

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
September 7, 2021**

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Two interested parties.

**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 accept the September 7, 2021 agenda as written.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**MINUTES:** Motion by Bob Murray, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to accept the August 4, 2021 regular meeting minutes as written.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS (Commissioner Knopf wasn't present in the room for the vote)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
None.

**RECEIPTS:**  
Chairman Huch reported receipts activity as pavilion rentals in the amount of \$30.00 for the month August 2021.

**DISBURSEMENTS:**  
Chairperson Huch reported disbursements activity as \$740.00 to Kerkstra for the portable restrooms, \$126.67 to Muskegon Awning & Fabrication for the flag at the baseball field, and \$3,000.00 to Whitehall District Schools for the Sports 'N Shorts program for total disbursements of \$3,866.67.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to accept receipts of \$30.00 for pavilion rentals and pay total disbursements of \$3,866.67.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

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

The commissioners agreed to move New Business above Unfinished Business in order for Commissioner Knopf to make copies of a proposal for the Master Plan discussions.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Walk through**

Chairman Huch stated that the commissioners need to do a walk through of the park. He reminded the commissioners that Maintenance Supervisor Arron Ferris is going to do the stumping in the park, so the commissioners need to decide which ones they would like to do and where they would like to move the benches. Commissioner Murray reminded everyone that he and Commissioner Mitenbuler have already done this work once before, adding that the two of them can walk through the park again to do the painting of the stumps and mark which benches they would like moved and where they would like them moved to.

### **2. Pickleball lessons at Nestrom Road Park courts**

Commissioner Knopf stated that there is an individual from Lakeshore Pickleball Players that would be willing to come to the park to give lessons to the residents. She added that the cost would be \$200.00 for two one-hour sessions. Commissioner Knopf stated that it could be up to 20 people. Commissioner Murray stated that there is certainly a desire for pickleball, and Commissioner Knopf stated that the timing would be good for the fall and goes in line with the Master Plan.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, no second, **FAILED**, to move \$200.00 from the Specialty Fund to pay for two one-hour sessions of pickleball lessons.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **1. Master Plan – including proposal review and acceptance**

Commissioner Knopf discussed the four proposals that she sent to the other commissioners. Chairman Huch stated that he has been discussing the project with attorneys and they know what they're doing. He added that he will be getting quotes from them. Commissioner Murray reminded the Commission that they agreed to vote on a firm at the meeting, and the Master Plan needs to get to the DNR for approval as soon as possible. Chairman Huch stated that the Commission shouldn't be doing anything with the Master Plan until they get to the bottom of what's going on with Terrie Hampel and her Friends group. The Commissioners reminded Chairman Huch that the Master Plan needs to be approved to move forward with any grants that they wish to achieve. Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield reminded Chairman Huch of the same, adding that the issues he has with Terrie Hampel has nothing to do with the Master Plan, and that any questions he has regarding the acreage should be directed to the Township Board.

In terms of costs of the proposals, Commissioner Knopf stated that Grand Valley State University quoted approximately \$4,500.00-\$6,000.00 for the work, but Commissioner Knopf stated that while Grand Valley State University would be great to partner with, she thinks that it might be a better idea

to partner with the University for another job or project and let a professional firm work on the Master Plan. Commissioners Knopf and Mitenbuler agreed.

Commissioner Knopf stated that she felt that Fresh Coast's proposal lacked presentation quality. Commissioner Murray added that he thinks it's a shaky proposal. Commissioner Knopf added that she thinks it comes down to either Viridis or LAP Inc. She added that Viridis's proposal was fantastic. Commissioner Murray agreed, adding that while the quote for the job seems like a lot, in the long run it could bring back a lot of money through grants. Chairman Huch again stated that the Commission needs to resolve the Friends group issue, and Commissioner Murray reminded Chairman Huch that that issue has nothing to do with the Master Plan and that the Commission needs to choose and accept a proposal.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to award the job to Viridis in the amount of \$10,000.00 to do the work on the Master Plan.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to discuss the budget amendment for the Master Plan proposal with Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski stated that the Township Board had set aside \$20,000.00 in a specialty fund for upgrades for the soccer field. He added that nothing has been spent from this specialty fund at this time, so the Commission could make a request for a budget amendment from this account.

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

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to request a budget amendment from the soccer field specialty fund to pay \$10,000.00 for Viridis's work on the Master Plan.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

## **2. Fall Natural Area walks with Shawna Meyer**

Commissioner Knopf reported that it is already in the budget for Shawna Meyer to do the walk throughs. She added that they will take place on two Saturdays for approximately an hour and a half each walk. She added that she will talk to Shawna Meyer regarding which two Saturdays work best and will report them to the group.

## **3. 2022-2023 budget preparation**

Chairman Huch stated that the commissioners need to start thinking about the budget and putting together a wish list of items they would like added.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Mitenbuler thanked the guests in the audience for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Murray stated that he is very thankful that the Commission is moving forward with the Master Plan. He also added that he will connect with Commissioner Mitenbuler to come to the park to paint the stumps for removal and the moving of benches.

Commissioner Knopf stated that she, too, is glad to be moving forward with the Master Plan.

Commissioner Beegle stated that he hopes to get things straightened out with the Master Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Mark Beegle, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the September 7, 2021 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:05 PM.

***5 AYES, 0 NAYS***

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary