

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION and BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOINT WORK SESSION
January 12, 2010**

PRESENT: Chairman Jim Duncan, Commissioners Roger Missimer, Steve Urban, and Jeff Marcinkowski, Supervisor Sam St. Amour, Treasurer Melissa Hepler, Trustees Gary Bole, Mary Ann Bard, Norma Binns, and Jan Deur

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Robert Eklund

ABSENT: Commissioner Laura Shields

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor St. Amour called the work session to order at 5:35 p.m.

BUSINESS:

1. Insurance Documentation:

Clerk Rillema explained that Supervisor St. Amour and herself had met with the Township's risk assessment representative and they found areas with possible liability in the Township, some which relate to the Parks and Recreation Commission's areas of jurisdiction. These areas included playground inspections, fall material under and around play equipment, signage regarding no swimming or swim at your own risk at areas with water exposure, and requesting a copy of insurance from any leagues using the park fields. They also discussed insuring the artifacts in the museum and if they should even be insured if they can not be replaced. The Parks Commission explained that a form is filled out for each artifact giving ownership to the Township.

2. Tennis Courts:

Commissioner Urban explained that the tennis courts are cracked, but they are in better condition than the tennis courts in the City of Whitehall, but they will get worse. He explained that the cracks can either be patched or the courts can be resurfaced. He explained that the commission would like to use some of the Blueberry Festival Fund money to repair the tennis courts.

3. Ordinance to Close Parking Area at WRLS:

Chairman Duncan explained that he would like to not plow the parking lot at the museum and keep the gates closed and locked from January 1st to April 1st each year, due to lack of activity. He explained that the Allied Waste trash carts and the port-a-jon have already been removed and will be replaced April 1st. Attorney Eklund explained that if the Township wants to ticket cars that are parked there when they shouldn't be, there needs to be an ordinance in place.

4. Storage Ordinance:

Chairman Duncan and Commissioner Missimer explained that they would like a storage ordinance that prohibits the storage of personal property on any Township property.

5. Marcus Park:

Chairman Duncan explained that he and Commissioner Missimer will meet again with all three parties involved and they have also discussed getting a survey of Marcus Park. Supervisor St. Amour would like in writing: the status of the situation, what the Commission would like as a resolution, and where the storage ordinance fits in. Commissioner Missimer explained that so far it has just been a committee of himself and Chairman Duncan and once they formulate a resolution, they will bring it to the rest of the Commission to act on. Clerk Rillema asked if the Duck Lake Association has been involved in the process. Commissioner Missimer explained that Duck Lake owners have been involved representing themselves. The committee is worried that if the docks are left in all year they could be a liability for the Township. Chairman St. Amour explained that he has received calls about people having heavy equipment on the beach at Marcus Park removing the docks.

6. 2010-2011 Budget Reduction:

The commission explained that they will work on their budget at their work session tomorrow. Commissioner Missimer wondered why the museum donations were listed as an expense. Clerk Rillema explained that it is money to be spent.

7. Lighthouse Parking Enforcement:

Chairman St. Amour explained that the ordinance enforcer can call an officer of the law to come write a ticket if it is in violation of an ordinance, but he can not write tickets himself. The Township would need to go to civil infractions in order for the ordinance enforcer to write tickets himself.

8. Dissolve Parks and Recreation Commission:

Chairman Duncan stated that he believes the Commission has done a lot in their first year but they do not get cooperation on items that they believe are just. Chairman St. Amour explained that the Board of Trustees follows the laws guided by their attorney and the laws are strict today.

COMMENTS:

Trustee Bole asked about Hollister's off road parking. Commissioner Marcinkowski asked if the Dock Road parking was established by the Muskegon County Road Commission (MCRC). Supervisor St. Amour was not sure who established the parking.

Chairman Duncan asked about the no swimming signs. Supervisor St. Amour stated that Clerk Rillema explained the signs at the beginning of the meeting. Chairman Duncan also asked who was responsible for the guard rail at Duck Lake Channel. Trustee Bole stated that he believes it is the responsibility of the MCRC. Chairman Duncan also asked the Township's position with Muskegon Area First (MAF). Supervisor St. Amour stated that the Township did not join MAF this year.

Commissioner Marcinkowski asked about rules and laws regarding budget set up and what can and cannot be done. Supervisor St. Amour suggested looking at the Attorney General's opinion.

Commissioner Missimer asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission's budget had to be approved by the Township Board. Supervisor St. Amour answered yes it does. Commissioner Missimer also asked about the life ring grant. Supervisor St. Amour stated that Commissioner Shields had information about the grant.

Commissioner Urban asked the road ends. Chairman St. Amour explained that the Township owns McMillan Road end and half of Lamos Road end and the rest are owned by the MCRC. Each year the Township signs maintenance agreements for Scenic Drive road end and Nestrom Road end.

Trustee Binns would like everyone to be on the same page, work together, and communicate.

Trustee Bole has high hopes for the Parks and Recreation Commission and thinks that the communication is much better than it has been in the past.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Karolyn Rillema, second from Roger Missimer, ***ADOPTED***, to adjourn the January 12, 2010 joint work session at 6:54 p.m. ***10 AYES, 0 NAYES, 1 ABSENT***

Respectfully submitted,

Ericka DeCair, Secretary