

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SPECIAL MEETING
January 12, 2022**

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

ABSENT: Carlet Mitenbuler.

ALSO PRESENT: One 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 Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to accept the January 12, 2022 agenda as written.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – congratulated the commissioners for knowing the Master Plan needed to be done and working hard to get it completed. He stated that all the work is complete, and thanked Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield for her work as well.

PUBLIC HEARING – MASTER PLAN:

1. Opening Remarks

Commissioner Murray stated that after over a year of working on the Master Plan, it became obvious to the Commission that help was needed by an outside organization. The Commission received many quotes and awarded the job to Viridis Design Group. Commissioner Murray stated that many steps were taken and approved during the process, and the Master Plan was available for a 30-day review by the citizens of Fruitland Township. He added that the Special Meeting was taking place to receive public comment on the plan, and for the Commission to take action.

2. Public Comment

a. Dave Rice, 4047 Nestrom Road – questioned whether an updated draft plan was available with the requested changes to the plan. He stated that he is surprised the commissioners would approve it without having seen it. Commissioner Murray stated that they haven't seen the changes quite yet, but added that the commissioners would be able to approve it with the recommended changes.

- b. Lori Lundell, 4669 Lorensen Road – thanked the Commission for their work on the Master Plan. She added that it's important for the Commission and Township to have the plan to be able to apply for grants and funding.
- c. John Johnson, 5080 Scenic Drive – stated that in terms of widening Scenic Drive, he is not in favor of doing so. He added that it should state single file only. He also mentioned traffic speeds, adding that people are going way over the limit. He also added that he likes the ideas for Duck Lake Road Park area and the idea the Township put forward for a farmer's market venue.

3. Board Discussion

Commissioner Knopf stated that there are a few formatting and spelling/grammatical errors, adding that she sent them to Viridis. Commissioner Murray stated that he is okay with it, adding that the plan can be amended throughout the five-year timeframe. He added that most errors are typos and grammar issues, also referencing some confusion regarding Duck Lake Road Park acreage. He mentioned his thought on the removal of the BMX bike information in the plan since this isn't something that the Commission has ever discussed. Commissioner Murray also said that the Township cemeteries are the one on Bard and the historic one.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, to accept the Master Plan by Viridis for 2022-2027 with the changes submitted to Viridis. (Chariman Huch called for a voice vote but did not ask for those opposed and the vote was unable to be calculated. Then Chairman Huch calls for a roll call vote)

Roll Call Vote: Beegle-Nay, Knopf-Aye, Huch-Nay, Murray-Aye

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – mentioned the Commission's initial approval by everyone on the board to utilize Viridis for putting together the Master Plan. He added that all planning and information has been approved by everyone on the Commission. Stated that two of the commissioners voted "no" to the approval of the Master Plan without any reasoning, adding that it is hard for others to understand the reasoning behind their "no votes." He added that it comes down to them not understanding the process, they didn't read it, or they knew all along they were going to vote no. Came in optimistic for a yes vote to send it to the Township Board.
2. Lori Lundell, 4669 Lorensen Road – stated she's extremely disappointed that the approval of the Master Plan didn't take place. She stated that she heard no major concerns and no negative discussion or specific reasonings took place. She stated this is very questioning to her. Now another year will pass before the Township will be able to apply for grants for state funding for the parks. She added that this is an extreme loss.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Knopf stated that she is blindsided by the no votes and didn't see it coming. She added that it's very disappointing. Commissioner Knopf also said that some of the future plans for Parks and Recreation included a Halloween Trunk or Treat for kids and that she would like to touch base with them after the meeting to get some ideas going moving forward. She also mentioned fundraising for the Lighthouse with the hit they took during Covid.

Commissioner Beegle stated that one gentleman asked how he can know anything about the Master Plan when it's not even been finalized, adding that they couldn't answer his questions and is one of the reasons.

Commissioner Murray stated that like Commissioner Knopf, he is disappointed. He added that there are a few projects the Commission was looking into doing but without funding from the DNR it

won't be possible. He added that in order to get funding and grants it would have had to have been approved and sent to the DNR by February 1st. Commissioner Murray asked that everyone submit what they don't like about the Master Plan so they can get it updated and resubmitted next year

Chairman Huch stated that he knows how everyone feels and that everyone will know why and will see both sides. He stated that they have a reason and time will tell. He added that in terms of trails, it's doable and he's talked to his colleagues. Chairman Huch stated that it should be done together.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the January 12, 2022 scheduled special meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:25 PM.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary