

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
February 7, 2022**

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

ABSENT: None.

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 February 7, 2022 agenda as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to accept the January 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes and the January 12, 2022 special meeting minutes as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

RECEIPTS:

Chairman Huch reported no receipts activity for January 2022.

DISBURSEMENTS:

Chairperson Huch reported disbursements activity as \$2,200.00 to Viridis Design Group for the Master Plan, \$116.00 to Ludington Daily News for the 30-day plan review, and \$145.00 to Ludington Daily News for the public hearing notice for total disbursements of \$2,461.00

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to pay total disbursements of \$2,461.00.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Budget/future projects

Chairman Huch reported that he got a quote for the raising and replacing the roofs on the dugouts to total \$5,600.00 for both dugouts. The commissioners agreed to budget \$3,000.00 for sprinklers on the baseball field. For discussions regarding a Trunk or Treat event at Nestrom Road Park, the commissioners decided to budget \$500.00 for necessary signage and items needed. Commissioner Murray suggested putting in extra cement on the side of the bleachers so it is wide enough for wheelchairs. The commissioners will look into additional costs for doing so. Floor covering for the playground will be necessary, and the commissioners agreed to budget \$1,000.00 for this item. The commissioners also discussed the potential access road into the park and agreed to look into this for the next budget. Cameras were also discussed, and it was agreed to budget \$1,000.00 for them. Commissioner Knopf questioned funding for Wooley Adelgid and gypsy moth spraying, and Commission Murray suggested setting money aside in the Specialty Fund for this. Chairman Huch reminded the group that the tennis courts are past their life expectancy, adding that they will need to be replaced eventually. He also said that it might be a better idea to do soon so that more money isn't thrown into them to replace them anyway. Other options were discussed, and Commissioner Murray reminded the commissioners that the reason the Master Plan was completed was to help getting funding and grants for bigger priced projects such as the tennis courts.

2. Master Plan

Commissioner Knopf informed the group of her discussion with Catherine Mulhaupt of the MTA. Things discussed were the issues of the Parks and Recreation Plan being a recreation plan and not a master plan. Commissioner Knopf also mentioned the 300-acre property adding that Catherine Mulhaupt has never seen something like that where the Township has jurisdiction over a recreational property and not the Parks and Recreation Commission and she questioned the legality and rationale behind it. Commissioner Knopf stated that Catherine Mulhaupt told her that in 30+ years, she's never seen something like this. Chairman Huch stated that he's heard the same things from individuals from the MTA. He also added that there needs to be a site plan with detailed information regarding where trails are going to be. Commissioner Murray stated that the Friends of Fruitland Township Trails does have a ten-year plan with everything laid out, adding that they have to go to the Township Board for approval for everything. Commissioner Knopf also added that she doesn't like the way things went down with the Recreation Plan, adding that with two no votes, the commissioners should have had a chance to further discuss the plan and changes before it was pushed through. She also added that she has seen mention on social media that the Commission wasted money, adding that she doesn't agree. Commissioner Knopf also said that she didn't see any changes were made that Commissioner Murray suggested, adding that many revisions would need to take place. Commissioner Murray said that from what he's seeing, everything has been changed. He added that the only change is handicap accessible picnic tables are available and the plan wasn't updated to reflect that. Commissioner Knopf stated that she things the Parks and Recreation Commission should have jurisdiction over the natural area, adding that she would like to request the Township Board dedicate the property to the Commission. She also said that if the Township Board will not dedicate it to the Parks and Recreation Commission, that it should not be mentioned in the Recreation Plan. Commissioner Murray suggested that all of the commissioners do their homework and highlight areas of the plan with errors, items they have reservations about, etc.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second by Mark Beegle, **ADOPTED**, that Lynn writes a letter formally requesting that the Township Board officially dedicate the 300 or so acres of the Natural Area to fall under the Parks and Recreation Commission's authority.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Communication to Township Board

This item was discussed and voted on during the Master Plan discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – informed the commissioners that by law, they are allowed \$63,066.33 for their budget. He mentioned that the commissioners should consider the ARPA funding, adding that it can be used as statutory government services, so they may be able to use part of the funding for their projects or work. In terms of cameras, he suggested that the Commission look into cameras that don't have to be taken down. Supervisor Marcinkowski added that if the Commission put Wi-Fi in the park, the cameras could be connected that way. He also added that with Wi-Fi, the commissioners could have a counter at the park to gauge activity. Supervisor Marcinkowski reminded the commissioners that they need three quotes for projects, adding that if they put a publication out regarding bids for projects and they only receive one, they can award the individual bid received. In terms of pest control, Supervisor Marcinkowski questioned why the commissioners don't add this to their budget with so many remaining items, asking them if they would like him to still add it to the Specialty Fund as a fail-safe.

In terms of the Recreation Plan, he mentioned to the Commission that they can request anything of the Township Board. He also stated that the Township Board received the opinion of the Township Attorney, Kevin Even, regarding the plan and the steps to take. Supervisor Marcinkowski added that a timeline was given to the commissioners in July of 2021 regarding the steps that needed to take place and for their plan and that he never received any complaints regarding the timeline itself. He also reported that the Recreation Plan has already been submitted to the DNR. Supervisor Marcinkowski added that now that the plan has been submitted, if something is mentioned in their plan, they can write a grant for it, such as the tennis courts. Commissioner Knopf asked Supervisor Marcinkowski if the Township Board pushed the plan through so that they could get grants for the Natural Area, mentioning that Township Trustee Lori Lundell made mention of it when the plan was pushed through. Chairman Huch stated that Terrie Hampel told him that now they can go for grants and a milage and Commissioner Knopf agreed that she said it in the Friends of Fruitland Township Trails meeting the Commission members attended. Supervisor Marcinkowski said that is not the reason. Supervisor Marcinkowski questioned if the golf courses, the State Park, other recreational facilities and venues that aren't under the Parks and Recreation Commission are going to also be taken out of the plan as well. Commissioner Knopf said that will be a consensus of the group.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mitenbuler said she questioned the Natural Area and who owned it. She said that it's become clear that it's under the jurisdiction of the Township Board. She added that the idea of it being dedicated to the Commission is great and if it's not, the Commission doesn't need to think about the Natural Area anymore.

Commissioner Murray stated that he also thought it was funny the Natural Area doesn't fall under the Parks and Recreation Commission. He added that there were some really rough years with past

Township Boards, adding that he likes the direction things have been going with the current Board and Commission. Commissioner Murray said that the two need to work together and keep moving forward in a positive direction.

Commissioner Beegle said it all comes back to the vote that the commissioners made. He also added that he doesn't want any hard feelings. Commissioner Beegle said that they need to figure out what they have jurisdiction and what is in their jurisdiction.

Chairman Huch thanked Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski for attending the meeting and also thanked Commissioner Knopf for all of her work.

Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield mentioned to the commissioners that a few years back, former Clerk Karolyn Rillema came to the commissioners with the choices of partnering with the Township Board, taking over jurisdiction of the property or having the Township Board take jurisdiction alone, and the commission at that time turned down taking jurisdiction of the property. She added that it isn't that the Township Board wasn't trying to exclude the Commission, but that is the way the Commission at the time voted to handle the Natural Area. Chairman Huch stated that it was previous boards, and Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield said that even still, the Commission would have to approach the Township Board for any change to take place.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the February 7, 2022 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:28 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary