

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
February 4, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Knopf, Commissioner Herb Huch, Commissioner Bob Murray, and Commissioner Sue Sawyer.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Svensson (phoned in).

**ALSO PRESENT:** One interested party.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**WELCOME GUESTS**

**AGENDA:** Motion by Sue Sawyer, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to amend the agenda to include letter to the residents and adding meeting dates to unfinished business on the February 4, 2020 agenda.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT**

**MINUTES:** Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Sue Sawyer, **ADOPTED**, to approve the January 6, 2020 regular meeting minutes with a few changes.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**RECEIPTS:**

None.

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Fencing**

Commissioner Murray reported that he received two quotes for fencing from Affordable Fencing and Muskegon Fence. He added that the quotes from Muskegon Fence were much higher. The commissioners discussed the addition of gates at the park, and Commissioner Huch reminded everyone that there may be trouble during the winter months with snow. He suggested possibly closing the gates during the winter months and keeping the parking lot to the Township Hall open for individuals to use to get into the park by foot.

Motion by Herb Huch, second from Sue Sawyer, **ADOPTED**, to accept the bid of Affordable Fencing for the repairs at the tennis courts to be taken out of miscellaneous repairs.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT****2. Baseball field**

Commissioner Sawyer stated that she spoke to Double L Enterprises regarding the costs of the baseball field updates, and the quote for all repairs needed to get the field to where it should be is \$20,650.00 plus or minus 5%. The commissioners agreed that this would be far too much.

Commissioner Sawyer stated that she talked to Cam, one of the fathers of North Muskegon Youth Baseball Club, and that they're going to help the Commission the best they can to work together to get it fixed. Commissioner Murray stated that it's going to be a several year project.

In terms of the score board, the commissioners agreed that they would talk to Supervisor Jeske to see about having someone check to see if the scoreboard is working or has electricity.

The commissioners also discussed TruGreen fertilization, and agreed that they would only like the field fertilized three times this coming summer, leaving out crab grass preventer and weed killer for a year and skipping fertilization in August.

**3. Disc golf equipment**

The commission discussed whether or not the equipment had to be advertised, and Commissioner Murray stated that in the meeting with Supervisor Jeske, Clerk Rillema, and Attorney Kevin Even, it was stated that if the equipment is being sold to another government entity, there is no need to post the equipment as long as it's going for public use. The commissioners had a great deal of discussion regarding how much they would like to sell the equipment for. Commissioner Knopf stated that she would like things to be more formal and to get the most money and offers that they can get. Chairperson Svensson stated that the Commission has to decide whether the prime driver for selling the equipment is getting rid of the equipment or getting as much money as possible for it, also adding that they can always come down in price but can't increase it. Commissioner Knopf stated that there is nothing wrong with the Commission reaching out to other municipalities to gauge their interest and see what they'd be willing to pay for the equipment. The commissioners agreed to reach out to other municipalities.

**4. Park dedication**

Commissioner Murray reported on the extensive research Clerk Karolyn Rillema completed regarding the Township properties and parks, adding that she searched many pieces of material to find information. He added that the Township Board never officially dedicated any of the parks to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Knopf questioned whether there is actually a law stating that the land/parks have to be dedicated and if they were shown the law in the meeting. Commissioner Murray stated that it is, in fact, a law that the land has to be dedicated because of public use. Commissioner Knopf then stated that she has spoken to another attorney that stated that he/she doesn't know of any law requiring this. During discussions of Duck Lake Road Park, Commissioner Knopf questioned the Township stating that Duck Lake Road Park is only ten acres, and Commissioner Murray stated that there is nothing that has ever indicated that the park was 19.62 acres. Commissioner Knopf stated firmly that isn't true, adding that the fire barn and the maintenance buildings were put on Parks and Recreation property, and showed other commissioners on a drawing how she believes that theory doesn't make sense of it only being 9.62 acres. She added that they have been or are being lied to. Commissioner Knopf also stated that she doesn't like getting the information the night of the meeting. Commissioner Murray stated that they were only presenting the information, and the commissioners should take the information home, read through it carefully, and come to the next meeting with any questions or concerns regarding the information. For Nestrom Road Park, Commissioner Murray stated that it was never determined what part of the property is Township Hall and what part is for the park, adding that it has to be decided where the line is.

Commissioner Huch stated that the Commission should get a second opinion, and Commissioner Knopf added that the Township Attorney doesn't work for the Parks and Recreation Commission, that he works for the Township Board.

#### **5. Letter to residents**

Commissioner Murray stated that the decisions regarding the newsletter needed to be made at the meeting, and Chairperson Svensson stated that she doesn't agree. She said that the letter is not a secret and that the Commission is not making any decisions but just editing a letter that the residents will get to read anyway. Commissioner Knopf agreed. The commissioners discussed a few minor changes and will send any additional ideas via email.

#### **6. Meeting dates**

Commissioner Murray stated that the Commission should be deciding meeting dates and changes at meetings rather than via email so the Commission doesn't violate the Open Meetings Act. He added that the Commission has other people and things to consider, such as their recording secretary and other meetings and events that could be taking place at the Township Hall. Chairperson Svensson stated that she agrees, but some circumstances may require changes to be made after the meetings. The commissioners agreed to take a look at their calendars and decide what works best for everyone regarding work sessions. The idea of scheduling a work session every month and canceling as necessary was also mentioned. Commissioner Knopf stated that she would like to move the meeting date in April to the following Tuesday, adding that if their recording secretary couldn't be there, she can do the minutes.

The Commission also discussed the March meeting and that it conflicted with the Primary Election, and recording secretary Mary Mansfield stated that thought the election was on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The date was looked up they thought stated it is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion by Sue Sawyer, second from Herb Huch, **ADOPTED**, to move the March 2, 2020 meeting to March 4, 2020 at 5:30p.m.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

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

Commissioner Murray stated that the Commission has some big decisions coming up and advised everyone to study the information from Attorney Kevin Even and come to the meeting with any questions or concerns.

Chairperson Svensson stated that she will resend the ordinances and the Master Plan with edits to everyone for review for the March meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Herb Huch, second from Sue Sawyer, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the February 4, 2020 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:15 PM.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary