

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

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Mark Beegle.

ALSO PRESENT: Three interested parties.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Huch called the meeting to order at 5:59p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to accept the March 7, 2022 agenda as written.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

MINUTES: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Bob Murray, *ADOPTED*, to accept the February 7, 2021 regular meeting minutes with changes mentioned.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

RECEIPTS:

Chairman Huch reported no receipts activity for February 2022.

DISBURSEMENTS:

Chairperson Huch reported disbursements activity as \$770.00 to Viridis Design Group for the Master Plan and \$145.00 to Ludington Daily News for the public hearing notice for total disbursements of \$915.00.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to pay total disbursements of \$915.00.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Budget/future projects

Chairman Huch discussed the importance of the tennis court maintenance, questioning if the Commission should move money in the proposed budget to cover the costs of maintaining them. Commissioner Knopf stated that she would rather not repair the courts and just let the residents know that the Commission is looking into total replacement. The commissioners ultimately agreed to fix the cracks for now so that the court is playable, moving \$1,500.00 from park signage, \$2,000.00 from tree maintenance, and \$4,000.00 from Nestrom Road Park drive repairs, for a total of \$7,500.00 for the tennis courts. It was also mentioned that a temporary fence of some sort should be placed behind the pickleball court for ease of playing, and Commissioner Knopf is going to contact a Facebook group she is a member of for their recommendations.

It was mentioned that the Sports 'N Shorts program is increasing the fee for the program to \$3,250.00. Chairman Huch questioned whether the commissioners were okay with this increase, and it was agreed that the program is valuable and everyone is okay with the increase. The commissioners agreed to move \$250.00 from fencing to move to Sports 'N Shorts.

Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield alerted the commissioners of an error in their proposed budget. She mentioned that as Supervisor Marcinkowski sent an email in February after their meeting reminding them that, by law, the Parks and Recreation Commission's budget cannot exceed \$63,066.33. Commissioner Murray did the calculation and mentioned that \$10,846.00 needs to be removed from the budget. Many ideas were discussed and the commissioners agreed to remove park signage for \$1,500.00, Nestrom Road Park drive repairs for \$4,000.00, the volleyball court for \$7,000.00 and fencing for \$6,500.00. The total proposed budget amount is \$62,163.00

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to accept the budget with the changes discussed.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

2. Letter to the Township Board

Commissioner Knopf said that from her understanding, the Township Board didn't discuss the Commission's request to dedicate the 300-acre Duck Creek Natural Area to them and tabled it. She also added that she called the individual in charge of grants within our area and was told the Commission could submit their own recreation plan and have Chairman Huch be the authorized official. Commissioner Knopf added that she thinks it would be a good idea to have a work session to have a phone conversation with this official from the DNR that approves the recreation plan and Catherine Mulhaupt to discuss the issues and get things straightened out. Chairman Huch stated that the Commission needs an official ruling on the Duck Creek Natural Area before proceeding. Commissioner Knopf stated that she would like to get it resolved within six months. It was asked if Catherine Mulhaupt could put her opinion in writing, and Commissioner Knopf stated that she would ask. Commissioner Knopf will be attending the Township Board work session to inform them of her conversations with experts in the field and urge them to make the move that the Duck Creek Natural Area is put under Parks and Recreation's jurisdiction.

3. Tennis net poles

Commissioner Murray informed the group that the tennis net posts increased in price.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to purchase one set of retro-fit tennis net poles for \$435.00.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

4. Spring walk

Commissioner Knopf stated that she would have Shawna Meyer complete two spring walks in April. Commissioner Murray reminded her that the billing has to be submitted for the walks prior to April.

NEW BUSINESS:**1. Wi-fi at Nestrom Road Park**

The commissioners discussed an email from Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski regarding Wi-Fi at Nestrom Road Park. The commissioners discussed whether or not they wanted to do it throughout the park or just at the pavilions, and the commissioners agreed that it would be best to do throughout the park.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second by Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to approve getting Wi-Fi through the entire park at Nestrom Road Park.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

2. Communication with Friends of Fruitland Township Trails

Commissioner Knopf stated that she would like to set up a formal communication with the Friends of Fruitland Township Trails group. She added that there are many questions that need to be answered in regards to their group. Commissioner Knopf stated that she would put together a draft letter. After much discussion, the commissioners decided they would wait to do anything until they find out of the Duck Creek Natural Area will be placed under the Parks and Recreation Commission's jurisdiction.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Norman Knopf, 5622 Duck Lake Road – reminded the commissioners that the parks are for the people. He added that the Commission has done a lot of work, but reminded them to continue doing work for the people.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Knopf thanked everyone for the work on the budget and mentioned that the group has gotten a lot done.

Commissioner Murray made mention of the gypsy moth letter that went out to the residents, adding that the deadline for applications is April 15th.

Chairman Huch thanked the audience for their attendance and thanked Commissioner Knopf for her extra work. He also added that he had contact with the baseball group, adding that it's going to be another good year with even more use. Chairman Huch also suggested to the group that they not lose sight of the handicap residents in their work.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the March 7, 2022 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:17 PM.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary