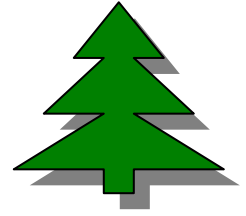


**MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**TOWN OF HULL MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**4550 WOJCIK MEMORIAL DRIVE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54482**



1) **Call to order:** The meeting of the Hull Parks Commission was called to order on Wednesday, June 30, 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, Marcia Locher, Brian Hicks, Jim Mendyke, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Maurice Stoltz, Roland Schroeder.

Others Present: Pete Kaminski, Hull Road Foreman

Absent: Carrie Butt

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

3) **Announcements:**

Wilz We placed a public announcement and ads in several different publications recently asking for candidates for Town Supervisor to replace Bob Brilowski. Last Friday was the final day for applications to be in and tomorrow we will be interviewing 5 candidates who showed interest. We are moving forward to replace Bob's position and that term expires April 2011.

Last Wednesday night, we had postponed this meeting until now because there had been a seminar on taxation that the Town of Hull co-sponsored with Portage County. It was intended to help explain the yearly property tax bill, how the funds get split and what portions go to which public entity. We at Hull get many of the questions during the year from our residents and we can't always answer for other budgets besides our own. Maybe with this property tax statement coming up next year, we might enclose more of an explanation. Last year the overall property tax bill went up but the portion that is the Town of Hull's actually went down.

The Plan Commission is starting to work on subdivision ordinances over the next several meetings. They are working with the old subdivision ordinance from Hull from the 1970's, a model from the Wisconsin Town's Association and one from Portage County. They'll try to go through them and glean the best from all 3. I have spoken to John about the interest from this Commission that we want to include parks and recreation in there and make certain that it's represented correctly in any type of ordinance that they come up with.

Baseball at Sorenson Park was the second park we allowed this year to be used for Stevens Point Area Youth Baseball in the Town of Hull. From what I am hearing, it worked well over there but there are concerns about traffic and parking. Traffic safety issues with the bend that goes

around the park. When cars are parked on both sides of that street, it gets pretty narrow and you can't get a car through much less emergency vehicles. We'll need to re-evaluate that next year.

Stoltz One suggestion would be that they might try to angle park along the park since there is room there if they went straight in or at an angle, rather than parking down all the roads.

Locher That's always been a problem with that park, with the bend in the road and the difficulty with parking along that bend. So maybe that's not the park to use for baseball.

Wilz If they request use next year, we'll discuss that, but of all the parks we had, that one had more parking area than the rest, that's why we chose it. They wanted it also since it's closer to the center of Stevens Point. But maybe we'll have to put up some signs or have them put up signs regarding parking only on one side of the road. I think the neighbors for the most part enjoy seeing the parks being used that way. But if they can't get to their houses or get a car through, that's not a good thing.

Metro Fire Dept.: about a month ago we had a presentation given to us on the metro fire dept. They explained how a few years ago the Village of Whiting and Village of Plover got together and although they keep their equipment and budgeting separate, they combine manpower in fighting fires within those two villages. The idea being to get more for less. They presented it to us to offer the idea of broadening it to our Town as well as the City of Stevens Point. We have sent them a letter of intent that we'd like to have a study done to see how we might take advantage of that program. I'm looking to see how it works when Point comes on line and see if it might work for us too.

Carol's Lane issue over in the Kirshling West subdivision: the property along Carol's Lane and near Spectra Print did get rezoned through the TIF district for residential. We supported that with the citizens of that subdivision. There will be some duplexes started this summer that will be owner occupied and they need to have a certain value to them. They should be nice, geared towards the aging market that still are healthy but don't need a big house anymore. I bring that up because a few years ago, the Parks Commission was involved when there was the possibility of rentals going in there and they had approached us about parkland, but they won't need any parkland.

**4) Approval of minutes from May 12, 2010 Parks meeting.** *Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed.*

**5) Review of:**

- \* **Parks Operations**
- \* **Status of grass**
- \* **Status of trees**
- \* **Newly installed equipment**

Wilz The newly installed equipment that Pete and the crew along with volunteers did a great job and it looks great.

Locher            It looks great.

Wilz              It looks wonderful and is used a great deal. It's just a natural place for baseball and all the families come with siblings. Everybody has noticed that it's being used a lot more. Moms and dads with the kids come in and use it a lot more on weekends, with picnics and what we intend our parks to be used for.

Mendyke        It looks great. Brian did a good job picking out the equipment.

Locher            Was it a problem at all for you, with the picnic table and chairs?

Kaminski        Randy has been mowing and he just moves it. Somebody had grabbed that stuff and threw it over the fence, the plastic chairs and the table. Somebody from the highway came back and threw it back. Someone was messing around with that toilet too, pulling stakes out and a hand sanitizer bracket broke. Just so you know there has been a little bit of vandalism.

Wilz              Any other input on park operations or status of trees, grass, etc.?

Stoltz            Some of the new trees look tough.

Kaminski        Out of the 56 trees, there are about 5 that might not make it. From the start, they were coming slowly and haven't really recuperated.

Stoltz            Over by Sorensen, one hackberry isn't doing anything, one serviceberry is starting to get leaves at the top. The others are doing nice.

Kaminski        The nursery guarantees them for one year. So I'll watch them closely and next spring if we need to get them replaced, we'll do so.

Wilz              The rain we've been getting has helped. I think this new riding lawnmower is doing a great job cutting but I think the parks look neater, they are weed whacked better, they just look better.

Kaminski        Randy has been mowing and one time he'll cut it at one angle and the next week he'll cut it the other way so that all the uneven spots get covered. Now they have a nice design to them and they look pretty good.

Locher            When you changed to fertilizer, it really helped the grass. It used to be so tough to get green grass and now it looks so nice.

Kaminski        We need to put in those 6 sandboxes yet, as soon as we get caught up around here.

Locher            I had a lot of compliments from people saying how nice the parks look.

**6) Review of remaining park inspection summaries.**

*The remaining park inspection sheets were handed in by Wilz and Schroeder with some general discussion on what different pieces of equipment in the parks are called and how to identify them. Generally they found the new inspection sheet helpful.*

Schroeder I've been going around telling people I'm on the Parks Commission and asking them if there is any particular piece of equipment they would like to see in the parks. Then maybe we could get one of a particular piece of equipment for each park and eventually do upgrades that way once we get all the parks done (*Jordan Acres is still to do*).

Wilz Is there a new piece out at Somerset?

Locher Sure, from a few years ago.

Wilz So Jordan Acres is our last one and like you said, after that, we'll have dollars we can spend.

Kaminski In Somerset Park, the two spring riders that we put in there by that sandbox, I would like to downsize that sandbox. Could I take out the two spring riders and put them on the right side of the existing equipment? There is room there when I looked. Then I can downsize that sandbox to the new 8x8. We put them there initially because we were running out of time but now that we have time, I can take them out and move them.

Locher Another thought we had was to keep them by the baby swings because they were for that age group.

Kaminski I could leave them alone and put a 16 x 16 sandbox around there. I think it would be neater the other way.

Stoltz You don't need a 16 x 16.

**7) Member appointment renewals.**

Wilz I went through the minutes from last year and the only one that is up this year is Roland Schroeder. His term expires June 2010. Last year we went through and laid them all out so that they are in succession. We need to do that tonight and along with that, we need to see if anybody would like to chair the Parks Commission for the next year.

Schroeder You can't give that up already.

Wilz I'm not saying that I will. Are you willing to continue to serve?

Schroeder Sure, unless the Commission feels differently.

Locher            This is an appropriate time to bring this up. I will be resigning from the Parks Commission because we are building a new house and it's in Stevens Point in the Whitetail subdivision. So this would be my last meeting but I can stay longer if needed, we're moving in October. I've talked to several people who would be interested in taking my place, a couple of neighbors of mine.

Wilz              I'll check with our clerk and bylaws as to how we would go about that and then I'll get in touch with you. Then before this season is over, we could make a quick appointment of a new member.

Locher            One of them is Michael O'Keefe. He lives on (1437) Sunny Crest also. He retired a year or two ago from the Army Corp of Engineers so he has a very strong environmental background that would be a real bonus for this Commission.

Wilz              I'll check into the bylaws as to the process.

Schroeder        Maybe bring him along and have him sit in on a meeting. That's what I did.

Wilz              I think you're right, I would appoint a replacement for the term, but I'll find that out. It would be great if it would be that easy, to get him involved at the next meeting. Speaking of appointments, has anybody talked to Carrie?

Locher            I was going to put her feet in the fire.

Wilz              I run into her now and then and I remind her when the meeting is going to be and she indicates she wants to do it.

Schroeder        She's pretty involved in her business. And this is the busy season for her.

Locher            Like I mentioned, I know of a couple of people who'd be interested.

Wilz              We appreciate everybody's time but we'd like to see them here.

Schroeder        Until we got that park resolved, she was here for that. Because that was her neighborhood.

*A motion was made by Brian Hicks to re-appoint Roland Schroeder for another term on the Parks Commission. Motion was seconded by Marcia Locher. Motion passed with voice vote.*

Wilz              Then we should talk about if anybody has interest in chairing this Commission.

*It was noted by the Commission members that Dave Wilz was doing a good job and so there was no change in the chair position at this time.*

Locher Because of your other position, the communication is 100% better. You know the bigger picture which makes a big difference. So I think your other position makes you highly qualified to chair this Commission.

Wilz This was the only Commission that didn't have a representative from the Board on it, all the rest of the Commissions had a Board representative.

Locher I think that's the way it needs to be. Otherwise we're only getting a little bit of it, we really need to have the big picture.

## **8) Discuss annual planner.**

Wilz I have a number of things I'd like to talk about. First of all, John Holdridge told me that he talked with somebody that lives over by Treder Park about how nice it looks now with the trees and was wondering that if instead of cutting all the grass, if we just put a path through it and see if there would be someone interested, either through the UWSP or whatever, that we could put in some prairie and wildflowers. I'm just throwing it out there. Pete and I discussed it briefly. He had a good comment about that.

Kaminski That might attract gophers, mice and rodents. Not that I'm against that, but the people living around there might have a problem with that. They have gardens and flowers to protect.

Wilz This was from a resident that lives around there. What do you think about that? We don't have park equipment in there; it's just planted with a bunch of trees.

Hicks Is that behind Target?

Wilz Yes. Make it more of a conservancy with wildflowers and grasses.

Stoltz Now it looks nice.

Mendyke It looks nice and clean right now.

Schroeder My concern is that when we didn't keep it up much, we were having a lot of complaints with dog waste, trash, etc. I keep thinking of the prairie natural look when Plover did it on their boulevards. That almost caused a war and they finally cut it.

Locher It's not as easy as you think to get a true prairie. Just weeds is not a prairie.

Wilz It takes work to establish a prairie, quite a few years.

Locher It's a small spot, it's green and when the trees really come in, it will be lovely.

Kaminski As far as prairie grass goes, the neighbors to the south and north have prairie grass and weeds. In my opinion, I would say leave it alone.

Wilz I told John I would bring it up. So okay, that was one of the things I had on my list. We talked about what's left and that would be Jordan Acres. For the next meeting, maybe we can hold the meeting there. At that Parks meeting we can pick out equipment and figure out where it might go in that park. The last thing is to go over some reports that I have here for each of you to look at. Barb Brilowski put this together for us. Barb answers the phone and she said she has heard a lot of wonderful comments about the trees, the parks and everything we are talking about. So she was passing that on through this 4<sup>th</sup> of July note. Under the budget we are doing really well. Pete, under the DNR grant for trees, under expense, we have \$5,000 for trees and \$4,370 spent already. Those are our expenses that we paid for already, right?

Kaminski Correct.

Wilz That does not include the cost in kind for labor and materials. These are the actual costs of the trees. That's my question, does it include those other costs?

Kaminski No. Janet and I started filling out the paperwork but it's not done yet. I do have the hours for everyone that helped plant trees. It states in there that we can get up to \$8 per hour for volunteer help. Once we get the report finished, we'll know all that and they will reimburse us for that.

Wilz This was a \$5,000 grant?

Kaminski It was \$2,500 from the DNR and \$2,500 from us. A 50/50 grant for a total of \$5,000.

Wilz We have expensed out \$4,370 without labor and without anything else. With a little bit of luck, that will go over \$5,000 and we'll get the \$2,500 back from the grant.

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz In the area under parks labor on the next sheet, what we've been doing this year per the Board's commitment to add a 4<sup>th</sup> road crew on this, because we had a 60-70% road crew guy over the years helping us out with plowing, etc. As we knew we were going to lose at least one of our parks guys, we decided to take the road crew 60-70% person and make it full time and use the remainder of that person's time with park work along with other things Pete can get done with that person instead of having to send work out or bring others in part time. We knew how much we spent in the past with our part time park crew. There was a real concern in going to a full time person, especially with the union, benefits, etc. even though they would be more productive, would those costs eat up a limited budget. So we decided to start tracking what it was costing us to cut the parks because we never knew before. All we knew was the guys showed up and nobody was watching them. The next page is from Randy showing his actual time card for the latter half of June. You can see some of these days he is cutting 3 or 4 parks and hitting the fire station too. The massive amount of cutting that's being done in a 5 ½ or 6 ¾ hour period is really good. What we've discovered with the new lawn mower and Randy doing most of this work and tracking it is that we're not going to spend more money, we're going to

end up saving money on this deal. Instead of spending 40 hours a week like we did last year, I backed into the budget with the new rate and said you guys have to do it in 20 to 24 hours in a week. That's all you can spend on parks. It's been working and I think we're getting a better job. My point with this report is that we're getting a real handle on what it's costing us with time and money to maintain our parks.

Mendyke It's got to be pretty accurate with all the rain this year. So it might be even on the high side for time this year.

Wilz We went into this thinking we might use half of the budget for the month of June and it would trail off after that, but you're right, we're way under budget. The nice part of it is that it's not scheduled. If it's not raining, they might cut that day. It's worked out really well. Pete, I appreciate you supporting in the tracking of this because we decided we needed to do it and I know it's one more form or sheet that you need to keep track of. The road crew are really embracing doing the parks, I think, and I really appreciate it. Is there anything else under annual planner that anyone has on their minds?

Schroeder So this FICA can't be broken out to bring it underneath parks, right?

Wilz Actually they can.

Schroeder It's minimal.

Wilz If you go to his time card, you'll see the entire breakdown. So when we get done with parks and we get the actual raw dollars, she'll put the percentage right in it. As you can see from the timecard, Fed., Social Security, State is all a part of this and we're tracking it. Anything else in this area that anybody wants to talk about?

Locher I was out kayaking in the Pipe area and wanted to tell Pete how nice that area looks. It used to look abandoned but now it's signed and has a garbage can that gets emptied and there's a turn out, it looks very nice.

Wilz There's a turn out?

Kaminski Yes, I stuck in about 4 loads of granite maybe 2 years ago. I put new signs up last year, foot traffic only and garbage pickup.

Wilz As long as we are talking about the Pipe, in our last minutes we were talking about signing that somehow. Pete, you were going to speak to someone about making a sign for that.

Kaminski I can put whatever you guys decide you want.

Wilz We have to decide what we are going to call that.



*Some general discussion about why it's called the Pipe even though the road is Granite Ridge and it's referred to as Granite Ridge Park. Dave will inform John that the Park Commission is willing to sign it, maybe "Granite Ridge Park – "The Pipe"” It was suggested that the sign be an actual pipe.*

Locher            Is that going to be similar to the Plover Heights signage with the hours on it? That's why we signed Plover Heights.

*Some lost conversation with tape ending.*

Wilz              What time of the year would you prefer to do that?

Kaminski        Probably in the fall. A pine tree you can cut down anytime. So that it would be gone by next winter.

Wilz              What this is about is we were approached last fall or December, a call from Terry Smith, 5537 Riverview and Terry is right next to the Conservancy. He's got solar on the side of his 30-40 year old house. There are some white pines in the Conservancy which grew up, and he also has white pines on his land which grew up and now block the sun. About 10-12 years ago, he or the Town of Hull cut those trees off to let the sun in, but now they've grown through again. He asked if we could cut those trees in the Conservancy to allow the sunlight through. That doesn't take care of the trees on his land which is the same issue. I've spoken to John about it and John said that I should run it by Parks, but it was January at the time and we were not going to meet until spring. He said that we have a good neighbor policy or a moral obligation that if we have trees that are growing up in front of solar panels, that he has the right to the sun also. I really didn't do anything with it at the time. So now we're at a point that we need to deal with this. Terry did say that if we removed the trees in the park, he would like us to remove the trees on his land at the same time and he'd pay for that. We got an estimate on it and what he would pay for it would more than cover the cost of it so it would not be a financial impact to our parks budget or township. I talked to the other neighbor on the other side at a meeting this past spring and he was concerned about it and I let him know that we would be heading in that direction and he said he knew and understood. I don't know that we need to vote on this, but just that we need to do this.

Mendyke        I'm okay with the good neighbor policy if it's not going to cost us anything to do it. He has been a friend of the park, he's been helping to water the trees. He's been planting trees too.

Wilz              I know. We talked about his shed and where it is in relationship to the line. He knows that, but it's not a permanent structure either.

Mendyke        He's a friend of the park.

Wilz              Yes. So to answer your question Pete, I think we are going to go ahead and do that. I've got that bid here.

Kaminski I got that bid back in February. What I'll do is talk to that guy and whatever he bid to us, that's what I'll charge to Terry and we will take the trees down ourselves.

Wilz Right, that was what the original plan was.

Kaminski It was \$50 a tree, right?

Locher Are we going to top them off?

Kaminski We're just going to top them. Take 50 feet off the top.

Wilz \$425.

Stoltz I suppose he doesn't want the trees taken out, just topped off.

Wilz Right, he just wants the tops off. My concern is what it would look like. But then, any tree is better than no tree. If we do it, I want it cut down low enough so that you're not running back there every 3 years to do it again.

Kaminski We'll be back in 10 years from now. I'll probably do it in September.

Wilz He was more than willing to pay for it because we were originally thinking that we would have to get a guy in to do it for us, and that's why you got the bid. We shared with Terry what the numbers were to have them professionally done on our side. Terry said that was great and he would be willing to pay that much to have his done too and asked if we could collaborate. Then Pete and I talked about it and said, is that something you can do, and he said yes. He just needs to get in there with a tractor to remove the big boulder so that he can get into the park. We've got a chipper so we can do it and so let's get it done. Anything else under #8?

Schroeder There are all far enough away from his house so there won't be any liability issues?

Kaminski I'll drop everything towards our park. He's got some young trees in there, but if they get wrecked, I'm not going to worry about them (*since Terry planted them on the park property without permission*) but I'll do my best not to ruin them. He's got 10-15 young trees planted in front of this again.

Mendyke Right on our property.

Kaminski Yes. He wants us to cut trees but on the other hand, he's planting more trees.

Wilz We talked about that and I said if he's going to plant trees, that's fine but get them far enough away so that we're not dealing with them in 10 years.

Locker But he shouldn't be planting trees on our park land, it's not his land.

Wilz Is it our land?

Schroeder Yes, he's on our land.

Wilz Right, we should be taking care of it and it belongs to everybody.

Stoltz That wouldn't be any different than me going and planting trees in Sorenson Park just because I felt like planting trees.

Locher I guess that's the point. He shouldn't be planting trees there.

Wilz I told him that if he's going to continue to plant, please let us know. Ask us because we have plans for trees too. He said he hears us and he'd let us know. But he never called us.

Stoltz So if his trees get broken (*on our park land*), that's his problem.

Locher But he should be told that he has to stop doing that because it's not his place to plant them.

Wilz Or, if he wants input, he can come to a Parks meeting.

Locher He was actually planting them on the park trail. So we get the point that he doesn't want people walking there. But you can't plant your way out of it.

Wilz Speaking of trails, did we narrow that cut zone?

Kaminski Yes, one width in and the same one coming out.

Wilz So it's gone from about 10 feet wide to 6 feet wide.

**9) Set next meeting date.** *The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. out at Jordan Acres Park.*

Wilz I'll bring a catalog along, Brian, for us to look at possible equipment.

**10) Adjournment.**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:00 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