

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
July 6, 2021**

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Two interested party.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Bob Murray, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, *ADOPTED*, to add “sand volleyball” under Unfinished Business to the July 6, 2021 agenda with no additional changes.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Murray, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, *ADOPTED*, to accept the June 7, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the June 21, 2021 special meeting minutes as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Dave Rice, 4047 Nestrom Road – mentioned possible new trails in the natural area. The natural area is in phase one of six in the process. He mentioned the Parks and Recreation Commission updating their Master Plan to include the natural area, adding that goals mentioned in the current plan include trails and natural areas.

RECEIPTS:

Chairman Huch reported receipts activity as pavilion rentals in the amount of \$90.00 for the month June 2021.

DISBURSEMENTS:

Chairperson Huch reported disbursements activity as \$190.00 to Kerkstra for the ADA portable restroom, \$1,800.00 to Midway Sheet Metal for the stainless steel grills, and \$172.00 to Randy Smith for summarization of the sprinkler system within the park for total disbursements of \$2,162.00.

Motion by Mark Beegle, second from Bob Murray, *ADOPTED*, to accept receipts of \$90.00 for pavilion rentals and pay total disbursements of \$2,162.00.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Circle drive in park/scoreboard

The commissioners discussed the scoreboard and the options for how to pay for it. Chairman Huch stated that the Township Board missed putting the scoreboard on their agenda in June, so the Commission could either move forward with requesting that the scoreboard be paid for out of the Specialty Fund or that they could request a budget amendment to use the money budgeted for repairs of the circle drive at Nestrom Road Park to pay for the scoreboard.

Motion from Lynn Knopf, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to discuss the scoreboard and budgeting with Supervisor Marcinkowski.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Supervisor Marcinkowski reaffirmed that the Commission could move forward with requesting the money to purchase the scoreboard to come from the Specialty Fund or that they could request the budget amendment and use the money for the Nestrom Road Park circle drive repairs. He also added that if the Commission decides to use money that's already budgeted for something else, the Specialty Fund can possibly be utilized should they decide to do the circle drive repairs yet this year.

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

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Motion by Herb Huch, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to request a budget amendment to move \$4,000.00 from Repairs and Maintenance Nestrom Park Drive Repairs and \$500.00 from Repairs and Maintenance Pavilion Repairs and Maintenance to pay for the scoreboard.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

2. Irrigation update

Commissioner Beegle stated that he spoke with Randy Smith and Mr. Smith told him that there will need to be a new well for irrigation to the potential soccer field. Mr. Smith also stated that he would do an assessment of the park, what is here and what is needed and there would be a fee involved. Chairman Huch stated that he talked to others as well and mentioned that the Commission should get quotes for a well and then move on from there.

3. Flag pole update

Chairman Huch stated that the flag should be coming soon and the light for the pole is at his house. He said that once the flag comes in, Maintenance Supervisor Arron Ferris will get a bucket truck and get it taken care of.

4. Portable restroom

Chairman Huch stated that the individuals using the baseball field requested a portable restroom near the field. The commissioners discussed the concern by individuals renting the pavilions that another one is needed there as well.

Motion by Herb Huch, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to make a budget amendment to move \$270.00 from Repairs and Maintenance Miscellaneous Repairs for two single portable restrooms, one for four weeks for the baseball field and one for eight weeks for the pavilion area.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

5. Master Plan

Commissioner Knopf stated that she spoke to Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski regarding the master plan. She added that there is a place in Grand Haven that could also help, stating that she is okay with getting help with the Master Plan as long as they follow the rules of the State. Commissioner Knopf stated that it would be a good idea to get a planning grant for the natural area as well.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rules of Order to discuss vendors with Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski stated that the Commission has the option to outsource the plan completely. He mentioned Fresh Coast Planning as an option, but also mention groups out of Lansing and Muskegon. He added that the group could also work on it some but also have help. Supervisor Marcinkowski also suggested that he could be there to help iron out the details and information in the plan. Commissioner Knopf commented on liking the idea of working on the Master Plan with Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski, adding that it might be a good idea to get help with the public aspects of it such as a charette.

Supervisor Marcinkowski also added that money will be coming in from Covid relief, adding that \$400,000,000 will be coming in for all local parks. He said that there are 4,000 parks in Michigan so that would be approximately \$100,000 each.

Chairman Huch spoke up in regards to the 300+ acres of the natural area adding that he doesn't want things to take place that will ruin the creek. Supervisor Marcinkowski reminded Chairman Huch that the Master Plan includes all recreation in the Township, and that it boils down to the Township Board asking the Commission to include it in their Master Plan. He added that the Commission needs the Master Plan regardless of what's happening in the natural area. Commissioner Knopf stated that the goal is to protect the creek and the natural area from developments, adding that a grant through the State might be the best option because they know the rules. Commissioner Mitenbuler stated that she's been very confused about everything, adding that she didn't realize the Parks and Recreation Commission didn't have anything to do with the natural area. She also added that she's concerned about the legality of the friends group working on the Township property, and she questioned whether neighbors of the property know the plans for the natural area. Commissioner Knopf stated that the former administration wanted the Parks and Recreation Commission to have nothing to do with it, and some communication from those working on the area has been concerning to individuals. She stated that the Commission doesn't need to know the plan necessarily but that they do need to include it in their Master Plan. Chairman Huch stated that he would like to know who the Friends of Fruitland Trails group is. Commissioner Murray said that the bottom line is that the Commission needs to complete the Master Plan and that the plan should mention the natural area.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Bob Murray, *ADOPTED*, to resume Roberts Rules of Order.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Commissioner Knopf suggested putting together a sub-committee to work with herself and Supervisor Marcinkowski on the Master Plan. She also added that she feels as if the natural area would be a good place for doing a walk through with Shawna Meyer instead of doing Nestrom Road Park again. Commissioner Murray agreed.

6. Sand volleyball

Commissioner Murray stated that he completed some research on options, adding that he prefers outdoor posts and nets to wood. He added that he found a set that includes everything needed for the court, adding that the lines for the perimeter aren't included but could be purchased separately for a total of everything at approximately \$2,300.00. He passed along the website to the other commissioners so they could look at them as well. Commissioner Murray also added that sand will be a separate fee, stating that the Commission should consider a 50x70 foot area for the court. The commissioners discussed different prices for sand, but they will look into it further when the time comes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. No hunting/trapping signs

Commissioner Knopf stated that she spoke to the State regarding trapping, and they informed her that they cannot enforce rules without signs being in the park. She said that signs are needed down by the water on T-posts. Commissioner Mitenbuler agreed, adding that signs need to be throughout the park. Commissioner Murray stated that since the Commission will be ordering the signs for no hunting/trapping, the Commission should also order signs regarding no motorized vehicles. He added that there have been a few occasions where such vehicles have been in the park and driving down by the beach. The commissioners agreed to having signs ordered.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – mentioned that he appreciates the good dialogue regarding issues within the parks. He apologized about the scoreboard being left off of the Township Board's June agenda, adding that he will make sure it is on for their upcoming meeting. Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned that the number signs for the pavilions have been ordered, and that two additional trash cans will be placed as well. He mentioned a situation regarding the pavilion on Monday, adding that Bob Switzer with Sports 'N Shorts came in to reserve the pavilion for the activities. Supervisor Marcinkowski told the Commission of an upcoming meeting regarding gypsy moths coming up, adding that he will send the information to each of them. He reminded the commissioners that everything in the Township's authority is for the people and asset driven. Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned that the Specialty Fund is set aside for the future soccer field, but said that the Commissioners can request budget amendments to use that fund for other things, potentially adding the soccer field into next year's budget. He also added that the Commission could consider using the Specialty Fund for the fee to look at the irrigation. Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned the American Recover Plan funding of \$600,000.00 adding that anything new and infrastructure can use that funding. He stated that things like a new well and irrigation could be included. He ended by thanking Commissioner Mitenbuler for her most recent attendance and comments at the Township Board meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Beegle thanked Supervisor Marcinkowski for attending the meetings and explaining things regarding the budget.

Commissioner Knopf thanked Supervisor Marcinkowski and Dave Rice for attending their meeting. She also added that there is an upcoming meeting with the Ottawa County Conservation District on July 22nd at 6:00p.m. regarding tree diseases and gypsy moths.

Commissioner Murray also thanked Supervisor Marcinkowski for attending. He also added that he has seen a lot of gypsy moths dying, and thanked Supervisor Marcinkowski for including the valuable information in the E-News.

Commissioner Mitenbuler thanked Supervisor Marcinkowski for attending the meeting. She also added that she wants and needs to learn the process for everything. She stated that the Commission needs to focus on finishing the Master Plan and then discuss the trails and natural area.

Chairman Huch thanked Supervisor Marcinkowski for attending. He added that he will be contacting individuals regarding the well and also will reach out regarding the portable restrooms. Commissioner Murray reminded Chairman Huch that he will need to wait until the Township Board approves the budget amendment at their July regular meeting.

Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield had a reminder regarding procedures for meetings, adding that items to be discussed in the meeting need to be added when amending/approving the agenda. She also mentioned the importance of maintaining communication with her, adding that it's imperative that members let her know if they will be in attendance for meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Herb Huch, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the July 6, 2021 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:38 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary