

**MINUTES – HULL PARK COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 7:00 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, May 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. by Parks Chairperson Dave Wilz at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: Chair: Dave Wilz, Jim Mendyke, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Maurice Stoltz, Roland Schroeder.

Others Present: Pete Kaminski, Hull Road Foreman

Absent: Marcia Locher, Carrie Butt

Excused: Brian Hicks

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

3) **Announcements:**

Wilz Regarding a discussion we had last time, I just wanted to update you on the Stevens Point Youth Baseball which had been using Kirschling Park West (Pleasant View Park) for the second year. At the last meeting, this commission gave them permission to also use Sorenson Park Tuesday and Thursday nights. I was able to get over there and get out an introduction letter to some people on Sunday afternoon explaining to the people what was going to happen. We got them a contact name and a contact number from the Youth Baseball group about if there are any problems with people parking on the lawns and stuff. I haven't heard anything back so everything must be going pretty well. There are now two of our parks being used for this.

Stoltz I was working out in the yard and I saw Scotts Portable Septic truck go down to the park, he was gone a little bit then he was back to empty out the facility.

Wilz Yes, they do a good job. I want to report on the trees. All the trees were planted a week or so ago. Thanks to everybody giving us the time and effort to get these things in right. I think that everybody that has looked at them appreciates the quality of those trees. I was very impressed with them. What about you Jim?

Mendyke Yes, I was impressed by the size of them. Most of them were in very good shape.

Wilz They had shapes to them already.

Mendyke I just want to say hats off to Pete and his crew because I think every one of those 58 trees was put in to the specs of the DNR.

Kaminski I talked with Don Kissenger and last week he went looking around and he said for the most part, all of them looked good. He said that a few of them that were balled in burlap, he had forgotten to give extra instructions for them. But I told him that we found them and for every one, we dug down 5 or 6 inches through the clay, and he said he was impressed, that we knew what we were doing. He was going to send me an e-mail, but Barbara hasn't been here for the past few days so there might be something on the computer. As soon as I get that e-mail saying that everything is okay, I'll fill out the paperwork so we can get reimbursed.

Wilz Yes, you and I have to get together to fill out the forms.

Mendyke The crew worked hard and got it down in a couple of days which I think was great. It went pretty smooth.

Wilz I went over to Treder Park and is that a difference. It's like, wow, this is really cool now.

Kaminski We planted 16 trees in there.

Wilz It's beautiful.

Stoltz I wonder what the neighbors think.

Wilz There's one other announcement. I'm sure we're all aware that the Town of Hull lost a great servant-leader last week in Bob Brilowski. He passed last week and the wake was on Sunday and the funeral on Monday. He was a Town of Hull Supervisor for 42 years. Portage County Supervisor for 16 years. Just a real gentle man and a good guy to be around. We're going to miss him.

4) **Approval of minutes from April 7, 2010 Parks meeting.** *Motion made by Jim Mendyke to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.*

5) **Review park inspection summaries.**

Wilz Pete, in the past, how have we done these?

Kaminski I get a copy from everybody.

Wilz Do we discuss them?

Kaminski If somebody has something they want to share. Otherwise, I'll take them and when I have time, we'll go through them.

Mendyke If I could make a couple of comments. I had Meadow Manor Park, I did an inventory of all the equipment and only a couple of comments. The sandbox boards are warped. The merry-go-round has a lot of give to it so it might need to be looked at.

Kaminski I can check into that and tighten it up.

Mendyke The miscellaneous overall condition of the park is good. Overall the equipment is in good shape. One of the swings, the support bar is bent, but it's probably been bent for some years.

Kaminski Yes, there's one I know about in Sorenson too that has a dent in it.

Mendyke It doesn't seem to affect the integrity of it.

Kaminski I'll take a post with a jack on the bottom and a plate and see if I can jack it up. If that doesn't do it, eventually I'll replace it. It's not in any immediate danger of anything happening though. It's been that way a couple of years.

Mendyke There's a lot of equipment out at Meadow Manor Park, it's a nice park.

Stoltz They're all getting nice now with all the equipment. It's surprising how many grandparents come over with their grandchildren. Even at Sorenson during the day, all of a sudden there are a lot of people there watching their kids.

Kaminski I wanted to comment about Kirschling East: when we were planting trees, a woman was on the expressway and she saw us out there. She came off the expressway and around to where we were and said, "You guys do excellent work, thank you for the trees, you guys are excellent, you really do a good job".

Wilz Everybody sees that park and it does look great. We're heading in the right direction. Maury, you want to comment about Sorenson?

Stoltz Other than that one pipe that was bent, there were a couple of branches that were down from that snow on Saturday, and the wood chips. Otherwise, everything is in good shape.

Kaminski I didn't make a separate report, but I inspected Treder Park. We have no equipment out there, but we planted 16 trees. The Pipe area, there's nothing out there but we pick up the garbage from the garbage can.

Wilz I'd like to talk about the Pipe too. There was some discussion at some time in this group, about the signage out at the Pipe.

Kaminski They want to keep it low profile. We really have no parking out there, or very minimal.

Wilz There are places to get in and out with a boat but it's not designed for parking.

Mendyke That was one of our tasks, to make sure all the parks are signed. Something similar to Plover Heights.

Kaminski What would you call it?

Wilz It's called Granite Ridge Park. But everybody knows it as the Pipe.

Kaminski Maybe I should make a sign saying the Pipe area if everybody knows it as the Pipe.

Schroeder A sign that would be similar to Plover Heights.

Kaminski We have a sign out there already from the road that states foot access only. There's a garbage can out there and we empty that out, but we don't mow any grass or anything else. Red Bridge is the same thing.

Wilz I'll talk to John about the conservancy that Rollie brought up. I think that as a Parks Commission, we need to do something, or at least investigate it more to make sure we're doing our duty. Everybody thinks that if you put a sign up, it'll draw people, but everybody knows about the area already. Just go out there during the ice fishing season when there's 25 cars parked out there. They know where it is.

Schroeder I think the name Granite Ridge Park came from the county commission that said we had to have a name. Nobody gave us a name so we put Granite Ridge Park.

Wilz Because it's off of Granite Ridge Road.

Schroeder That's where that name came from. We laid low because there was a neighborhood committee working on whatever they were working on. The last I remember was that we were going to sign it conservancy.

Mendyke It wouldn't be a bad idea to just rename it the Pipe, if we sign it.

*Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the Park Inspection summaries. Seconded by Roland Schroeder. Motion passed.*

**6) Review of inspection template prepared by Patty Amman. Discussion of new parks equipment, installation dates, etc.**

Wilz Patty took a lead from shortly after our last meeting where we talked about a template for park inspections. She took it upon herself to put one together. I used it on my two parks. I'll give this out, take a look at it, if we can come up with any suggestions in a few minutes, so be it. If not, maybe we can utilize it for next year and we'll tweak it as we need to. On the left side over under equipment, she tried to think of the typical things that we might have in the various parks.

Amman Actually, I went through previous park inspection reports and pulled everything I could find, unless there was just one of something in one park, and I listed them alphabetically.

Wilz            The idea of using a template is that we could all inspect the parks the same way. Hopefully you then might have more consistency.

Mendyke        I think it's a great start.

Schroeder      I'll use it for my two.

Wilz            Out at Eastwood, I don't know what that piece is called. You've got the rock climbing wall and the thing with the raised platform with the steps going up and slides going down and then it connects through a tube in between. I was out there thinking, what is that?

Schroeder      It's in the catalog so it's got to have a name.

Amman         Is that a jungle gym, or not really? Is that what it's called, or is it something beyond that?

Wilz            It's part of the new equipment. I didn't think to take the catalog along.

Mendyke        On my report, I looked at the poster we had made of Meadow Manor Park, because there is a kid spinner, satellite climber and rally round. One of those is a jungle gym.

Amman         That's why I put "other equipment" at the end of the list. Because this new piece of equipment we put in, I didn't know what it was called, so I thought people could list what they think it might be called.

Wilz            Patty, thank you for doing this. Rollie's going to use it on his, I've got mine already used and we'll come back and tweak it as we move along. *A motion was made by Roland Schroeder to accept the template. Motion seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.*

Kaminski       Our new parks equipment, we will be installing that on Monday. I've got pictures and I'd like you guys to show me how/where you would like it to be put in location wise. This is what we'll be putting in there (*diagram/picture shared*). How do you want it turned? So that it matches the highway or what? Do you want it like it is, with the swing towards Dave's house?

Schroeder      I was thinking you would want the back of it towards the highway.

Kaminski       That's what I'm getting at. Our benches sit here, more up at the front, for parents to watch their kids. I'll be taking out the sod on Friday. Monday at 7:00 a.m. he (*playground equipment guy*) is going to be here. We're going to start back here (*in our maintenance bay*) putting some of it together. Eventually we'll end up outside at the park there.

Mendyke        And that's going into Kirschling West, where that sandbox was.

*Some general discussion about size of equipment, location, which way to turn it or face it. The digger box will be moved out and to the side. One way onto the apparatus and two ways down.*

*The slider would be aimed towards Dave's house on Mary's Drive. Although it says it takes 42 hours to install, Pete wants to cut it down to 8 hours.*

Kaminski We got Jordan Acres done. I'll show you the pictures of the new sandbox with the plastic beams. It looks very nice. Eventually, we'll get all the parks done. In Somerset, I'd like to take the 2 spring riders out and put them back on the side. I'd like to downsize that for the digger box and move the 2 spring riders.

Schroeder Sure, that's what I would do.

Kaminski We started cutting our parks and this is what we're doing, time in, time out, weeding, painting, cutting. We have the brand new lawn mower, here's a picture of it. The weed whacker I got last fall. Eventually I would like to get a Mantis, a small tiller, to work up the chips and mix it up and rake it off. Right now we have nothing.

Stoltz I have a Mantis.

Kaminski Does it work well?

Stoltz It works alright.

Kaminski For our application, would it work to mix up chips, to pull weeds out and rake it back in? How much are they, any idea?

Stoltz I bought mine through Mantis, I ordered it.

Schroeder They have them anywhere from \$100 to \$200 depending upon size.

Mendyke Meadow Manor Park, there's a lot of grass there and that was from 9 to 11:30 plus trimming.

Kaminski We're down to cutting parks in ½ hour to 45 minutes. Like the Meadow Manor and the Kirshlings, about an hour to an hour and a quarter.

Mendyke That's great.

Wilz That includes travel time. From here to there and back plus the cutting and trimming. The reason that we're doing this (*tracking the time*), is because we knew what the labor was last year with the other gentlemen because the only thing they did was cut parks. They punched in and out and that's what became our labor budget and costs. We decided to start tracking this. We never really knew what it took to cut a park, time wise so we decided to start tracking this because there were some supervisors that weren't convinced that having full time people cutting the parks was the way to go, that we should use college students or go another route. The argument against that was we can't make any decent decisions unless we track or get some information to make a comparison. So this is gathering information with Pete and his crew. With that new machine, this thing just flies, it's been great.

Kaminski      There is no reason we can't get all the parks cut in 3 days.

Wilz            It is the time of year when everything is greening up and growing but when we get into the heat of July with no rain and it's turning brown....

Schroeder      We don't have hours for cutting when it's raining. Remember when those guys were scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday to mow, if it was raining, they were still here.

Kaminski      The reason I brought this up is because years ago when I first started here, I think Stan Klismith was doing the parks inside of 3 days. We don't have any more parks, we're getting better lawnmowers, wider equipment, so what's the holdup. So if years ago they did it, we should be able to do it now with this new equipment (*zero turn radius mower.*)

Wilz            There's no wasted energy with this one, it's always cutting.

Kaminski      Anybody that wants to help with the installation of the new playground equipment is more than welcome.

Stoltz          Just let me know what time.

Kaminski      I'll call you from here. I don't know how long it's going to take, but I'm hoping to get it done in one day, we'll see.

7)      **Discussion of Commission's recommendations on parks, as related to future development.**

Wilz            I bring this agenda topic back. It was on one of last year's Park meeting agenda items. It has to do with future development in the Town of Hull and what we feel, as a group, the Township needs to be about in terms of allocating space for parks. I bring this up again because I spoke to John last year afterwards about that. About giving that assignment to the Planning Commission and he said they couldn't do it then. They worked on two very large projects. One took almost 2 years, the I-39 West project. Both of them were finally done and they are meeting May 25<sup>th</sup> with possibly some new members coming in. They have plenty to do, but this is a good time for us to introduce that to them while they might have time to work on it. I'm asking this group, how should I put that agenda item to the Planning Commission? What are we looking for in terms of parks and recreation for future development in the Town of Hull? It's more like a mission statement that I would like to come up with so they can get started on it.

Mendyke      Are they looking at setting aside some space?

Wilz            No, we're talking about development Jim. If we get a new developer in three years and he gets approval to put in a subdevelopment with like 24 houses, it's not like 30 years ago when they built Kirschling West where you had to have a set-aside lot for parks and stuff.

It's something muddled and different, regardless of what the law says, we feel as a Township that we can impose our own philosophy and mission in that area.

Mendyke That's how we got the neighborhood parks in the first place, because they were required.

Stoltz Back then, each lot was assessed a certain amount of money towards the park and then that got set aside for the future.

Wilz Then it got thrown in the general funds across the state. Then there was a big deal about you can't do that, it's got to be earmarked or designated.

Mendyke So if there is someone trying to do a development, are we trying to get back to a neighborhood park where they set aside a lot for green space or a conservancy in any future development?

Wilz They're going to be working on a subdivision ordinance which we don't have yet. The Town of Hull will be developing a subdivision ordinance. We need to make certain we are in there somehow. I'm looking for a mission statement from here so that I can give them a formal something from the Parks Commission for when they are working on this. This is how we want our citizens represented in the areas of parks and recreation. It can be just general; it doesn't have to be specific.

Mendyke I don't know if we would have to do it based on a certain size of development.

Wilz A subdivision can be two buildings. One lot subdivided is a subdivision.

Mendyke That wouldn't make any sense to make requirements for, so we'd need to think about what size development we'd want to do that for.

Stoltz So many lots.

Schroeder You run into two different things. The city or county or Town of Hull says why do we want to take money off the tax rolls for a park area. When Marcia was pushing it, I took a back seat thinking if the subdivision wants it, let them do it then we'll handle it from there. We really have a lot of nice county parks. Maybe neighborhoods will come back and want to do some things in a neighborhood park.

Mendyke I think a developer has a certain amount of land and they want to squeeze as many lots out of it to make it worth their while. So unless we would make a recommendation or it becomes a part of an ordinance, I don't think it would get done.

Stoltz Unless you put it in writing that you have to donate a half acre lot or bigger towards a park, they're not going to volunteer that. Like you said, they want to get as many homes in a subdivision as possible.



Mendyke Although you would think that might help sell lots in a subdivision if you had a park. So there is an upside to it. They might not get as many lots, but I think the sale ability would be better. I'm for trying to come up with some sort of mission statement.

Wilz We don't have to think about the mechanics of this. That's up to the Planning Commission. If they do develop an ordinance, it will be specific in detail. Let them take a mission statement then put that into detail or action. We expect future development in the Town of Hull as it relates to subdivision, that the Township takes a position to ask developers to allocate a certain amount of resources or space to green space or recreation space. Maybe a general statement like that.

Mendyke I think a general statement would be fine, and then they could fine tune it to whatever that means to them. At least that would get it into the picture.

Wilz If you take White Tail subdivision over there, which is a fairly large subdivision, their claim to fame right now is that they are connected to the green circle. Those corner lots up there were the first ones to go. People wanted to be connected to that. I can walk out my back door and take a 5 mile walk and don't see anything except deer. I'll throw together something and at our next meeting, the draft that I put together, I'll share with everybody. I'm going to give it to the Planning Commission on Tuesday, as a draft. Because I think on Tuesday, they're going to start putting together a work list of what they're going to do. I want to make sure we are in there.

Mendyke If you get a chance, you might want to run it by Marcia as she seems to have a pretty good feel for it.

Wilz Yes, but I'll just say it's a draft and ask for their view. In order to get on the docket for the pecking order for what they have to accomplish in the next 12 months. Other than Rollie's statement that we've got plenty of parks and that it's important to Marcia, does anybody else have a view on this?

Schroeder I think when Marcia took a stand, it's when your area came up and how do we put our arms around land that is in each ones back yard. What she was trying to do was how do we prevent that from happening again. Then the city wanted a neighborhood park, then we got into which side of the barn to put it on, is it too close to the road, do we need high fences. It became a nightmare, and then it just fizzled so we got off it.

Wilz So let's be forward thinking and make it a priority.

Schroeder Looking forward, we didn't want that problem again. If the subdivision wanted something, they would need to talk to the Planning Commission and we would recommend that this would be set up. It would be set up like a neighborhood park. They could cruse any one of our neighborhood parks and look at them and see what they wanted to have.

Stoltz Your subdivision has a small lot designated there by the drive, right, to the south end of the subdivision.

Mendyke It's not designated.

Stoltz Oh, it's not designated? They were talking about when Plaske was making that subdivision, to put some land aside.

Mendyke In our subdivision in Patrician Pines, we have 25 lot owners and those are all one acre lots. For every acre lot, there is an acre of green space so there is extra green space. There are 60 acres, so we have green space for a park. It's just difficult getting 25 people to agree on something. So that is after the fact. It is much easier to agree on it before. Then when Scott Plaske built his subdivision, Whispering Fields, there wasn't a park included in that. So now they'll have to go back to do something, unless they give us a lot. I believe his lots are 2 acres. I don't think he's just going to give up a 2 acre lot.

Schroeder His development was getting too muddy and I don't think John wanted us to push anything either. That was the flavor I got.

Stoltz He ended up using the whole old farm for his business. He fixed and put roofs on the buildings.

Schroeder But as long as they are putting together a subdivision ordinance, this makes sense to me.

Wilz The subdivision ordinance they are going to be working on came off of a response to I-39 West and the Pipe. We finally got through that. Neighbors came together as to what they want that to be. One of the things they are concerned about out there, is that there are some farms and what happens when that farmer has a heart attack and the grieving widow is approached by a developer saying he'll give her seven million for it.

Schroeder Or, this is a nice place for a truck stop.

Wilz Or a nice place for squeezing in 150 homes, which changes the whole thing. One of the things in their study out there that became very apparent, not only for there, but we really don't have a subdivision ordinance in the Town of Hull. We need to be about that because, not that we're growing in leaps and bounds, but let's face it, the residential development is usually in the Town of Hull. There is not a lot of Stevens Point left. We have them surrounded. Either we're getting annexed or it's getting built. So we'll try to control what we can and the rest goes from there.

*A motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve Dave Wilz putting together a draft of our mission statement for future development that he will share with the Planning Commission and get approved at the next Parks Committee meeting. Motion was seconded by Roland Schroeder. Motion passed.*

8) **Discuss annual planner.**

Wilz            The only thing in the annual planner for this time was to go over the parks which is what we did tonight minus a few reports from people who forgot them or didn't show up.

Schroeder      Once we took the guys out and put them under Pete, that took a big chunk out. The other thing with the planner was to make sure we rotate equally so that not everybody is leaving the Park Commission at the same time.

Wilz            The planner was good from the standpoint that if you could read one whole year, you can get a good sense of what we do throughout the few times we get together and this is what we need to accomplish. It should be more of a guide than a specific thing.

Kaminski      At our next meeting I can give you an update on our tree grant.

Stoltz          Going back to tree planting, I had stopped at McKay's. We were planting the lilac trees, which are bushes. So I asked the guy at McKay about that. He said they are actually like a clump birch.

Wilz            So they are individual trees.

Stoltz          He said you are supposed to take one third of the branches off each stalk, so there is like three trunks. Next year, take another third off, so you just have the tops. But they didn't tell you that. We thought they were going to be one tree.

Wilz            In the pictures he showed off the Internet, it looks like a tree.

Schroeder      I think that's the way it used to be. It's the Japanese Lilac tree. I talked with Lenzmeyer and this spring they come in clumps of three now like the birch because they fill in better when they are growing up. You trim accordingly so that one doesn't suck from the other one. You need to be cautious to not trim all the way up on one then one gets an added shoot out like a sucker. So you have to watch them so that they get groomed.

Stoltz          The guy at McKay said to just trim all the little side shoots. He said a third of the way up the first year, the next year another third.

Wilz            It'll develop on its own.

Kaminski      I did have one lilac tree here that I bought from Fleet Farm and it dried up. When Don Kissenger was here, he said it is a tree but it's not a single stem. I had one that had dried up and so I wanted to try this tree or bush or whatever you want to call it. So I guess we're going to find out.

9) **Set next meeting date.**

Wilz We usually go about 6 weeks for the next meeting although we were a little early this time because we wanted to meet before we put that next piece of playground equipment in.

Schroeder Brian did a great job with that.

Wilz He did an excellent job.

Schroeder Brian has an assignment to do the next park with equipment that we would then approve in August and move forward again? I think that really worked out nice.

Wilz Yes, it did. We had given him the go-ahead and he got all of the discount by ordering by March.

Wilz We got a 35% discount. We got \$22,000 worth for \$16,500. He did a great job with it.

Mendyke We already have it marked out in Jordan Acres and we were careful to not put a tree in the location of potential new equipment for next year.

Wilz That would be the last one right?

Mendyke Yes, that's the last one.

*The next meeting date will be Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.*

10) **Adjournment.**

*Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with a motion made by Jim Mendyke and seconded by Roland Schroeder. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman  
Parks Commission Secretary  
Town of Hull, Portage County