



MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION

Wednesday, APRIL 20, 2011 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 20, 2011 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, Members: Brian Hicks, Jim Mendyke, Maurice Stoltz, Roland Schroeder, Mike O'Keefe, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman and Pete Kaminski, Hull Road Foreman.

- 2) **Citizens wishing to address the Commission on non-agenda items.**
Agenda items are for discussion and possible action: *NONE.*

- 3) **Announcements:**

Wilz A couple announcements to bring this group up to speed. First of all, maybe you've seen it in the Hull newsletter; John Holdridge does a really good job of explaining the impact of the budget from the governor and what it means to townships. There is also an article about a Safety Task Force. The history on this is over the last 4 or 5 years, the Town of Hull has hired, at taxpayers' expense, sheriff department deputies on their off time in the summer to go to certain areas to keep speeders down, watch for safety issues, etc. I think in our budget last year we spent about \$5,000. When we put our budget together for this year, we had talked about we have a lot of safety issues throughout other areas of Hull that maybe we should look at too. Not just from a law enforcement standpoint but speeding down by Old Wausau Road, by the high school, the interaction between joggers and bikers in Hull because this area gets used quite heavily. We're putting together a Task Force, not a committee, and John and I will co-chair it. We'll talk about all these issues and anything else on people's minds. What other concerns do we have from a safety issue? Not that we want to go out and spend money but what do we need to be concerned about for our citizens. We're still looking for a few people that have interest in that. If you know of anybody, or yourself, just call in here. I think we're going to meet the first time in early May. Probably get together 3 or 4 times. We've got representatives from law enforcement, the Green Circle Trail and a lot of different resources to talk about potential safety.

The second thing is you may have read about this in the paper; over the last 2 years there has been a Hull Building Committee group that has been meeting and studying about our Fire Dept. and this municipal building in terms of what should be done and is it best to consolidate things. We got through with that committee last fall in November. A recommendation that it would be best for us to build onto this building here, expand it and bring the Fire Dept. over here instead of trying to fix a 90 year old building, instead turn that into cold storage. The price tag came in around \$3 million versus spending almost as much to fix up 2 buildings and the still have space issues and safety issues. They brought the recommendations to the Board. The

Board voted to put it on hold, much to the dismay of many of the people that had worked on that committee. But the Board did it for a couple of reasons. First, we had just caught wind of the paper mill (*closing*) in Whiting and thought about the people losing jobs. Certainly paying for this would mean increasing taxes. We also knew that regardless of what governor won, there would need to be some major things done in Madison and how that would affect local townships in terms of dollars. So we put it on hold and that's where it is right now. What we're doing right now is we are looking at the fact that we need to do something. There's leaking roofs that need repair and we're investigating the costs of keeping our current structures up to standards as far as safety goes until we understand clearly what's happening with finances in the state. I've asked people what they thought about that decision and most were in agreement that until we know more, we don't push through.

The last thing is how are we affected by the state budget.

Schroeder Isn't there another task force in there too for water?

Wilz Yes, that's in there also. That one got started about a year ago and John is resurfacing it again. It has to do with the new municipal well down by Plover Heights. Stevens Point is putting it in and there was a big concern by our residents that as it's going to be a high capacity well, what will it mean to our water supply. We had the water commission out here explaining it along with the vendors working on it, the mayor, the water superintendent, etc. It was really nice. They agreed that there would be tests done in everybody's (*those adjacent to the well property*) private well at no cost and would agree that if it had a (*negative*) affect, they (*the City*) would make it right. The legal aspect of that, the paperwork, has not been cleaned up yet but they did say that if something happens, they'll take ownership. John and I talked and we said we need to talk about water in Hull anyway because we have 2,020 wells. Not that we want to over-regulate. But what about the use and safety of that water. So why don't we get something going here. Get George Kraft in here from the University and some other experts and really explore what we've got going in the Township. Should be we concerned, what should we be thinking about? If you are interested in that, John would like citizen participants in that too.

O'Keefe Do you know how deep they are going with that well?

Wilz I can't remember. They brought out documents.

Schroeder It was very controversial when they were going through. But you knew it was going to go in anyway.

Amman I think it's about 110' deep – 120'.

Wilz Then it's got this new technology with spikes that go out (*lateral well*). It draws water in a very efficient system. It was recommended when they did a survey that was done. They had to do this because they have well problems primarily over by Iverson and it has to be dealt with. They can't continue to keep using that as they are now.

Schroeder I see on Hwy. 66 they're building some kind of plant for water. I stopped on the road to read the sign.

Hicks That's where the well is going?

Schroeder Yes.

Wilz They'll put the well with a building around it.

Hicks How would they "make it right"? If they suck all the water out of my well...not that you may know, Dave.

*(Note: Minutes from the **Jan. 2010** well presentation can be found on our Hull website.)*

Wilz It's been awhile since we had that argument with them and the mayor. It's a matter of monitoring. Let's say you have a spike and you're down 35' and let's say the water level is at 20'. They go operational and come and test it. If you're no longer at 20' but at 28', you're getting near where you may dry out. They'd have to put a new one in for you. If you have a drilled well, it's the same sort of thing. There was concern about water supply that way and there was also concern about if they would change the composition of the water. You're pulling what would have normally gone in my well and you're changing my water make up. They basically said they're doing it scientifically. Where do you live?

Hicks I'm on Agnes.

Mendyke You're out of the test zone.

Wilz They've got circles and if you are within those circles, they'll do different things depending upon what happens. They have it all mapped out.

The last thing is on budget; as far as the state goes, John Holdridge wrote the governor back on April 5th and we're being affected here in the Town of Hull in the following ways: the state mandates recycling. It's a law and has been for some time. As the Township goes, we're responsible for making sure that is enacted. To pay for that, over the years the state has given a grant to help local municipalities offset the cost of recycling because there's a cost, it doesn't pay for itself. The governor said in his new budget repair bill that townships no longer have to recycle. Individuals have to, but townships don't. So consequently, they're not forcing you to recycle, they're taking away our subsidy and in our case that is \$14,000. There's a good chance that we'll get that back. It doesn't sound like a lot but we're in a small budget. Road aide, which is a big part of our overall budget, money goes into Madison in various forms and it comes back out into municipalities in the form of road aide. It's approximately \$2,100 a mile.

Kaminski Yes. Now it will supposedly get cut down to \$2,000 something.

Wilz It's a substantial amount. We have 82 miles of road. For that, when we put the roads in, we need to build to specifications and take care of them. Does it fix all of our roads? No, but it certainly helps. We're going to lose about \$8,648 in that. Municipal shared revenues and that comes in various forms, we're going to lose \$54,000. So we're up around \$70,000 some in state aides that will either be reduced or mostly reduced. We don't know when that will take effect. We certainly know that new budget comes starting this summer but we don't know between now and then what they'll do, start prorating it off. That's significant for our Township. Our total budget is about \$1.5 million that we operate with and about \$90,000 comes from us via the tax levy and the rest comes from various other income sources. So it's a lot of money when

we have a small budget to operate on. It certainly is something that all municipalities need to deal with. We're in pretty stable shape as far as a township. With that being said, we haven't raised taxes for about 4 years so we've been pretty fiscally responsible. The other part of the budget according to the governor is he's also not allowing local municipalities to increase taxes for 2 years. So we can't levy you. He took away \$77,000 then he said we can't increase taxes for 2 years unless we have growth or can prove certain types of inflationary items. It's a formula.

4) Approval of minutes from September 15, 2010 Parks meeting. *Motion made by Mendyke to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Schroeder. Motion passed.*

5) Review of Parks Budget for 2011.

Wilz Patty put a sheet out in front of you here and she carved out just the page that has Parks on it. I just wanted to review a few items on it. It has 2 columns on it; one is our approved budget from last year and one is our approved budget for this year. We basically made a couple of changes on this. The first thing is under parks labor. In 2010 we had budgeted \$11,500 and in 2011 you see that figure is \$9,000. Pete and I lowered that. The reason we did is because our actual in 2010 was just around \$9,000 and we had saved money by the way we utilized labor last year in cutting grass in parks.

Kaminski We spent \$7,000.

Wilz If you remember previously, we had a number of part-time people come in and they would take care of the parks in the summer. As one was retiring last year, we had made a decision that we thought we could go another way. Pete and I talked and we got a good, fast lawn mower and now our full-time crew takes care of the parks. They've done it more efficiently with less time. So that's why there's a reduction.

Kaminski We used to put around \$14,000 in for labor. So we really cut it down a lot.

Wilz I think we're doing a better job too. The next big thing is we lowered landscaping costs from \$5,500 in the budget in 2010 to \$3,500 in 2011. That is reflective of what we really had been spending. We never really spent \$5,500.

Kaminski I cut that one also because I don't plan on putting down fertilizer this year. We had a few people last fall who asked if we really needed to be putting that down inside the parks.

Wilz If you remember, we had that discussion last year. What we're putting in the parks and the concern about health of kids. I read the information that was provided to me and I called Portage County Parks and Stevens Point Parks and they quite fertilizing years ago. That's just an expense. They fertilize and take care of their baseball fields. But they were cutting that (*other areas*) out so Pete and I decided that's got to be it.

Kaminski We spent \$1,500 a year on that.

Mendyke We can see how it looks this year.

Wilz Exactly.

Kaminski Maybe do it every third year or every other year.

Hicks It should cut down on mowing as well.

Kaminski It should.

Wilz It didn't last year with all the rain we had. The other big difference here is the DNR grant for trees last year. In the budget this year, we're not doing the grant so that went down to zero. Our budget reflects \$37,233 this year versus \$45,880. Our actual last year came in right around \$40,000 or \$41,000 if I recall. As we're talking about budget, in lieu of the fact that we just explained what the governor did, we also had a budget meeting on Monday night and we were trying to make predictions on how we look as a Township and there is some concern that we'll have to not only find ways to offset what the governor is shorting us but that we're going to need to do some other things too to stay within budget. For instance Pete, how much is a mile of road to double chip seal this year versus last year?

Kaminski This year \$34,000 versus last year it was \$32,500. One mile of chip seal this year is \$16,500 and last year I think it was \$14,500. It just keeps going up all the time.

Wilz So we have other concerns in our area. Brian hasn't been able to feel comfortable enough to pull the trigger on buying playground equipment this year. And I'm not concerned about that. Thanks for getting back to me and I appreciate why you didn't do what you did. So let's keep budget in mind here. I don't want to fix the whole Township's budget crisis through the Parks but I think we just need to be cognizant of it.

A motion was made by Roland Schroeder to approve the report on the budget, seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed without further discussion.

6) Review of Park Inspection Sheets for future inspections.

Wilz Patty provided one of these sheets and she did this last year after we did, or in the middle of our park inspections and I just wanted to take an opportunity to see if there's any changes you want to make to this before we run around in the next few weeks to check things out. Or should we just use it and let that be the guide? *(There was a general consensus to use it as it was presented.)*

Kaminski The merry go round; someone had mentioned that it needed chips because it was too low. When you guys go through your parks, write down which parks need chips. You said last year some kids roll off and under the equipment.

Wilz As long as we're talking about this particular item, let's assign some parks.

List of who is inspecting which parks:

Meadow Manor	Jim Mendyke
Somerset	Mike O'Keefe
Jordan Acres	Brian Hicks
Sorenson	Maurie Stoltz
Treder's Woodland	Maurie Stoltz
Eastwood	Dave Wilz
Pleasant View West	Dave Wilz
Pleasant View East	Rollie Schroeder
Conifer Acres	Rollie Schroeder
Plover Heights Conservancy	Pete Kaminski

Wilz What we'd like to do is spend some time walking through the park carefully and note everything. If things are rusty or need paint or chips or whatever. What would you do if you we're using it?

Kaminski I bought stainless steel chain so as you go through the parks, write down where chain is rusted. I did about 10 swings last year, the ones that were in the worst shape. We can't do all of them, but we'll start out with the worst ones.

Mendyke It'll probably be too soon to tell if our new trees made it at this time of year. Because we'll get those replaced if they die, right?

Stoltz Some seemed to die in last summer but they might come back this year.

Kaminski I think there might be a total of about 10 of them, I'm just guessing. When we were planning last year, we had frost remember? So I had water running on them and they had icicles on them. They came to life then that kind of shocked them. But I think they'll all come back.

O'Keefe Trees have secondary buds on them. So when you have a freeze like that, if the primary one doesn't grow, there's a bud underneath so you might get partial foliation the first year and it won't look so good but maybe this year it might do better.

Kaminski I looked at these by the front of this building and it looks as if there's something there.

Mendyke Good, I've got my fingers crossed.

Wilz Pete, do you remember when we need to get to them to get a guarantee?

Kaminski Last year we planted them in April something. I'd have to look back in my records. We were done around May 5th and basically we have one year from I think when you put them in, I'd have to check back.

Stoltz They're pretty good, that was from McKay. Now we have such a late spring, if you put them in, it would be into May already.

Mendyke How's that one doing that he helped us to plant?

Kaminski I think that was the first one that died. We'll see. He was out here last fall and I took him to see it.

Schroeder There's one tree, Pete, that is in Conifer Park, in the west side almost right off of that shelter. It's broke up high and I kind of pushed on the trunk. The way it is, it might come back over that trail and there are a lot of people walking so you may want to walk over there and see. If you're not sure, ask me. You can see it, it's one of those tall scrub pines. That's the only one of concern, if someone goes there. With the wind we're getting, you just don't know. This is the trail going behind the shelter on the west side.

Stoltz Do we want a copy of the inspection report for everybody when we do these or do you just need one?

Wilz I think that at the next meeting, Patty is normally here early enough, we'll have the back open with the copy machine and we'll make copies as we have members. That way we can talk about them.

Hicks Is this in Excel?

Amman No, it's just a regular Word document. You can print it out at home or I've got a few extras here too.

A motion was made by Schroeder to accept the discussion on the use of the inspections sheet and seconded by Mendyke. Motion passed.

7) Review equipment needs/purchases and locations.

Wilz Brian, bring us up to speed including what our original plan was for this year.

Hicks What we talked about was doing Jordan Acres. It being a smaller, broken up park, we didn't necessarily want to go in there with one of these big pieces like we've done in the past. So with that in mind, I went out to the vendor that we've been using and looked at their brochure that they send to us. Usually in January or February you get good deals. But all they had in there were the big monstrous things. In the past they've had some of the smaller stuff towards the back. But all they had this time around were big, big pieces. The \$10,000 - \$30,000 pieces so I said, okay, let's just wait. We're not going to get any great deals on anything we can use right at the moment. So I did not pull the trigger on anything yet. In light of what happened (*with the budget*), that may have not been such a bad idea. When we talked about this budget last year, we're looking to put a few things into that park, I'm not sure we need \$20,000 worth.

Wilz Wasn't there another park that we were thinking about?

Kaminski I think Somerset we were going to stick a piece in.

Wilz I thought there were two parks we were going to put a little something in each one and that would complete the process for the first go around.

Hicks Since there was some money available, we thought we'd do something since it was such a big area to fill in with some more stuff.

Schroeder We didn't have very much equipment that we needed in Jordan Acres and they were going to use the rest of that and put something extra down the road.

Mendyke We did both of the Pleasant Views before that.

Hicks We've been sitting pretty good.

Wilz With the purchases for these last 2 parks and small areas, all the parks would have been done. They all got some sort of an update over the course of the last 6-7 years.

Kaminski I've been here the longest and we've been doing this for the past 10 years. When we started, we started with Meadow Manor and every year we've been adding on.

Wilz I think John is supportive of that. He said that we need to get the project done.

Hicks We need to do something at Jordan Acres.

Wilz For sure just to finish that off. Not a monster. These came in today.

Hicks Awesome! I was hoping we got something.

Wilz You've gotten what we've got and it hasn't been much this year. I received these last week and they're not from Lee. One is from Burke. I looked through this and thought wow, I saved \$10,000 and still have to spend \$21,000 for that?

Hicks That's exactly what I saw too. There's nothing that's really going to fit our needs.

Wilz Do you have contacts with Lee?

Hicks I do. I can get in touch with Lonna again and explain what we're looking for.

Wilz Normally when they send the yearly catalogs, everything you could think of is in there. But everything in here is huge. You can look at this one now. Say that we need to be more selective and send us the information. I looked at the prices in here and I think things are going right through the ceiling.

Hicks Lonna has come to visit us and taken a look at the park and made a few suggestions so maybe that's a possibility this time around.

Wilz I noticed on some of those that I read, the early birds, as long as you order by May 31st you get the discount. But the discount isn't much. I think everybody has financial issues. Do you think you'll have time between now and the next meeting to get your hands around this a little bit better?

Hicks Yes.

Wilz Hopefully then too we'll have some clarity on the governors' budget and how much we're going to be affected this year if at all.

Mendyke Should we give Brian some guidance as to whether we're looking for 10, 15 or 20 at this point?

Wilz We've got \$20,000 in the budget.

Stoltz \$20,000 but you usually use about \$15,000 and use the rest for chips or other stuff.

Wilz Always \$1,500 to \$2,000 for the "stuff" that goes with it. Last year we spent about \$17,500 and we ended up with about \$19,100. Yes, the guidance is concentrate on the one park and you can go to the other one and see if we need something to fill in a hole. Work it from both angles.

Schroeder Somerset is probably a younger neighborhood with a lot more kids so we should go where the demand would be too.

Hicks Quite a few younger kids coming now. My kids are 14 and 16 and now I'm starting to see the 2, 3, 4 year olds coming.

Stoltz That's like the park by us now. When we moved in, they were all college age and driving but there are younger families starting to move in with babies.

Wilz Does that work for your suggestion?

Mendyke Yes. It would benefit if we had an extra item there for Somerset or if we decided to cut something, then Somerset would be cut before Jordan Acres.

Kaminski Didn't we talk about putting in a small climbing wall somewhere last year?

Schroeder That seems to be popular.

Kaminski We don't have a climbing wall there.

Mendyke If we had a climbing wall at Somerset, we wouldn't need to duplicate that at Jordan Acres right down the street.

Kaminski We can't stick much in there because there's really not much room there. One piece and that's it. Unless you want me to yank out some of those trees, those jack pines.

Stoltz You've got some nice maples in there though don't you?

Kaminski There's some young ones, yes. We don't have a lot in there, a swing set, a slide.

Wilz It's got a nice infield.

Kaminski Are we going to maintain that baseball field this year at Somerset?

Wilz I don't know. I think what we'll do is take a look at it if the snow ever melts in the next week or two and see what we've got. For the work that you guys did, I don't think it would take much to maintain that.

Kaminski No. In my budget for this year, I'd like to buy a small used tractor. If we're going to maintain those fields, either we're going to maintain them or let them fill in with grass. Out of that \$20,000, I'd like to get some little attachments that go behind a 30 hp tractor so we can work them over.

Wilz If you remember, we had a citizen over by Somerset that is into baseball. That infield was all sand at one time and still visually, you can see it's almost all sand whereas...the baseball fields don't have an infield or they've all grown in. We made an experiment with a rented piece of equipment from Pete's brother to see if we could bring that field back in shape to how it was designed and it came out great. The idea was if we have that, we should try to maintain it. We paid for it one time. I'm still along that philosophy.

Kaminski That other park out by you Dave should be worked up and cut that way.

Wilz Those are T-ball players.

Kaminski Year's ago the Town stuck in baseball fields. Now, over time, it's filled in with grass. I would say wherever the Town has put in a baseball stop, it should be maintained, otherwise why have the stop there.

Mendyke I think we should consider the small equipment (*tractor*).

Wilz Pete's got this piece of equipment, a small tractor not only for parks but for other types of things. It's in the capital budget. We have a capital budget this year, not counting parks a budget of about \$181,000 of things that various departments need as replacement or repair. We voted Monday night to kind of put that on hold because those are big ticket items. Yet if we really need them, we'll fight for them but it's got to make sense.

Schroeder I read that in the City budget a year ago and all of a sudden when the snow plows came out, it was all new equipment. So their hold didn't hold too long. I think they had that money in the back and they decided they should spend it. I think that's how that works because they wouldn't get it back anyway.

Wilz Are you clear then?

Hicks Yes, good.

Wilz Hopefully you can find some catalogs or help for some equipment that you actually want to purchase this year because even through that, it was almost all big stuff.

Stoltz Do you have last year's catalog?

Wilz I threw mine away but as I get new ones, I give them to Brian.

Stoltz Last year they had some of the smaller stuff and the year before. I'm sure if they want to make a sale, they can find things.

Hicks Sure.

Schroeder I move to recommended to Brian to make further contacts with the vendors to get material that is closer to the items we are looking for. Hopefully he'll get that done and get confirmation at our next meeting.

Hicks Second.

Motion passed.

8) Discuss Stevens Point Youth Baseball request for Park use.

Wilz A few years ago we were approached about the use of some of the Town of Hull parks for Stevens Point Area Youth Baseball from T-ball all the way up to 7th and 8th grade. We made a commitment seeing as how they had statistics that 38% of the kids that play baseball come from the Town of Hull. They were running out of fields. The first one was Pleasant View West over by Spectra Print in my neighborhood. We ran that 2 years ago and they're were just terrific to work with. That group of parents and organization is great. They approached us again last year and asked if they could have Pleasant View West and they wanted another park. They settled on Sorenson. That went well also with some concerns by some neighbors.

Stoltz The parking.

Wilz Yes, the parking. If you guys know, the street kind of goes around that park by Sorenson and it is extremely narrow. They were parking all over lawns and they parked on both sides of the street. There's a fireman that lives over there and said they can't do that. It's hard enough to get a car in-between much less a safety vehicle. I had invited a representative from Stevens Point Area Youth Baseball to this meeting tonight and I did that via e-mail. I told them

this was on the agenda tonight and we wanted to speak to them. They did not respond to my e-mail. Obviously they're not here. I'm going to suggest that I contact Brad Franz, the president of that group. I talked to Brad in January. He was in support of putting the stop signs over by Pleasant View West. I had him at the meeting so I have a relationship built there. I asked him to go to those 2 parks with me and talk about the parking issues and ask them to come up and help with signs or whatever needs to be done to get everybody parked on one side so that there would no longer be safety issues.

Stoltz Could you put temporary signs on one side of the street by Sorenson so they only park on one side?

Kaminski Yes but you'd need to pass some kind of ordinance. I can't just stick a sign up.

Hicks Would Somerset make more sense?

Kaminski To me it does.

Stoltz Somerset is a nice big park.

Hicks Better parking there and you've got a lot less traffic on that road.

Schroeder That's a wide road there by Somerset.

Wilz We choose Sorenson, it was a collaborative effort, because they were looking for a location that was in the center of things. Easy for everybody to get to and to find. Certainly Pleasant View over my me and Sorenson fits that bill.

Stoltz What about Eastwood? It's got a backstop and an outfield. For T-ball, that would be....there's a place to park either on the City side or the Hull side. That's only a few blocks from Sorenson.

Wilz I went on their website last night and they've got Sorenson posted already. There was a reason why that was chosen. You're inquiry to Pete is right. I don't want the Town of Hull to do anything. That's not our duty. We want them to use the parks but I think if we have concerns, they should be able to, prior to their games, put those little stakes in and help monitor the situation.

Schroeder Carpooling rides instead of having so many cars.

Wilz When there's double headers, and there always are, there are always 2 games, sometimes 3 games later in June when it stays lighter, you'll have cars from one game on both sides, plus grandmas and grandpas and then everybody comes for the next game early. I remember at Pleasant View last year we counted 70 some cars right at the switch.

Schroeder There's more room there where you can push further. You've got that little blacktop.... *(end of tape)*

Wilz We have concerns for our citizens to have them stay off their lawns. There are plenty of places otherwise to park but more importantly for the safety issues. They should come up with a solution.

Schroeder The former Wal-Mart parking lot might be used. The City has part of that parking lot right? Because the City is plowing it from Applebee's up. We aren't. I think they had to do that because they took so much of Applebee's when they did that road. That isn't too far to walk.

Wilz I want them to deal with the issue. It's their issue and they need to make it better for our citizens and for safety for everybody.

Stoltz Pass it on to the parent of the kids, when they have their meetings.

Wilz They're a good group and they're doing it the right way so I don't think there will be any issues. I was hoping they'd have a rep here tonight. I know by looking at their website that they're having organizational meetings almost every night now. I think the season starts the 1st or 2nd of May in a week or two. They're in their crunch time right now but I'll get hold of Brad Franz and make that recommendation that they tour with me and deal with the traffic issue. We got 2 calls last year on Sorenson. None on Pleasant View.

Stoltz Sorenson seems narrower than Floral. You have the curve going around there and the trees are closer to the road and Floral is straight.

Wilz So you're thinking for next year Somerset would be a better park for this?

Stoltz Eastwood seems like a nice open space.

Kaminski They can park on Sandpiper and on Regent.

Mendyke You'd have to check with the City on that because those are not ours.

Wilz Oh yeah, that's why we avoided it.

Schroeder We got that agreement when we walked the park along with Tom Schroeder and he said either side access. They just didn't want any fields on the City side but he said they can park there, come down, use the park back and forth. That was a gentleman's agreement.

Wilz We'll open that up next year for discussion of parks.

Stoltz You'll have to check because the City put some trees on that side of the park.

Wilz It's not much of a field but it's for T-ball anyway.

A motion was made by Hicks to accept the report on baseball use of parks. Seconded by Schroeder. Motion passed.

9) Review of Hull's Park's staff for 2011.

Wilz We really kind of talked about that already. I just wanted to review how we've been taking care of the parks and how we changed the staffing patterns here. I think it worked out terrific last year, Pete. Did you have any issues that we need to address? Were you able to handle the workload with all the rest of the stuff going on during the summer, road projects?

Kaminski Yes, everything fit in. If I had a project going on, instead of cutting Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, last year we cut 3 days a week, we dedicated 24 hours, but I would always schedule it in-between projects. Everything worked out and we had no major road construction going on last year either. This year we have nothing major.

Wilz Last year we cut grass well into the summer. We had agreed in this group that we were going to let the grass go once we got to the dry part of the summer to save the money. But it was so wet last year that it was green and lush almost into first part of July so you guys cut a lot more last year.

Kaminski The most ever. In Plover Heights, that one guy doesn't like a wide path so we did one swath.

Hicks Did we top those trees in there?

Kaminski Yes, last year.

A motion was made by Mendyke to accept report and seconded by Schroeder. Motion passed.

10) Discuss Annual Planner

Wilz There's really nothing to discuss. I went through it. I'm going along with what Rollie mentioned last year. Marcia had put together a really nice annual planner and she had laid this out month by month. Rollie said we really don't need to keep that up because we keep such good minutes and we cover everything. And that's really true. Everything that's on for tonight's meeting we've discussed more than what would be in May's annual planner.

11) Set next meeting date.

Wilz I would like to have this group consider something and discuss this. There have been traditionally 6 Park Commission meetings in a season. The last 2 years we've had 5. Six were planned, 5 only happened because one year we cancelled because of weather (*and the other year because of mosquitoes*). I'm getting a sense that unless we have new things we need to tackle, I don't see a reason to get together 6 times in the summer. I'm hoping we can maybe get this done meeting a little further apart and maybe going for 4 times. We've only done 5 times the last 2 years the way it was. What do the rest of you think?

Mendyke That's fine as long as we don't set it too far out to approve

Schroeder I think you'd have to meet in May.

Kaminski I would suggest May.

Hicks The next one could be in May then I'm fine with spreading it out after that.

Wilz I think the next meeting needs to be close because a couple of things need to happen. Some equipment potentially ordered. We want park inspection reports so that Pete will have enough time to get things fixed.

Schroeder In July I don't see any reason to meet.

Wilz I'll put our June Commission report in the next one where we talk about who's term is up and who will continue to serve. I'll look at our normal June one and make certain that if there's anything timely in there that we compact it. I'm suggesting that our next meeting be sometime in May.

It was agreed upon that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30.

Wilz Then we'll postpone until the end of July and pickup one right at the end of fall.

Kaminski If something would come up, I can contact you if we need to have a meeting.

Wilz For the next meeting, I will have the next two dates on the calendar.

Schroeder Whenever Brian comes up with those things, even if the end of June or the first of July, because then you get into vacations. June everyone is still around because of T-ball 4-6 weeks. Then everyone is gone.

Stoltz Once 4th of July comes, everyone is gone.

Hicks Even with the equipment not being so big, it won't be so much to work on.

Kaminski We put it in last year around the end of May right?

Hicks Right, we got it early last year.

Stoltz But we had an early spring last year.

*A motion was made by Stoltz to go to the 4 per year meeting format with the next meeting being on **May 18th**. Motion was seconded by Schroeder. Motion passed.*

Kaminski When you guys inspect the parks, if there's some old equipment, like last year we pulled out that tire out from Jordan Acres, if there's some old equipment you want to remove, maybe we can stick something new in there so write it down.

Wilz Pete had mentioned this earlier; we had made a commitment later in the summer, and I had asked Pete to get some stainless steel chain because that was our number one complaint. In the spring it's all rust and it's all over the kids clothes. Pete did that. I knew it was expensive but it wasn't as bad as we had thought. You ended up purchasing how many feet?

Kaminski 100' at \$5 a foot. Regular chain was \$2.50+.

Wilz This will be the last time we need to do that.

Kaminski I measured it and each piece is 8' long so I can do some.

Wilz So I bring that up as we do our inspections, if you notice that something is really rusty, if it's just surface rust that'll wipe off the first time, that's one thing, but if it's just going to continue, note that for Pete so we can target those.

Schroeder Since I've been on the Commission, that's the only complaint I get from Pleasant View East. That's the biggest one.

Kaminski I only have so much chain so we'll pick the worst ones that need changing. Hopefully if we have money left over towards the end, I can buy another role.

Schroeder I'll just tell them that Pete figured out which ones are the worst and so that's why we don't have them changed yet.

Wilz When we got into the fall and still had some Park's budget money left, he went out and bought the extra swings and seats.

Kaminski 10 of them.

Wilz It seemed to work out.

Kaminski I bought 2 for Sorenson Park, that one bar is bent, I bought 2 pieces of pipe and I've got to get that fixed.

Wilz Does anybody have anything else?

Hicks Are we still short a member?

Wilz We are. I didn't put that on the agenda but I'm glad you brought that up.

Hicks We are woefully unrepresented on the female side.

Wilz Yes. I've got a note here from last year where I spoke with Genevieve Cooper from Torun Road as a potential candidate. I spoke with her last year just prior to our last meeting and she said she couldn't go that night but asked to be contacted the next spring. I e-mailed her about 2 weeks ago and she e-mailed me back about 2 days ago saying that she just got in from

vacation. I'm planning on contacting her to see where her interest level is. But you're right, we do need a little bit more diversification if at all possible. But we have one position open and we're okay to operate this way, but in the bylaws, we need to actively try to fill that position within a reasonable amount of time.

Kaminski If I need to plant trees, how many volunteers do I have?

Stoltz Give us a ring.

Kaminski Three?

Schroeder I'm more flexible now.

Wilz I appreciate everybody's service. If you have any agenda items or concerns that we need to discuss or get in front of the Board, think about that stuff and let me know. We represent water and there will be a water committee. We represent recreational type opportunities. I will tell you that the Plan Commission is starting to work on a new subdivision ordinance for future subdivisions. When they get to the point when they talk about parks and recreational area, we'll have a position statement for them. That's going to be a long process. It'll take months for them to get through it.

12) Adjournment.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with a motion made by Hicks and seconded by Mendyke.
Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman
Parks Commission Secretary
Town of Hull, Portage County