I picked up for \$9,500. I think it had 81 hours on it, practically brand new when I bought it. It's in excellent shape. They are on there now. We could find one, I would say, for probably \$10,000. A darn good used one. I don't need a new one.

Wilz             You guys do a great job maintaining all our equipment. So buying used is good here. They are very mechanically skilled that way. We can think about that.

Kaminski        Our ball diamond out there right now, last year I bought a smooth-drag.

Wilz             Right, we discussed that.

Kaminski        Now we're pulling it around with our lawn mower. Well the lawn mower is not made for that. There's all this dust that's going up into the engine air filter. But I don't have a tractor to pull it. If I had a little tractor, I could use it throughout the year, year-round. We would use it. Not just for the parks.

Wilz             The lawn mower that we have, this Commission here decided to purchase that back a few years ago. It's a mean machine, but we paid about \$13,500 for that.

Stoltz            It flies through that park. I tell you, when Randy or whoever comes over there, they can cut that park in a hurry.

Wilz             The purchase of that machine and moving to have the road crew maintain the parks, it all worked out financially too because we have a better machine, it is faster, these guys are skilled. We actually took union employees and did more for less. So it just worked out wonderfully. These guys then have interaction with a lot of Town residents that way too. They're out there and they see them, I think that's a good thing too. Another thing we could do along this line, as long as we are doing free-thinking here, when I was looking at the stained wood items over at Eastwood Park today, those are benches, etc., I never looked at the price, but what is everybody's opinion about eventually converting over to plastic or recycled benches? Or do you like the wood?

O'Keefe         Wood is definitely a maintenance headache. It's always there. If you can go with some type of a bio-product that would work just fine, then I think we should go with that.

Schroeder       I think the City did that for awhile, but it looks like they're back into wood again.

Wilz             You're exactly right.

Schroeder       I think that's a learning experience. Why go down that road and come back?

Hicks            I just wonder if you would run into mildew issues again like we are doing with some of these slides?

Wilz Or they get so faded that they look junky after 5 years.

Hicks You can't do anything with them once they're that way.

Cooper And they get rough. So you don't want to sit on them.

Schroeder I think the City leans more towards paint. If you look over at Pffner Park, it looks like there's more paint. That's a pretty glossy, hard paint that's on there. All winter, they must paint because, boy, they look like new when then bring them out.

Stoltz They always paint in the spring. My nephew works for the Parks Dept. and they didn't have any roadwork so the guys were painting. Usually the summer workers come in around April and paint but it's all been done.

Wilz You're right, because I walk a lot through there and I've seen the evolution of wood to non-wood, to wood, they're kind of getting back to it. Wood looks nicer. It looks more natural but it is a maintenance headache.

Stoltz Those are usually 2x4's right? Or are they 2x6's?

Kaminski 2x4's. A 2x4 will last 15 years. You stain it.

Wilz We're just thinking; talking about different ways.

Schroeder The first few years, I think they recommend that you don't stain and they'll last longer. Two years is better, but one for sure. Otherwise, you stain it and it just rots.

Wilz We've got \$7,000 earmarked for playground equipment. Along with that, part of the landscaping budget too, right Pete? If we would put in new equipment....

Kaminski Correct, some of that....

Wilz We'd take something out of landscaping to accompany that.

Kaminski We still have to take some of that out though.

Wilz I know we still have to. Right, we can't dump both of those.

Kaminski I believe the fertilizer is in there too, Dave.

Wilz It is, yes.

Schroeder Looking towards fall, if there are some other things, if we give up half the budget, I don't have a problem with that, with the economy the way it is.

O'Keefe Do you want him to look for a used one (*tractor*)?

Schroeder Pete could bring back bids (*on a tractor*) at the next meeting.

Wilz Between now and the next meeting, (*Pete*) start doing some research. You and I need to get together and we'll put together a letter because we're advisory to the Board. We put a clamp on all equipment purchases because of the downturn in State aid. We'll make a case and we'll get it done. But we've got to think about it, these are difficult times that we're in today.

Schroder I think that as a Commission, we're saying we would swap; instead of more of those, we would sacrifice that part of our parks budget so we can have this to improve our parks.

Wilz In areas where we haven't been able to.

Schroeder Right.

O'Keefe You don't want to use your lawn equipment. You'd destroy it.

Kaminski I'm only doing it because we don't have anything else.

Mendyke You could use that (*tractor*) not only for parks, but for roads and they'll get a benefit of it. I think you can make a good case.

Wilz And all the things that Rollie had mentioned that we should be doing but can't.

Kaminski Pleasant View East Park by Rollie, on those trails there's a lot of trees, I know he cannot get in there.

Wilz It's too labor intensive to have 3 guys in there.

Kaminski If I had a tractor, I'd drive down the trail, you'd cut them in pieces and get them out. I would have had that done, but I don't have a tractor.

Stoltz We're all pulling for you.

Kaminski Also, having a tractor is not the end, you've got to have small equipment. If I work up a baseball field, I'll need a tiller. Fleet Farm has a tiller on sale this week for \$1,300. There are little pieces we'd need to get with that tractor so we can maintain our parks/roads.

Wilz I think for now though, we've got the drag and we'll try to get a piece of equipment that comes with a bucket.

Kaminski Oh yes, it has to have a bucket.

Wilz           And power take off or whatever comes with it, that becomes a start. He can build on that. So there's a consensus that as we're discussing future equipment needs, maybe we push away this year from park equipment and look at other things to help the parks such as equipment.

***Roland Schroeder made a motion to recommend that Pete Kaminski research the cost of purchasing a small tractor. Next meeting we can talk about it. Motion seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed.***

O'Keefe       So we're approving to have you look for that. With that, we want you to come back at us next time we meet to look at it. Is that what we're saying?

Wilz           Right. What we'll also try to do is I want to get our Parks meetings down to maybe 3 times a year. We're pretty organized. We don't need to be together 5, 6 times a year. Everybody's lives are busy. I'm looking at meeting either the end of June or right after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Between now and then, I'll have an opportunity for 2 Board meetings to attend. If we get this thing in front of the Board to introduce it, then if we can get a tentative vote for them to agree, the next time we get together, we can decide if we want to move that way. Then we'd have it all lined up and we can pull the trigger.

Schroeder     I would put in that report (*to the Board*) the borderline over in Plover Heights and out here, the park, expanding it down there, so there are things we are looking at expanding in those neighborhood parks.

Stoltz         The big Holland is too big.

Schroeder     You need something that you can do something with. So I think you need some supporting things like the fence lines where there's controversy with a citizen of the Town of Hull. We've got a couple of neighbors that go over there and cut oak out. One neighbor says, "They don't let me do it but the other guy does it and they'll do nothing to him, so why can't I just go over there and do it?"

Wilz           "Because you asked."

O'Keefe       I think before we would let people out there or we go out and do anything along streams, we need to make sure there's some kind of ordinance with the County or the DNR that might have something to say in that area. So we should probably check that.

Wilz           I do want to go out to Meadow Manor Park and follow through on that idea. If we've got a beautiful area that is just waiting to be cleaned up and developed, boy that's....

Schroeder     Wasn't there an issue once with the road along the side? Remember we were in there working bring up some of the rock and stuff, if that was our road or the neighbors.

Kaminski      That's our road.

Schroeder     Okay, so that's all settled now. I thought maybe once it's settled, put a fence up.

Kaminski We do have a chain-link fence on the west side there.

Mendyke Is that our fence?

Kaminski That is our fence.

**9) Discussion Concerning Land Preservation Fund.**

Wilz There's a number of items in here. John Holdridge wrote a memo to me and to the Parks Commission letting us know that this type of grant is available. It's usually available twice a year. If you look at the letter written by Gary Speckmann, he wrote one on how to apply for it and to John Holdridge talking about what types of land could be a good candidate for this. John said he couldn't think of anything right now that we would want to do, but we got the Pipe land through this sort of deal. Now we maintain that and it'll always be there for everybody to use. I throw that out there. I put it on the agenda, not that we have a list of candidates tonight, but for you to realize, if you take some time to read through this, there are ways to conserve and protect and it can be done through grants, providing it falls under certain guidelines. Give that some thought. I think initially, Pete, John was thinking about I-39/Casimir Road area. He said that land is worth a half million dollars, there's no grant that's going to give you that. He's probably right. But things like that though.

Schroeder I know he had challenged us when he saw that Whiting thing go up that said "You're entering Whiting" at HH. He said, wouldn't it be nice to have something that said, "Town of Hull" and have some flowers around it, keep it up. I said that Hull is so chopped up. How do you do that? It's just a thought. If you did it anywhere, the main part of Town is where we have old Smokey, or the corner that we just reserve for political signs. But I don't know where else you would put something?

Kaminski It's too much split up.

Stoltz We're an island where I live.

Cooper What about a park for that new subdivision, buying some of the land? Would that go into this? With the quality of life thing, isn't that what the Town of Hull would like to do?

Wilz The preservation part means to "preserve", not to create.

Cooper Oh, I see.

Wilz The requirements are that they have outstanding natural, cultural, historic....

Cooper Do all of them have to have all of that?

Wilz It says good candidates for preservation would be properties with one or more of these characteristics. I've listened to Gary present this some years ago. It was the same thing but he was doing it for a different purpose. There's money available every year. The land



should be targeted in your local Comprehensive Plan. You'll see that is circled. John was thinking of the Comprehensive Plan and I-39 West, we want to keep that natural. He wants to preserve that. Item 3 is that they are important in maintaining the quality of life of the people in your municipality. It might fall under that. That's a quality of life issue. (#4) They're apt to be developed if not protected.

Cooper           Where does this money come from? Is this a state or federal thing?

Schroeder       It's set up by Portage County. The Portage County Board had developed this group that is going to keep looking at it and they put money from their budget into it that gets awarded out.

Cooper           I guess I've never heard of it.

Wilz             It's funded by Portage County. They put a lump sum in there every year. It comes from us taxpayers. They also occasionally get some grant money that is designated for those purposes from the State. They look at projects that are being presented and they award it. There's only so much money, they can't award to everybody every year. They have to get in line. We got the Pipe area through this.

Cooper           How long has this been going on?

Wilz             I want to say about 10 or 11 years.

Schroeder       It's been awhile because when I was involved with the Scouts, we had Camp Phillips out here so we worked through that whole thing. The City, Izaak Walton and that whole works, all of the land on this side of the river and the other side there was Boy Scouts .....would work at that, and yet we had to work within the confines of where Phillips....

Cooper           That wasn't a real long time ago.

Schroeder       That's probably 15 years. Fletcher, I meant. We always had it there but the Boy Scouts are no longer in charge because of the liabilities. Now I think it's under the jurisdiction of the City.

Stoltz           The wellhead protection area.

Schroeder       It's under protection of one of those areas that's preserving the whole works. But if Portage County can't use that, then it comes back to the Boy Scouts again. We did the same thing at Lake Camp Chickagamee. We did the same thing with the University with that one. When the Boy Scouts got it, it has to be used for Portage County youth. So that cannot be violated according to the terms. But it took about 3 years.

Wilz             I'll give you an example of one that happened a couple of years ago. There was some land in Plover running along the river on the way to Wisconsin Rapids. It's all potato growers out there. There was a wooded area down near the river that was talked about maybe

being purchased / developed, maybe being clear cut or whatever. Plover jumped all over that and they submitted and it's now been protected. It's along the river. They're putting walkways in there over the next 5 years. It's the area that connected up to Golecky and they don't want that developed. That's a good example. It'll be used by everybody. I'm going to give Gary Speckmann a call and ask him about your suggestion for something like what Jim was saying.

Cooper           It doesn't sound like it would be. I get what you're saying.

Wilz             I'm not sure if building a community park in Jim's backyard is going to serve all the residents of Portage County, but we'll find out.

Cooper           It's more of a nature conservancy type thing.

Wilz             It's for everybody to use and enjoy. I didn't expect that we'd come up with a list, but just to plant the seed and introduce this program. This is always available. Like Gary said, you submit every September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Twice a year we get a crack at it.

Schroeder       When Marcia and Carrie Butt were on this Commission, they were really into this thing with subdivisions and getting parks. When the Commission got deep into it, it is so deep. If the County Board or a Town Board works through the County Board and if there's a development by somebody like Joe Somers like he does next to the City, then at that point, they can talk and they can work at that level. Then afterwards if there's a neighborhood park, then the Commission would get involved. When they looked into it, it was really a lot of work and it got the best of them. It's a lot of work.

Cooper           But I think it's important as a park community to at least let our ideas be known.

Wilz             Absolutely. That's how it works.

Cooper           Isn't that what we want?

Schroeder       We want neighborhood parks. We don't want parking lots, but neighborhood parks so people can enjoy them.

Wilz             I know John Gardner very well. In some issues I consider him a friend, in others, we've been adversaries. He can tell you this is how it works and this is what you can do, and this is what we're allowed to do and everybody can go home, we don't have to have these meetings; that can be his approach. All that may be true, but I've seen other things happen with the citizens getting in there. You'll see it happen here in Hull because of Holdridge. John Holdridge does a tremendous job of bringing everybody to the table to get input. As a small township, we've been able to do some things that have been unbelievable. Anyway, that's how it works, let's think about it. I'll get a hold of Gary Speckmann and ask him. I'll see if he can e-mail me a list that I can share with you of the last 5-6 projects so I can get a flavor of what has been done in the past. Offhand, I can't think of a unique piece of land that we want to wrap our arms around or anything like that.

*(Multiple talking about the Pipe area.)*

Wilz It was privately owned and they wanted Hull to take it over upon the death. I wasn't here at the time but John maneuvered with this and got it all set up and upon the person who owned it, their death, it transferred to Hull and we had to pay for it. But the money came from this. We had to pay for some of it, I guess because there was an inheritance involved.

Schroeder That way we got to split some of that lumbering...*(end of tape)*.

**10) Discussion of Toxin-Free Weed Killer.**

Wilz You got a copy of that memo from Hedy Telfer and I put it out there to let you know about it. We've heard from her before.

Schroeder We've cut way back on the fertilizer from what we were doing.

Wilz We were not using fertilizer with the ADHP in it. This is a different thing. This is grass killer, Roundup, that sort of thing.

O'Keefe Killing weeds and that type of stuff.

Wilz The reason I put it on there, where do we use that, if anyplace? Occasionally on ditches but never on playgrounds.

Schroeder A couple of times for poison ivy.

Kaminski Years ago we used in the volleyball court. But for the most part, we haven't used it for awhile.

Wilz That's what I thought, but I wanted to have a discussion and I wanted the group to be aware. It seems reasonable that whenever you have parks for kids to play, we would do everything we could to be aware of what not to use. I just want to be certain that we're not. I know occasionally when you get into some of your ditch work with sumac or whatever, you've got to do what you need to do to control that.

Kaminski The last time I used it was on Somerset Park. I was up there spraying 2 years ago,

Wilz To get the quack down the first time.

Kaminski Correct.

Cooper So did you tell this lady that?

Wilz No. I'm going to contact her and let her know we put it on here and we established the fact that we use it very limited, we don't use it at all in the parks.

Kaminski In my ditches, I do use it though. If somebody calls me saying they have problems with thistles or poison ivy.

Wilz If it's slowing down the water flow. I will contact her. John wanted it put on the Board meeting for next time and I said no, this is a Parks deal and we'll take care of that.

O'Keefe There doesn't seem to be much stuff out there really for something as an alternative. That Preen, that's a lot of that organic material. The crab grass and weed killers you put on. There are seed inhibitors that keep things from germinating. A lot of that is organic based material. But other than that, there really isn't much out there dealing with recreational areas. Most of it is set up for home/residential use. That's what they're referring to. This particular group of people, I went onto their web page. It's mostly for home purposes. What they're advocating is basically getting out there and doing the grunt work. Popping the weeds out by hand. The only thing they recommended is for weeds boiling hot water, pouring it on the weeds, it kills them. That's kind of hard to do.

Mendkye All you need is a big pot!

O'Keefe There you go! Or using vinegar was another one. The USDA had something out on vinegar too. I printed that out, it was kind of interesting.

**11) Date of Next Meeting.** *The next Parks Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Note the earlier time of 6:00 p.m. that the Commission members decided would work out better.*

**12) Adjournment.** *Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. with a motion made by Roland Schroeder and seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman  
Parks Commission Secretary  
Town of Hull, Portage County