

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 10, 2019 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, July 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. by Parks Chairperson Dave Wilz at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: Chair: Dave Wilz, Committee Members: Mike O’Keefe, Jim Mendyke, Katrina Hittner, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Hull Road Foreman: Pete Kaminski.

Excused: Carmen Coey, Brian Hicks, Maurice Stoltz

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 25, 2019 HULL PARKS MEETING.** *Motion made by Jim Mendyke to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2019 Hull Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Katrina Hittner. Motion passed with voice vote.*

3) **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. AGENDA ITEMS ARE FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: NONE.**

4) **ANNOUNCEMENTS; CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.**

Dave W. shared information about recent ATV/UTV discussions at Hull to give awareness to the Hull Park’s members and get possible feedback from them. Local groups are pushing for ATV/UTV routes to be established in various parts of Portage County and have asked the Town of Hull to establish routes as well. This was discussed at the recent Hull Town Board meeting with input from citizens on both sides of the issue. After considering three options at the Hull Board meeting of how to review this request, it was decided to create a special committee or task force with citizens who are in favor and those opposed. Also to start collecting data and let the new committee come up with a recommendation along with having public meetings. Mike O. had attended that Board meeting and noted that some citizens seemed to be in a hurry to get this passed. Mike asked if all hours would be considered or limited daylight use, maybe seasonal use.

Dave W. said this process will take time and it is important to carefully consider the information. If anyone is interested in serving on this new ATV/UTV task force/committee, please let Dave W. know.

5) HULL PARK'S ON-SITE VISIT (EASTWOOD, TREDER'S WOODLAND, PLEASANT VIEW – WEST).

Eastwood Park – Park is looking very good. Grass looks great. Trees are starting to mature. All the trees planted from the last time there was a tree grant have grown. A very open park. Noticed a few maple trees affected by intense sun. Mike O. said the tree bark is working to protect the tree and growing around the damage. Trees looked healthy otherwise. Some grass/weeds are growing through the granite walking paths but there is adequate granite on the paths. If more people walk on the paths, the weeds will be trampled down. This park is one of two Hull parks that have a shared agreement with the City of Stevens Point. The City has the southern portion, which then blends with the Town's northern portion of the park. The Hull part of the park includes a park shelter.

Treder's Woodland Park – This is approximately a 1-acre park and does not have any equipment in it. Just grass and a limited amount of trees. Pretty open. Trees (mostly spruce) look good. Grass very green. This area is a bit of a lowland and Pete K. will check with the City and/or County to see what the drainage situation is. Park members suggested this park might be a good choice for a possible community orchard and/or community garden. Grant funds are available to public groups/institutions for such projects. Will research that idea further.

Pleasant View – west – A large park on the west side of the Interstate and adjacent to one of the City's industrial parks with a business parking lot along one of the sides of the park. Ki Mobility was just wrapping up from a kick-ball fundraiser/tournament. Park trees and grass look very good. Park members noted some elderberry bushes and black walnut trees (w/nuts growing on them) along the north side of the park. Also noted were the former UWSP project monitoring wells on the north edge of the park. There are two of them and they are multi-port (various depths). Park equipment looked good.

At all the parks, Mike O'Keefe was most helpful in identifying various trees and giving some information about tree growth and condition.

6) UPDATE ON NEW TREES FROM DNR TREE GRANT.

Pete K. shared a report on the planting of trees through the DNR tree grant program this spring. Trees were planted starting 5-6-19 and took about 2 days, with 40 trees total being planted

throughout the Hull parks as well as a few at the Hull Municipal Building grounds. Hull Road Crew members planted as well as three Hull Park Commission members volunteered time. Also, two Hull parks were professionally pruned by First Choice Tree Care using grant money, Somerset and Jordan Acres, for a cost of \$2,000. Special green watering bags that hold 20 gallons of water are being used around the new trees to facilitate slow watering to the roots. It takes around 8 to 10 hours to drip out the water from the bags. These will be used for 2 years to help establish the new trees and are filled twice a week when not raining, up until Nov. 1. Due to the significant rain this spring/summer, the new trees seem to be starting well. Pete felt the green water bags will also help these new trees.

Don Kissenger from the DNR did training of tree planting and acted as advisor during the planting process.

Dave W. said this time, they amended the soil around the new trees by adding peat moss.

A motion was made by Katrina Hittner to accept the report given on the update of the new trees planted from the DNR tree grant. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.

7) UPDATE ON NEW ADULT FITNESS EQUIPMENT (WISCONSIN RAPIDS) – KATRINA HITTNER.

Katrina shared an informational flyer from the Wisconsin Rapids Adult Fitness Course/Park that was used to inform the Park's Commission of Wisconsin Rapids to help the City get on-board for this project. As fundraising was done for this park, most of the expenses were covered by donations/donors. She said the new park is getting good use by adults and has a great location along the river and next to the hospital in Wisconsin Rapids. Although the park was completed last winter in December (2018), the instructional signage didn't go in until this May (2019). Katrina will give us periodic updates on this new park which is still evolving.

A motion was made by Jim Mendyke to accept the report from Katrina on the status of the Wisconsin Rapids Adult Fitness Park. Motion was seconded by Mike O'Keefe. Motion passed.

8) UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF REPAIRS FROM SPRING INSPECTION SHEETS – PETE KAMINSKI.

Pete said they haven't gotten a lot done yet as Grant was gone for 3 weeks. Meanwhile, Joe W. did the grass cutting in the Parks. Pete and Joe fixed the bouncy buttons, greased all the equipment, mowing grass 24 hours per week, watering trees, trimming low branches and emptying garbage cans in Parks.

Dave W. noted the Parks look terrific and having a wet spring and wet summer so far has helped.

9) REVIEW OF HULL PARK'S BUDGET (YTD)

The Park's budget reflects costs through the end of June of this year. About half the budget amount is still remaining. The DNR grant items are finished so Pete and DW will put together the paperwork and submit it within a month or less. Pete said as he will be starting work on Pioneer Road and Torun Road, it is best that they get this paperwork done within the next two weeks. No equipment has been purchased yet as part of this budget.

Road crew hours are tracked as they are used for park work along with Grant's time cutting the grass. There is a little more time in labor this year because of the tree planting.

Katrina asked if the DNR tree grant included any money for the labor of planting the trees and DW explained that it did include funds for labor of the planting of trees. Volunteer time was assessed at a certain value. Volunteers did not get paid, but did get a nice lunch!

A motion was made by Dave Wilz to accept the review of the Hull Parks budget year-to-date. Motion was seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed.

10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. At this time, the Commission members still felt Wednesday was a better meeting day but this will be reviewed again at the next Park's meeting to get all Parks Commission members input. DW asked if anyone has anything in particular they want on the agenda for the next Park's meeting, they can let him know or send Patty an email.

11) ADJOURNMENT. *A motion was made by Dave Wilz to adjourn the Hull Parks Commission meeting. Motion was seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Amman
Hull Parks Commission Secretary
Town of Hull, Portage County