

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
May 5, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Lynn Knopf, Commissioner Herb Huch, Commissioner Bob Murray, Commissioner Mark Beegle and Commissioner Carlet Mitenbuler.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Four interested parties.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Huch called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**WELCOME GUESTS**

**AGENDA:** Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Mark Beegle, *ADOPTED*, to amend the agenda to add “Sports ‘N Shorts” and “beaver at Nestrom Road Park” under New Business to the May 5, 2021 agenda with no additional changes.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**MINUTES:** Motion by Carlet Mitenbuler, second from Bob Murray, *ADOPTED*, to amend the April 5, 2021 minutes to include Commissioner Knopf suggesting the swings should be lowered.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2020 MASTER PLAN:**

**1. Opening remarks**

Chairman Huch stated that he and Supervisor Marcinkowski had a conversation and decided that the Master Plan should go to an outside organization or company that specializes in such things. Commissioner Knopf stated that the Commission should follow State guidelines and invite additional public comment. Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield reminded the Commission that the beginning of the Public Hearing should just be opening remarks, and that board discussion should take place after public comment on the Master Plan.

**2. Public comment**

- a. Mary Ann Bard, 1428 W. River Road – agreed with Chairman Huch that it’s time to get things sent outside to professionals to look at. She added that she’s all for it as a tax payer.

**3. Board discussion**

Commissioner Knopf questioned not having heard anything about the Master Plan going outside the Parks and Recreation Commission. She added that the commissioner’s names are listed on the plan. Commissioner Knopf also stated that the Commission has until January and that the Commission should do it. She added that help is great, but that the decision is odd and seems rushed.

Commissioner Mitenbuler stated that she was under the impression that the Master Plan was approved by the township and was ready to go. Chairman Huch stated that an outside company is familiar with all the changes and necessary things that are supposed to be in the document. Commissioner Knopf asked who voted to have the Master Plan sent to an outside organization, also asking who it was that it would be sent out to, and Chairman Huch stated that that's what they're doing at the meeting. Commissioner Knopf suggested that the individuals who would look at it should come to the meeting for the Commission to discuss all of the details. She also asked who the Commission is looking at for reviewing the plan, and it was reported that West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and Bob Ford and his group from Lansing. Supervisor Marcinkowski stated that the Commission makes the decision who is hired. Commissioner Knopf stated that in order to function as a Commission, everything needs to be brought to the Commission for decisions instead of being told what's happening. Commissioner Huch stated that he would like to see a resume and examples of work completed before a decision is made.

Motion by Lynn Knopf that at the next meeting the groups come and talk to the Commission and give recommendations, give their pitch, tell what they charge, and tell the Commission what they're going to do before the Commission makes a decision, **FAILED**, due to lack of support.

Commissioner Murray stated that he doesn't have an issue with someone looking at the Master Plan, adding that the Commission still has to approve it. He added that this is no different than hiring a contractor to do work. The Commission has to look at multiple companies and compare quotes. Commissioner Knopf added that there is a legal process involved. The Commission agreed to getting quotes from different organizations.

#### **RECEIPTS:**

Chairman Huch reported receipts activity as pavilion rentals in the amount of \$270.00 for the month April 2021.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to accept receipts for \$270.00 from pavilion rentals for the month of May 2021.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

#### **DISBURSEMENTS:**

Chairperson Huch reported disbursements activity as \$34.99 to Hunts Hardware for enamel and \$190.00 to Kerkstra for the ADA portable restroom, for total disbursements of \$224.99.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to pay total disbursements of \$224.99.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**Roll Call Vote: Beegle-Aye, Knopf-Aye, Murray-Aye, Mitenbuler-Aye, Huch-Aye**

#### **NOMINATION/ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Herb Huch nominated by Mark Beegle, seconded by Carlet Mitenbuler

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

## NOMINATION/ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Bob Murray nominated by Carlet Mitenbuler, seconded by Mark Beegle

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

## NOMINATION/ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Lynn Knopf nominated by Mark Beegle, seconded by Carlet Mitenbuler

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****1. Master Plan**

Discussed under board discussion during the public hearing.

**2. Tennis net post replacement**

Commissioner Murray reported that when Maintenance Supervisor Arron Ferris put the tennis nets up, the posts were rusty and the cables were bad. The new posts that he has looked at go over the original posts. He added that this is the best option since the Commission is not yet replacing the tennis courts. He reported three different prices for the same item, and the commissioners agreed to get them posts for the cheapest price.

Motion from Carlet Mitenbuler, second from Mark Beegle,  
**ADOPTED**, to purchase two sets of tennis net posts from Do It  
Tennis in the amount of \$364 each.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**NEW BUSINESS:****1. Projected future plan**

Chairman Huch stated that there is a new wooden boardwalk in the making that has benches and is approximately 50-60 feet long. He added that he has to deal with the State for approval. Commissioner Knopf questioned why the Commissioners hadn't heard about the boardwalk, and asked who made the donation. Chairman Huch stated that Barry's Greenhouse is donating the boardwalk. Commissioner Knopf stated that donations are a good thing, but they're supposed to go through the Commission and not just the chairperson. Recording secretary Mary Mansfield reminded the commissions that the entire Commission needs to approve things that are happening. Chairman Herb Huch stated that this is an idea for a future project.

Chairman Huch added that the soccer field is being mapped out and irrigation is being looked at to see if another well is needed to sustain the field. He also mentioned the possible need for a service road at the park to not ruin the drive.

Commissioner Murray suggested a possible sand volleyball court being put in as a benefit to the park.

Commissioner Mitenbuler stated that Commissioner Knopf suggested a possible butterfly garden.

Chairman Huch also mentioned a ramp at the White Lake Drive road end. Commissioner Knopf reminded him that it isn't in the Parks and Recreation Commission's jurisdiction. Chairman Huch argued that the Parks and Recreation Commission can help because they are benefitting the people of the Township.

Commissioner Murray also suggested cement pads under the bleachers and a possible sidewalk boarder around the playground. He also suggested adding another bay with two more swings.

The Commissioners discussed parking issues as well. Commissioner Knopf also mentioned a handicap sign and placement at the park.

## **2. Sports 'N Shorts**

Commissioner Knopf stated that she would be speaking with Bob Switzer regarding publicity for the program. She added that she will be going around to local businesses to have them post the flyer and get the information out to local residents.

## **3. Beaver damage**

Commissioner Knopf stated that beavers provide ecological services and do a lot for aquatic areas. She requested that if someone calls regarding trapping the beavers and hopes that they will not be able to do so.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – mentioned the completion of the horseshoe pits and how great they look. Mentioned that the public needs to be made aware that they are available. Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned that if he's asked to do something or asked for help that he will do so. He added that he's not going to say "no" unless it's going to do detrimental harm. Supervisor Marcinkowski added that he's not doing the work for them but is helping the Commission and will turn any information he receives over to them. In regards to the scoreboard, he got information from six different groups. Supervisor Marcinkowski added that he has an individual that is interested in donating the scoreboard to the Township. He added that in terms of installation he has made contact with the Sodini family due to the field being named after Pete Sodini. He asked the family if a sign can be placed on the field stating that it's named "Pete Sodini Field." Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned fencing quotes for multiple places in the park and that he will share the information with the Commission to make decisions. In regards to irrigation in the park, Supervisor Marcinkowski has contacted Randy Smith, the individual who has done the irrigation work at the Township. He's going to have him give a plan of what's currently underground so that when looking at additional irrigation, the Township knows what's currently in the park and if another well is needed. On the electrical side, Jeff Johnson, the electrical inspector for the Township, will be checking all electrical points throughout the Township. He also checked the scoreboard and there is no power to it currently. Supervisor Marcinkowski agreed that the sand volleyball court is a great idea. He also added that the Commission puts the future ideas in their Master Plan and that they continue to amend the plan to reflect their ideas. In regards to the Master Plan, he added that anything he says is strictly a statement. Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned to the two outside groups for possibly looking at the plan, adding that he will give both a call to attend future meetings to present to them. Picnic tables are being sanded and repainted. Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned that in terms of technology, he would like the Commission to look at their needs for technology and to let him know what those needs may be. He questioned Sports 'N Shorts advertising, and Commissioner Knopf stated that the Commission doesn't pay to advertise but just helps share with local businesses. Supervisor Marcinkowski also stated that an individual did call the Township regarding the beavers and that they asked if they could trap at Nestrom Road Park, and he told them that they cannot.

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Mitenbuler thanked Commissioner Murray for a job well done on the horseshoe pits.

Commissioner Murray stated that in terms of future projects at Nestrom Road Park, he would like a site plan created showing everything that's existing so the Commission can map out possible locations for future projects to make sure there is ample space available.

Commissioner Beegle mentioned that parking does need to be addressed.

Commissioner Knopf reiterated that the commissioners are supposed to work together, adding that they all have one vote each and should communicate and work together as much as possible.

Commissioner Huch thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Supervisor Marcinkowski raised his hand to speak, so the Commission agreed to suspend Roberts Rules of Order to give him the chance to speak.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Robert's Rules of Order.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned the road end boat ramp, adding that both sides of the ramp are privately owned. He added that there are plans to make contact with each property owner to make improvements. Supervisor Marcinkowski also mentioned a portable restroom that will be taking place at Scenic Road End. He also said that in terms of the damage and repairs on the dock, the Township is looking at possibly putting in a light and a camera to keep an eye on the dock.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to reinstate Robert's Rules of Order.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Mark Beegle, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the May 5, 2021 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:12 PM.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary