

# HULL PARKS Commission

## MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

TOWN OF HULL MUNICIPAL BUILDING

4550 WOJCIK MEMORIAL DRIVE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54482



UNOFFICIAL

1) **Call to order:** The meeting of the Hull Parks Commission was called to order on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 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, Brian Hicks, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Pete Kaminski, Hull Road Foreman, Maurice Stoltz, Roland Schroeder, Mike O'Keefe

Others Present: Barbara Brilowski

Excused: Jim Mendyke

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

3) **Announcements:**

Wilz I have a few announcements. First of all, Pete, is there a sign up there with the Shoes on the Left and Wheels on the Right? There was a movement sponsored by Walk Wisconsin and supported by the Stevens Point Police Department and County Sherriff's Department and Stevens Point Journal. The movement by Walk Wisconsin, John Jury, he was big in the Green Circle, he's part of this. They're trying to celebrate Portage County being the most active county in Wisconsin. To encourage everyone to exercise safely while utilizing road and streets. I thought that was pretty cool that Portage County was the most active county.

Amman The most active in what?

Wilz Getting out and exercising. Being active. John came up with some signs and marketing materials that simply says this: "Remember: shoes on the left, meaning walkers, and wheels on the right, when it comes to roads. There's a larger one like this sitting over there by the window. They were using this as a marketing piece. Especially during Walk Wisconsin trying to get people out. More importantly to try to keep them safe. The Town of Hull is getting behind this movement and we're actually having some signs made, big signs. We'll get Pete to bring one in. I want Pete to talk a little bit about the roads we're putting them on which are very heavily used, very active roads. John Jury was here at the last Board meeting along with another gentleman. That's how it's going to end up looking. Pete, would you tell us what roads we're putting these on, it's what, 5?

Kaminski Five. It's Old Wausau Road, North Reserve – the south end, Wilshire, Jordan and I don't know if we said Brilowski Road.

Wilz We're going to try to get them up this fall and see what they look like then refine from there. The idea would be to put one sign entering an area from both ends. It remains to be seen if we need to throw some in between. We're trying to get behind this because there are a lot of active people using these roads so we're following their lead and we're going to copy their thing.

Hicks Have there been reports of people not doing it this way? Or is this just a way of reminding people?

Wilz According to John, there's a lot of confusion on what to do.

Stoltz We were always taught that if you walk, you face traffic.

Wilz That's right. According to John, we may talk that way, but the reality is that it's not happening. He didn't want any confusion especially along the Green Circle; they don't always have the same things because of how they are configured. But I thought that was pretty cool and I'm looking forward to those getting up and seeing us embracing this activity.

O'Keefe Is there a state law about this or something?

Wilz No. There is no law. In fact we are the first ones in the state that's doing something like this. The next announcement I have is concerning the Pipe. I didn't put it as an agenda item, although we had spoken about this next area when we were in our planner last month. The Town, if you remember the conversation, was to do something to sign the Pipe. We're going to put that on hold right now. I have spoken to John on 2 different occasions and he was surprised to find that Granite Ridge Park was even on our map because he said it's not really a park.

Kaminski Who actually stuck it on there?

Wilz He doesn't know.

Kaminski Because he was asking me and I have no idea.

*Later on in this meeting, Schroeder shared information about the Pipe, how 3 years ago when it came up, the Comprehensive Plan put a name on it and included "park" behind it so that's where the name came from. Portage County Planner Steve Brazzale had said that when the representative from Hull was there and it didn't have a name, Steve said it had to have a name so they put that name on it. So the County named it Granite Ridge Park even though it's just a road and a causeway. The Park Commission members talked about how it may be more appropriate to refer to the area as a "nature conservancy" or "natural area" instead of a park. Many people go out for ice fishing in the winter and some duck hunters use it. It's not*

*appropriate to put hours on that area. Some trees in that area had been damaged by loggers and that issue is still being looked into.*

Wilz            So he wants to clarify that first and see what the proper way of handling that is. So that's not going to be done this fall. The next announcement I have is that we had an audit done. We had an audit done for the Town of Hull in response to the fact that we had lost our treasurer who had died. We had a new treasurer come in and we thought it was a good time to have an audit done. The outcome of the audit was very favorable. Everything was done appropriately and there was quite a list of recommendations for us to consider. We have met, I think, once as a Board as a work group, and we have broken up those recommendations and we're putting forth effort to try to comply with the suggestions. Overall it was a very, very good report and our books were clean so that's a good thing. The Town of Hull now has a Website. Go visit it. It won't take you too long to see what's on it. The Web address is townofhull.us and it's up and running and it's my understanding that we're going to try to expand it and fill it in. There are lots of different sections but obviously there's not a lot in there right now. One of the things under the Parks, and I went in and looked at it, there are some pictures in there. I don't know that they're the best pictures in the world.

Amman        They're pictures and it's something different to look at.

Wilz            That's right. The Parks has pictures on the website.

O'Keefe        Is there a map on there that shows the location of all the parks?

Wilz            No, not that I'm aware of.

Amman        There's a map of the Town of Hull, the municipal building location, but not the parks, although that would be very nice.

Wilz            This website is very much in its infant stage. I saw the activity and it looks like we're trying to do the governmental areas first and bring in minutes from previous meetings so people have a way of knowing what's going on. That's probably where we're concentrating our efforts.

Brilowski     The next step will be training. Jim has arranged training for me on the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month. So the site is up and I think the responsibility for maintaining it will shift to us for changes and additions, what we want to add to it. Jim and I will start working on that. Someone has to maintain that. That's a daily job with a lot of work so we're going to ease into that. But it's a lot further along than we were 2 months ago.

Wilz            For those of you here that do not know, we have a brush area here with the leaves and grass. You can bring your brush, but we're not advertising that, correct?

Kaminski     Yes.

Wilz            How is that going?

Kaminski We've got a lot of brush coming in.

Wilz Some of them were worried about that.

Kaminski Yes. I haven't caught a dump truck but I come here in the morning and there are tracks and a nice stack there. There's a lot more activity going on at night there later in the evening when we are not here.

Wilz It was a suggestion. Barb fields a lot of phone calls and questions. It's very nice that we have our yearly brush pickup and that's a service that not too many municipalities do anymore. But there are times, when you have summer storms and wonder what you should do with that stuff. So it was decided to open that up and see where it goes. To decide what we're going to do with it long-range. I know down in Plover, that brush drop off is only open a few hours each day. You have to sign in and out and there's a volunteer attending. He inspects that they're not putting plastic jugs in there. So it's very controlled there and we're obviously not set up for that.

Kaminski I was gone on vacation while those guys were chipping it but it plugged up our chipper. There was compost and cornstalks mixed in with the wood. When you start chipping and grab a handful of stuff, you don't know exactly what's in it. So far we've been dealing with it and we'll see what happens.

Stoltz Cornstalks?

Kaminski Cornstalks will go if they're good and dry, but they have everything else mixed in it, we've had roots, stumps.

Stoltz I saw some bigger chunks sitting on the side. What does it take, up to 6"?

Kaminski It will take it but it could ruin the blades.

Wilz The last announcement I have is that I spoke with a Gene Cooper. This was a name given to me by Marcia Locher as a potential replacement for Carrie Butts. I did invite her to this meeting but unfortunately she had something planned. She said she is interested in it so we'll try to make contact with her somewhere between now and the next Parks meeting which will be in the spring.

Amman Was there anything with Houston?

Wilz That was my next question.

Hicks I heard Marcia say something last time that she had someone in mind so I didn't contact him.

Wilz I'm open to suggestions if anyone has any.

Hicks I think he'd be a good one.

Wilz I could call him.

Hicks See if he's interested. He's pretty busy so....

Wilz Yes, it seems like it. I've e-mailed him a couple of times but he's been out of town.

Hicks Yes, he does travel quite a bit.

**4) Approval of minutes from August 4, 2010 Parks meeting.** *Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.*

**5) Review year-to-date actual versus budget.**

Wilz Pete, I'd like to throw a few questions your way on this. We're looking pretty good as far as year-to-date labor with what's left. How long into the fall, Pete, will you be using labor for Parks?

Kaminski Possibly one month, up until October 15<sup>th</sup>. By that time, I will have everything wrapped up for the season. It might be by October 1<sup>st</sup>. We've got to do a little painting here and there. Spread fertilizer yet.

Stoltz The parks really look nice this year. It helped to have all the rain that we've had.

Wilz Are we done with the chipping?

Kaminski No, Pleasant View East, we do have one trail which we never did do. I'll see how far my money goes. Inside landscaping, I have \$3,000 left and \$1,500 will be for fertilizer. I want to get one or 2 loads of mulch.

Wilz This budget sheet is through the end of August so it's almost 3 weeks old but it looks like we're doing pretty well.

Kaminski My playground equipment yet, I'm going to order some swings, swing sets. You gave me permission from last time. I've got some here. I haven't ordered them yet but I'm kind of set on these, 6 of them.

Stoltz That's got the slide thing for the younger kids. When we were working at Kirshling, there was a woman with small kids and she said they like those. Because the kids don't slide out of them. Here, they slide out of them, under the bar.

Kaminski This one has leg holes. Kids will not slide through this.

Stoltz The ones over there now don't have that.

Kaminski What I was going to do was order 6 of these, the top one. I've got colors picked out that I thought would be good. Then 8 of these. Those are \$52 each.

Hicks Similar to what's at Jordan Acres, right?

Kaminski It's pretty similar, yes. I cannot find anything identical anymore. That's the closest to it I can get.

Hicks The modern version.

Kaminski I've got written on there \$168 each.

Wilz Before we get into this, let's move to accept our review of the numbers here.

Stoltz I make a motion to accept the year-to-date review of the annual budget.

Hicks Second.

*Motion passed without further discussion.*

## **6) Review of potential new equipment purchases for 2011 (Brian Hicks).**

Wilz First of all, we want to get a report here from you, Brian, but Pete, how many of these are you thinking of getting?

Kaminski I've got written there 6.

Wilz How many of these do we have throughout the parks?

Kaminski Probably about 4 in each park. What I'm doing is, as they get cracked and bad, I'll go through and gradually replace them.

Wilz Buy half a dozen each year.

Kaminski I want to get 8 of these and they are \$52 each. That down there is made for tots.

Wilz This is infant and these are the next size.

Kaminski Correct.

O'Keefe You didn't like the one with just the seat with the bar that comes down?

Stoltz When we were working at the park, there were 2 daycare ladies that were there and they prefer the ones where they can put the toddler's legs into something or else their legs slide out, the little ones.

O'Keefe Okay. I take my granddaughters over there and that was the only swing they wanted to swing on. They could slide out. If they wanted to get out, they slide out or put the bar up and got out.

Wilz The equipment catalogs I've looked at, they don't have a lot of those left. I'm thinking because of those moving parts and little fingers.

Kaminski In the different places I've looked, I cannot find them.

O'Keefe The one we have over here, there's just metal on that and no lever on it in between there.

Wilz There are 2 different ones here; one is for toddler, the next size up.

Kaminski Molded infant seat, plastic with leg openings. So out of that \$3,851 this year we are going to spend \$2,024 yet, Dave. Then I did find stainless steel chain and I've got it ordered. Actually I've got it here.

Wilz They make that? Is it pricey?

Kaminski \$5 per foot but once you've got it, you've got it. I did order 100 feet.

Wilz You did. How high are you going to go up with it?

Kaminski Some are 8', some are 10'. I'll replace it all the way up. It is expensive but once it's done, it'll be done forever. As far as rust issues, there will be no more rust issues.

Wilz \$5 a foot. What's regular chain?

Kaminski Last year I bought 100' of galvanized for \$2.75 or \$2.50 something like that. So for our worst chain, I'll just slowly start to replace it.

Wilz We'll see how it goes. So we have \$2,024 worth of seats being.....

Kaminski Seats, stainless steel chain....

Wilz \$500 in chain, right?

Kaminski Yes.

Wilz That brings us in at \$2,524. We've still got a few bucks left in there but that's good.

Kaminski We can carry it over or whatever.

Wilz Good. Brian, I'm going to throw it your way. You're going to have some suggestions for us to consider.

Hicks I got the on-line catalog and I printed out a few things here. Some of these kinds of smaller play centers. There are no prices in these so I don't know the cost, but some of this stuff I thought was really cool. The top part of this one, I don't know why I was drawn to the younger crowd but there were some really neat things in the catalog I saw for the younger kids. They look like they have springs on them and they bounce around. I focused really on just small individual things we could place around the park because we don't really have a lot of room in that park. Instead of the big units. I'll pass these around. That's like a little electronic thing that you talk into it and it says your voice back in kind of a weird, crazy language. I thought that sounded kind of cool. Here are a few more bouncy things and a play station is in there. Some kind of neat things for a sandbox if we wanted to make a sandbox with fossil things they can dig up. I was looking for different things than what we have in the other parks. They can take paint brushes out and play archeologist. Some of this stuff might just be crazy expensive but I don't know.

Wilz That's kind of cool, that activity thing.

Hicks Yes, I thought some of those...then here's a couple of other pages with different play equipment like things to climb on, swing on and walk on. Not like what's in other parks.

Stoltz We have that in one of the parks.

Hicks Do we? I thought that looked really fun.

Stoltz Teeter totter, we have that over at Eastwood Park.

Hicks There's more stuff that's out there.

O'Keefe Is that a mold of some type? That archeology thing. That makes forms.

Hicks I don't know how that works. I think it's a plastic thing they can put in the sand and dig it out. That one I wasn't too sure about. Some of those things are a little advanced and I thought about liabilities. Those are the unique things that I saw and also there is the stuff we've looked at before.

Stoltz Those are pretty good size, like that fire truck.



Hicks Yes, and assembly time is ten hours. Those are not simple, drop down things, 22' x 18'.

Wilz That's the fall zone.

Hicks Yes, that's the U zone. The other thing I saw, I don't know if kids play tether ball anymore, but I saw a tetherball in one of these catalogs. One of the basketball things like we have at Kirshling East but it's a little bit different. It's not just the round thing with 4 different holes. It's more complex.

*Some general discussion about the "talking Bob" electronic voice item and if it needed battery replacement, etc.*

Wilz We're down to one park, possibly 2 where we want to get a few new items, and then all the parks will have been completed. But these parks don't need the big pieces, just little things. We've been doing the big things over the last couple of years and it's pretty cool stuff but now we are back to this stuff. Do they use the sandboxes?

Kaminski I've seen kids using them.

Stoltz It's not something you see someone in every day but little kids like to play in the sand. Especially the small kids.

Hicks So does anything here jump out at you guys? A good point about the "talking Bob", maybe that's a little bit....

Wilz If it doesn't talk, "Bob" is going to get pretty boring pretty fast.

Stoltz That monorail thing is pretty cool.

Hicks Yes, the modern ring one?

O'Keefe That's a big thing now a days. Star that one.

Wilz Last year for us to get the deep discount, you had to pull the trigger by when, March or February?

Hicks Was it February? It's pretty quick. I know it snuck up on me pretty fast.

Wilz It goes from 35% to 25% to 15% in like a 4-5 week period.

Hicks That's what it is with this catalog here, the one we've been dealing with.

Wilz We're talking Jordan Acres right?

Hicks Yes.

Wilz And Somerset?

Kaminski We talked about maybe sticking one of something in there.

O'Keefe Some of those spring loaded ones there. The one way over on your left there, right there, the ones where the kids can get inside and be enclosed a little bit. On some of the ones my grandkids use, like the rocking horses and stuff like that, they get going on that and we always worry about them going way forward or way back. But they're only 4 years old and they do try to get up in there so if there was something they could actually get inside to be more protected.....

Wilz And they didn't have prices?

Hicks No prices in here. I wasn't on top of it enough to get prices beforehand, but there are so many things in here, I didn't know what to get prices for.

Stoltz What are those sit-in rockers?

Hicks Those look a little bit more enclosed. These sand studios, are these something you think kids would like to do?

Wilz They look cool. It seems like it must be just a stand and then you bring your activity to the stand.

Stoltz One thing they have over at the big one over across the river, K.A.S.H. (Meade Park), they have a big stand up thing there. It's like a sandbox and it's got a digger that goes up. You fill it up and it goes down to the ground and you bring it back up so it almost looks like a drag line that you fill up with sand. There you see kids playing on it, but there are always kids there.

Wilz Yeah, that's a beautiful park. So what do you need from us?

Hicks Give me the word and I'll pick the stuff.

Wilz We did that last year. We narrowed that down for you a little bit.

Hicks If I have any questions, all this stuff is electronic so I can e-mail it to you, Dave, and you can pass it around if you want people to take a look at it.... It's a little bit harder this time. Picking a big piece was easier for me to do. This is a little bit more challenging.

Wilz If you're thinking about one piece for possibly Somerset, how many pieces are you thinking of for Jordan Acres?

Hicks            It depends upon the cost, but 2 or 3 was my thought to fit in there, depending upon how big they were.

Kaminski        It's tight in there.

Stoltz            There's not a lot of room there.

Hicks            We could get some of these bouncing dot things. We could put a handful of those in like we did at Somerset. But I don't know if you want to put them there if you've got them a half mile down the road. To put the same thing in there?

Schroeder        Maybe something they could climb on.

Hicks            I intended to print out the climber information sheets because they have all sorts of stand-alone climbing walls. But those are typically pretty expensive. That could be ten grand right there for the climbing wall.

Schroeder        Kids love them. They really seem to go for those things.

Hicks            Maybe that would go in Jordan Acres with a couple of other smaller things. One small thing into Somerset. I can look at what is out there when the new catalogs come in.

Schroeder        I would move that Brian goes ahead with our blessing. He's always done a good job in the past.

Hicks            If you guys think of anything or come up with anything or want me to consider anything as you're sitting in the parks, let me know.

Wilz             It was a lot easier last year. We'd pull out the old catalogs and the new stuff wasn't going to change too much. We were only buying one piece.

Brilowski        Have you noticed the age level of the children in the parks? Obviously, we have the little ones and the daycares where you need the swings. Do you notice any older children in there?

Hicks            My 11 year old spent most of the summer in the parks. She and her friends would hop on their bikes and ride to Jordan Acres, then they'd bike down to Somerset, then they'd go bike a lap around the neighborhood, then go back to the park again. I don't know that they really care what's there. They just like the park.

Brilowski        The reason I ask that is because we are raising a generation of couch potatoes. They are in front of the computer all the time or they're watching TV, videos, etc. My thought is that parks for that age level....or offer them something for them to want to go there. We need to keep them moving. Not just sitting on a swing going back and forth or whatever, but activity that would keep them moving. This generation is going to have a whole bunch of health issues if we don't get them moving. I just think that would be wise.

Wilz            Most of the kids I see in our park are the little ones and the older ones are on the merry-go-round, maybe on the swings. After that, I'm seeing them playing baseball. That's the next step.

Stoltz            At Sorenson, a lot of people bring their kids. Grandparents bring their kids if they're watching them or you'll see people come at lunch time and they'll have their kids. I don't know where they're going with their kids, but they'll have a little picnic or they'll pick something up from McDonald's and they'll let the kids play and stuff. I see a lot of Jr. High football now in August. So yes, there's a variety of kids that use our park at Sorenson, especially when I go by, I've noticed.

Schroeder        I think it's always been the intent, Barb, to have the parks for the ages up to 12 years old. That's been for the neighborhood parks. Once you hit 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade, there are so many activities going on with the recreation department, we don't get those kids. Now over in Conifer, there I see a lot of high school ones, but that has a half court on it, on the city side. Ours is the other one. That works pretty good. The park off Regent (*Eastwood*), that one has a ball diamond and stuff.

Brilowski        Do we have any parks that have half a basketball court?

Hicks            Jordan Acres has a half court.

Brilowski        That would be a draw for older children.

Hicks            The net never stays. The net is shredded within a couple of months.

Stoltz            You need those chain nets.

Wilz             Do they use it?

Hicks            I've seen people use it. I've seen people put their own nets up there. We could ask Pete, but I'm not sure when the last time was that we put a net up there.

Schroeder        The basketball (*area*) that we have at East Kirshling/Pleasant View, you can bring your own ball and you can shoot. There are a lot of times you'll see the parents playing with their older kids and younger kids.

Wilz             I think what Barb is talking about is a basic basketball hoop where you've got a half court instead of being in your driveway. Where you can actually get a game going is what you're talking about.

Brilowski        Even with a half court, you could make up some sort of game.

Wilz             Oh yeah. Other than Jordan Acres, is that a half court there?

Hicks            Yeah, that's a pretty good size court, you can play a game on that court. How often do we put a net up?

Kaminski        At Jordan Acres? We stuck it up last year.

Wilz             Well Barb makes a point. We've been concentrating on upgrading the parks, but we've been concentrating on the young ones and that's good. But are there some other activities we could think of. I can tell you they're not playing baseball unless it's organized. T-ball and stuff like that. You'll see an occasional tag football game or something.

Hicks            One thing I could do is talk to the distributor for this and get her thoughts on what are the age groups that are using this stuff.

Schroeder        As soon as you get the older ones, I've noticed this at Conifer, even though the half court is on this side, once the bigger kids come over there, I notice the parents and little ones start leaving. Pretty soon, they're (*older kids*) tossing the ball out there, kicking the ball and they just take over the whole field on the city side. It's a good point, but I think we have to look out for the younger ones because they can't go to many places. I know once in awhile they bring up parking. Well, they're neighborhood parks and we don't plan on making anything enticing for parking. I think I've called maybe 3 or 4 times a summer because pretty soon, they're driving their car over to play half court basketball. They can park off on Glenwood and walk in those 50 feet or whatever but they go through. I asked Ernstner if he would have a problem with me going over and telling them and he said, "no, that's up to the police department, that's why it's posted, to notify the police", he said. "You don't want to get involved in anything." I said they seemed friendly.

Stoltz            When the high schoolers get there, then the parents leave with the little kids because a lot of times, it's the language. Parents say, "Okay, let's go out of here", they don't want to listen to those kids.

Wilz             I still want to consider that though. If we put a half court in someplace, maybe it can be separated. A lot of our parks are large enough that we could put it way off to the side so that you wouldn't co-mingle those two. Certainly we have some needs at Jordan Acres and Somerset, so maybe we concentrate on that for this year and then we would be done with that, right? Then we move forward to do some of those other things.

Schroeder        Somerset is designed kind of with this half of it...you could put something on the other corner....

Wilz             That's a very long park.

Schroeder        It's very long and of course, you could have Pleasant View East, put it down on the bottom end also.

Kaminski        Here are some fitness climbers. Different stuff they've got.

Hicks            There were an awful lot of the climbers. The half moon climber...

Schroeder      That one seems popular. They go up and they don't get too high and they move back and forth and of course, they'll climb to the top and try to roll over the side.

Wilz            First of all we should probably establish some sort of a budget for playground equipment for next year. It's a little difficult without prices. They don't always have prices this time of year, I realize that.

Hicks            Things can always change.

Wilz            I'm suggesting we do that. We haven't gone through the budget process at all yet but we can certainly start with a figure and then as we get closer and we know what the number is, I can share that with you. When we get right into the season, you and I can chitchat and narrow it down to whatever dollar amount we have to work with. We've had \$20,000 for the last few years. We've always been able to come in at or under that and we're going to be under it substantially this year because we got the jump on it. So if somebody would make a motion to, based off of the budget, give Brian the authority to make decisions for our group to get in on the purchasing at the appropriate time, with review by myself.

Schroeder      So moved.

O'Keefe        Second.

*Motion passed.*

#### **7) Discussion of fertilizers – Traditional versus Organic (Dave Wilz).**

Wilz            Let me explain how this got on here. Late last week, I stopped to pick up my mail and John Holdridge let me know he had just received a phone call and packet of information from a Town of Hull resident by the name of Hedy Telfer. I think she is retired. I think she used to be a librarian with the school district. She wrote a brief letter (see attached copy).

*A discussion ensued about Hedy Telfer's letter regarding the health dangers to children of using chemicals and pesticides on lawns versus using a more organic type of lawn care. See Hedy's letter for details, websites and attachments. A DVD is also available on the topic. Pete Kaminski shared how and what he's currently been using for fertilizer, etc. and what he plans on using this fall. He'll try to get a list of the contents of what is in the fertilizer that is on order so we have a better idea of what is being used now. It was discussed that the commission study the issue over the next few meetings then possibly think about starting with one park to try organic next year but not yet this fall. Dave Wilz will e-mail Tom Schroeder, Director of Parks for info/input. Dave Wilz will also get a hold of Paul Dancyk whom Hedy Telfer uses for lawn care, and see what costs are through Paul.*

## 8) Equipment discussion (Pete Kaminski).

Kaminski The park that we worked up this year, I borrowed my stepbrothers' tractor and we paid him \$80 for that. For the future, if we're going to be maintaining our ball diamonds, if we had our own proper equipment, I would suggest a little 30HP tractor with a bucket for wood chips, a 3' rotor tiller on the back of it and a 3 point rake for leveling. Something to think about for down the line, if possible.

Schroeder I think it should be considered. Our Conifer Park has walking trails and it could use some smoothing. The brush should be cut back because it wants to be where the sun is and there's people walking through there with strollers and buggies that catch onto them. We should make that a little more conducive to walkers.

Wilz How do you cut brush?

Kaminski By hand.

Wilz What you're talking about is quite expensive, right? 12-14,000.

Kaminski We don't need a brand new tractor. You can buy a good used one. A little 30HP Kubota for around 12-15,000. Not with attachments, that would be just for the tractor. A little rotor tiller would be around \$2,000. I would say we could get what we need for around \$20,000 to get started with. It could be used for parks but also for seeding along the roads. We have nothing right now to do that with. If you'd saw how we do it now, you'd laugh.

Wilz When we get to budget time, if you can indicate how else you'd use that equipment besides in the parks, that would be good. I don't know that I'm dedicated to keeping 6 ball diamonds weed free on the infield. We did it with that one because it was a sand infield and we made a decision to see if we could bring it back and maintain it. We did and it cost us \$80.

*Some general discussion about which and how many of the parks have sand infields, backstops, etc.*

Wilz The work that was done with Pete's stepbrother's tractor made that infield look beautiful. That was in Somerset, based off the inquiry made by Houston Parish. We agreed that if we could do it for \$100 or less, we'd see if we could do it. If we've got something, we should try to maintain it and you did it.

Schroeder Maybe until we get the equipment, because of the economic times, we could at least put it in the budget to hire somebody to come in and do that for us. For our guys to go out there and manually do it, it would be too expensive.

Wilz It was handy because Pete's stepbrother lived in that area and was able to go down the street and do it in an hour or 2.

Schroder I would suggest that we take some of the old trees and borderline them (Pleasant View East). Chips are gone and it's covered over. It's come to my attention that where we have merry-go-rounds where they push them, it digs in and that bank builds up. What happened was one of the smaller kids fell off and hit that bump and rolled underneath. They were questioning if we should level that bump and then put new chips down. Jordan Acres, Sorenson and another one has them. I said that sounded great and told them we would definitely do something.

Wilz There's one over in my area, Kirshling West.

Kaminski Do I need to go out there and rake them back down?

Schroeder I thought that one was pretty deep already, the one on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. I'm not sure you could rake that down.

Kaminski What I'll do is go out there with my end loader, if I can squeeze in there, and take a shovel, shovel it down and put some back in there. I can do that, I'll find time.

**9) Review of Annual Planner.**

Wilz I looked in our book and this is what we usually talk about, putting down the needed chips. Possible painting, fertilizing and that kind of thing.

O'Keefe Where do you get the chips at?

Kaminski From Grizinski up on County Road X. Those are hardwood chips.

O'Keefe Is there a reason they are so large?

Schroeder I think the reason we started buying them is because they are ADA approved so that people with wheelchairs can go over them. They have no sharp edges on them.

Stoltz They're tumbled, not like regular wood chips that would have sharp edges.

**10) Set next meeting date.** *This was our last meeting for this year. The next meeting is April 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.*

**11) Adjournment.** *Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with a motion made by Maurice Stoltz and seconded by Brian Hicks. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman  
Parks Commission Secretary  
Town of Hull, Portage County