

MINUTES – HULL PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, July 12, 2018 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 Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. by Hull Parks Chairperson Dave Wilz at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482.

Present: Chair: Dave Wilz, Committee Members: Maurice Stoltz, Jim Mendyke, Katrina Hittner, Parks Secretary: Patty Amman, Hull Road Foreman: Pete Kaminski.

Excused: Carmen Coey, Mike O’Keefe, Brian Hicks

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 5, 2018 HULL PARKS MEETING.**
Motion made by Maurice Stoltz to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2018 Hull Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed with voice vote.

3) **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. AGENDA ITEMS ARE FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION. NO FORMAL ACTION CAN BE TAKEN ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: NONE.**

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

- Dave W. was contacted by John Jury regarding Country Club Drive. Now that the new bridge over the railroad is completed on Country Club Drive, that new portion has a bike lane. Mr. Jury asked if Hull would be willing/interested in installing a bike lane or walking trail from the bridge north connecting to Hwy. 10 and the Green Circle Trail along that part of Hwy. 10. Some issues to consider are the buried utilities on the Country Club side of the road (west side). And there isn’t enough room on the subdivision side. Mr. Jury indicated there may be a donor who would help pay for the walking/bike trail extension up to Hwy. 10. There is a lot of traffic on that portion of the road. Monday through Friday, that portion of the road averages about 9,000 to 10,000 cars each day. About 6,000 cars on weekends. A separate path along the side of the road would be safer. The road might be redone sometime within the next 2 or 3 years.
- Carmen C. had shared information/pictures about a park exercise piece of equipment, made by GameTime, she saw at a different location in the state. The Commission members discussed it and whether or not it would get much use in Hull parks. Katrina has an in-state contact in Eau Claire that makes that kind of equipment and she will try to get us an address for that company. Katrina thought the prices from the Eau Claire company were more reasonable. DW asked Katrina to also ask that company to provide contact information on municipalities that purchased and used this kind of equipment, their telephone and addresses so we can talk with them. Katrina said after this September, some of that equipment will be available for view at a park in Wisconsin Rapids.

- Pete K. asked about a bulk 50-gallon sprayer to attach to the Town John Deere tractor to spray weeds, like Somerset Park ball diamond, along roadsides, poison ivy, noxious weeds. At Fleet Farm, Pete said it would cost around \$349. Last Thursday, Pete got a phone call from a resident asking if he would work up the ball diamond again in Somerset because the weeds overtake it pretty fast. Maurice said you would need to put signs out that you sprayed if you went that route. There was some discussion as to which budget that should come out of. DW suggested Pete get that on the next Hull Board meeting agenda.

5) HULL PARK'S ON-SITE VISIT (MEADOW MANOR, THE PIPE, RED BRIDGE).

- Two vehicles full of Committee members drove out for on-site visits to three locations.
- Meadow Manor Park is in north west Hull in a small subdivision off North Second Drive.

The group looked at the general condition of the park, which is good, where the park sign is located and if that would be a good place to attach the park address. Lots of mosquitos so did not stay long.

- The Pipe. Located at the end of Granite Ridge Road West. Due to large number of biting flies, everyone stayed inside the vehicles with windows up and just observed the area from there. Dave W. explained the area layout, how boaters get into the water, the trail with the pipe, benches built by the Scouts, parking layout. Area is much used in the winter for ice fishing. A lot of trees along the road makes it beautiful in the fall. Since this area is the backwaters of the Wisconsin River, the area floods and gravel road area is covered with water at times in the spring. Gravel road portion in good condition. Hull road crew keeps it up and plows it in the winter.

- Red Bridge. Located towards the end of Walkush Road and land is privately owned, not owned by Town of Hull. Usually painted by volunteers. Hull provides signage of where to park, not park, etc. This area is also the backwaters of the Wisconsin River and lands along this area flood or are wetlands. Lots of flies again so stayed in vehicles to observe the area. Very green right now. A few homes in this area are up on slightly higher land and therefore safe from flooding. Grubba's have a permanent home there.

6) TOUR OF CHARMIAN FOURNIER LAND (ON SITE).

- Near the Red Bridge area, off the west end of Walkush Road, this portion of land is very wet, wetlands. DNR has it as mitigated wetlands and the DNR will always have access to it. Nothing can be built on it, too wet. Charmian Fournier has asked if Hull would be interested in purchasing that portion of land for use such as park or conservancy. After Commission members returned to the Hull building and discussed it, they could not think of any practical use Hull could make of such wet property. Dave W. showed the group where it is located on the map of Hull. Hull already owns a small piece of land out in that area that used to be a gravel pit. The Fournier land is assessed at \$52,000 but worth more like \$20,000. There is an easement road to it and whoever would buy the land, would have access to the land. The easement road was put in when the DNR made it mitigated wetlands for which the DNR/State paid around \$15,000 to use it as mitigated wetlands. The DNR always has access to go back and inspect this property no matter who owns it now or in the future. There are certain things that cannot be done on the property because it is mitigated wetlands. Katrina H. said even if we tried to make it a conservancy with walking trails, you would need to put bark chips down every year as they would get washed out each season and that would be too much expense to be practical. Some discussion about maybe Fournier's should offer the land to the University for research although the UWSP has very strict rules on what they can accept for land.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to decline an offer to purchase the Fournier land (Hull NOT interested in purchasing the land). Motion was seconded by Jim Mendyke. Motion passed unanimously.

7) REVIEW OF RUBBER MULCH STUDY.

- The last time the Park's Commission met, this was brought up by Pete Kaminski. Pete got pricing and details that were shared with the members. Taking one area of approximately 45' x 60' where there is grouped play equipment, removing all the wood chips and replacing them with the rubber mulch would cost approximately \$7,338 as quoted from Best Rubber Mulch Company. That would be one test site. As a comparison, the same size area costs \$720 for wood chips and even with adding wood chips as needed over a 10 year period, it would only cost around \$2,000 over 10 years for the additional wood chips.

- Questions arose about the rubber mulch in terms of heat retention, weeds possibly growing up between the mulch and what if food or drink is spilled on it. That would bio-degrade on wood chips but what would happen with rubber? Dave had asked Pete to check with the manufacturer about other municipalities that have used this. Pete said they did not get back to him. Pete did speak with Lee Recreation and the same product for the same size site would cost around \$8,000. The Lee representative said she would send Pete reviews of the product from the local area but Pete did not receive anything from her. When asked about the cons of the product, the Lee rep. said the black rubber gets hot. If it's a 90-degree day, a child could burn its feet on the hot rubber. The Lee product is made from tires which may have a small amount of steel in it at times. There are other colors of the rubber such as green. The product is very expensive at this time, possibly because it has not been mass-produced or mass used yet. Down the road, it might eventually get less expensive.

- Dave W. asked Pete to check with the City of Stevens Point Parks manager Tom Schroeder to see if the City uses it anywhere.

- Jim Mendyke suggested we wait until the price of the product comes down.

- Pete said we currently spend about \$1,000 a year, total, to replenish wood chips as needed for the whole Hull park system.

Katrina Hittner made a motion to put this idea on hold until the prices come down in the future. Motion was seconded by Maurice Stoltz. Motion passed.

8) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – TREE GRANTS.

- Last year when the Commission discussed this, it was too late in the year to apply for tree grants. That was discussed at the Fall Park's Commission meeting.

- There are two different tree grants usually available to apply for. ATC (American Transmission Company) has a grant that if won, will grant between \$500 and \$5,000 worth of trees for free. There are no matching funds needed for their grant. The other grant is from the WI DNR and that is a 50/50 match grant where the DNR supplies the trees or 50% of the funds for the trees and the town must pay an equal amount in matching funds.

- Track record for previous DNR tree grants has not been good in that the trees obtained, planted and watered for 2 years, many of them died even though the DNR specified those trees for this area of Wisconsin.

- Maurice said trees in Sorenson Park that were obtained through the previous DNR grant process all died.

- Pete has been applying each year for the ATC grant but has not won it lately but ATC has encouraged him to keep applying. Pete felt if he wrote the grant to mention the number of trees lost due to storms last year in the Town, that might push forward the qualifications better.

- Pete said any trees we might get through the grant system, need to be watered regularly for about 2 to 3 years.

- Dave W. said if we can get trees for free, it is always good to try to plant them. But if we don't have a current need and it takes 2 to 3 years of watering them (usually by a volunteer), it might not make sense at this time.
- It seems the planted pine/spruce trees grow but the deciduous trees do not make it.
- Jim Mendyke suggested maybe cheap spruces would be the route to go.
- Pete K. will pursue information on the ATC grant as well as find and share information on the DNR grant program. Pete will contact Don Kissinger with the DNR to get updated information.
- The grants require the community to indicate what they will use the trees for or how they will be used in your local community.

A motion was made by Dave Wilz asking Pete Kaminski to gather information on this year's DNR grant program and if it seems it might have some practical application, Dave will communicate it by email to the Park Commission members. Motion was seconded by Katrina Hittner. Motion passed.

9) ADDRESSES FOR HULL PARKS.

- Wanted input from the Parks Commission on where to put the address signs.
- A fire number sign would be used. Those usually say the township, the number and the road.
- We will pick a color and attach the address signs to the existing wood signs which are already located in each park.
- For the Pipe, Pete wanted to put it up high so it wouldn't be stolen. Dave W. suggested it be put at the intersection of Granite Ridge and Pine Bluff Roads. Discussion about what to call the sign. This area which is not a park is officially called 'Granite Ridge'. Dave W. explained there is a pipe in the middle of the causeway to keep people from driving in there. Pete said he is going to paint that pipe again to make it more visible.
- Dave W. will go out to each Hull park and see what street the main entrance for each is on. He will get the house numbers for before and after the Park and give that information to Barb B. who works with the GIS people at the County. The GIS people can help pick numbers too, if needed.
- Dave W. wanted to know what it costs to get the signs made out of house. Maybe we want to make our own metal signs. Pete thought they were about \$15 each, maybe \$150 total.
- Address signs will go on the existing wooden Park signs and will be put up high enough to always be above the snow line.
- Discussion about the Red Bridge area which is not an official park, but Hull picks up the garbage out there. Katrina thought we should not put a sign since the land is not owned by the Town of Hull and it is not a park. It is privately owned but the owners allow access for anglers. There are a lot of people that use that area and if there is a medical emergency, a number might be good. Dave W. said he will talk with John Holdridge about it. Jim Grubba wants to work with the Town but the Town needs to cooperate with what Grubba wants out there. We don't want to overstep our use out there. There are 'NO PARKING' signs down closer to the houses.

A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to put address signage on the existing Town of Hull Parks signs. The motion was seconded by Katrina Hittner. The motion passed.

10) UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF REPAIRS FROM SPRING INSPECTION SHEETS – PETE K.

- Pete K. gave updates on the various parks as follows:
- SOMERSET PARK: a new park sign put in, wood chips in

- EASTWOOD PARK: new park sign, wood chips in, new garbage can
 - SORENSON PARK: mowed grass
 - JORDAN ACRES PARK: wood chips in, fixed picnic table, greased and painted equipment
 - MEADOW MANOR PARK: wood chips in, greased merry-go-round
 - PLEASANT VIEW PARK: cutting grass
 - PLEASANT VIEW WEST: put in new wood chips, greased merry-go-round and equipment
 - TREDER WOODLAND PARK: cutting grass
 - CONIFER ACRES: cutting grass
 - THE PIPE: trimmed walkway to and around benches (which makes it easier to see the black snakes when they are in the area).
 - RED BRIDGE: picks up garbage and trims around guardrail
 - PLOVER HEIGHTS: mowing grass
- Pete mentioned in Somerset Park there are two bouncy buttons that are cracked. A blue one that is split with a quarter inch gap. A green one that is starting to crack. Pete called Lee Recreation and there is a 15-year warrantee on this equipment so we should be able to get replacements for those two for free.
 - Dave W. asked about the spinner at Meadow Manor and Pete said they have been putting silicon on it but Dave requested Pete to check with Lee Recreation about the warrantee on that one too.

Pete's report was accepted.

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

- DW said this is through the month of June so only shows about one month of activity so far this year.
- PA asked where the budget says 'sign the town', if that could be used for the new address signs. Dave and Pete said they thought it could be used for that. Pete thought it could be done for \$200 or less.

12) DATE OF NEXT HULL PARK'S COMMISSION MEETING: Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

13) ADJOURNMENT. *A motion was made by Maurice Stoltz to adjourn the Hull Parks Commission meeting. Motion was seconded by Katrina Hittner. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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