

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2020
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Trustee Holman, Trustee Hampel, Treasurer Pachman, Supervisor Jeske and P&R Chair Svensson, Commission Members Huch, Murray, Sawyer and Knopf

ALSO, PRESENT: Five (5) interested parties

Trustee Hampel requested that this meeting be conducted as a work session.

CALL TO ORDER: P&R Chair Svensson called the Special Joint Meeting of the Fruitland Township Board of Trustees and Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 4:00 PM at the township hall and led in the pledge of allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Dedication of Parks

Chair Svensson asked for confirmation that these three parks are the official P&R Designated parks.

Supervisor Jeske noted that no formal dedication will be done and that the Resolution adopted by the Township Board is the official public park and recreational designations.

Commissioner Knopf challenged the acreage as designated on the survey of the Duck Lake Natural Area.

Commissioner Murray noted that when the Township Board approached the P&R Commission about selling 2 acres to the Fire Department it was referenced that there was 19.67 acres.

Chair Svensson asked if the property between the Fire Department building and the maintenance building could be an access point to the acreage designated on the survey and wanted clarification that the property is not landlocked.

b. Jurisdiction over Recreation

Supervisor Jeske noted that the Township Board did receive a memo from Attorney Even stating that MCL 41.426a gives the power to a Township Board to authorize a

township park commission to act as a recreation board. While acknowledging the memo, she has no intention of putting this conversation on a future board meeting and she understands that a Parks and Recreation Commission is just that.

c. Duck Lake Natural Area

Supervisor Jeske attempted to explain the developments and discussions regarding the initial advisory board, the land conservancy, the board's ordinance implementation and the reinstatement of the advisory board to date. The board has invited the P&R Commission to review and offer suggestions for the development of an ordinance.

Chair Svensson questioned how you can develop an ordinance without a plan. Trustee Hampel further explained the Advisory Committee input, the work with the Land Conservancy and the Township Board's actions.

Chair Svensson continued how they can develop Duck Lake Road Park when they don't know how it interacts to the other property, the 300 acres, and how they can give input when we don't even know how it relates. How do they give input when the board doesn't even know what the future of the DLNA is? The flow doesn't make sense, let's back up.

Considerable discussion ensued.

d. Create a Plan for Increased Communication

Commissioner Murray brought up the board's changes to their recent ordinance without asking for input from the P&R Commission.

Chair Svensson continued her frustrations with the Township Board's changes to their budget, newsletters and their authority over the P&R Commission.

Chair Svensson suggested that a board member attend the P&R Meetings and P&R member attend Township Board meetings. Commissioner Knopf concurred that no one-on-one meetings occur and agreed with the concept that we attend each other's meeting.

Trustee Hampel volunteered attendance at the P&R meetings. Discussion ensued about pay, the volunteers right to sit with the board/commission and participation at the meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom Road noted that she comes to every meeting and felt that this was a good meeting.

Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road relayed his participation on a previous P&R Commission and spoke on communication.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Jeske, Supervisor
Fruitland Township