

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
April 4, 2022**

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

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Carlet Mitenbuler.

**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 April 4, 2022 agenda with the removal of “letter to the Township Board” from Unfinished Business.

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

**MINUTES:** Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Bob Murray, *ADOPTED*, to accept the March 7, 2022 regular meeting minutes with changes mentioned.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Mary Ann Bard, 1428 W. River Road – thanked the Commission and told them they are doing a good job. Added that the park is looking great.

**RECEIPTS:**

Chairman Huch reported no receipts activity for March 2022.

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Chairperson Huch reported no disbursements activity for March 2022.

**NOMINATION/ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Herb Huch nominated by Lynn Knopf, seconded by Mark Beegle

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

**NOMINATION/ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Bob Murray nominated by Herb Huch, seconded by Lynn Knopf

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

**NOMINATION/ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

Lynn Knopf nominated by Herb Huch, seconded by Mark Beegle

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****1. Budget**

Chairman Huch reported that he believes everything was approved by the Township Board. Commissioner Knopf suggested requesting an email from Clerk Breann Fagan to verify. Chairman Huch stated that he would like to begin with the dugout roofs, and Commissioner Murray stated that the scoreboard should be put in as soon as possible so that there is a working scoreboard for the baseball season. Chairman Huch stated that cement work is set for the beginning of May. Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield reminded the commissioners that for projects that are going to be completed, the Commission has to get three quotes for the work. Chairman Huch argued that the quote was already approved for the dugout roofs, and Mary stated that the Township Board only approved the amount put into the budget, not the individual quote that the Commission put forth. She again stated that three quotes are required according to rules and regulations. Mary also mentioned that Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski reminded the commissioners of the same at public comment at a previous meeting, adding that the only way around it is to request bids and if only one comes back, they have proof of that. Chairman Huch stated that he would look into this.

Commissioner Murray pointed out the Specialty Fund, adding that treatment for the trees would likely come from this account. He added that the Commission needs to make a request to the Township Board.

Chairman Huch stated that in terms of sprinklers, he spoke to someone that suggested cutting the lines and doing two zones to cut down on cost. He also said that he isn't well versed in security cameras, adding that there isn't a big rush to get them. In terms of TruGreen, Chairman Huch stated that he would like to look into it because it seemed too cheap, but Commissioner Murray reminded Chairman Huch that the Commission previous cut back on fertilizing because the baseball group is also doing some fertilizing.

**2. Hemlock woolly adelgid/gypsy moth treatment**

Commissioner Murray reminded the commissioners that Nestrom Road Park and the Township property portion of the park were sprayed for gypsy moths last year. He added that the park is 31.23 acres, which would cost the Commission \$2,029.95. Commissioner Murray stated that partnering with local lake property owners would get the acreage needed to spray.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to pay \$2,029.95 for the spraying of gypsy moths at Nestrom Road Park and to request that the Township Board approve for the money for the spraying comes out of the Specialty Fund.

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

Commissioner Murray stated that the quote received from the Muskegon Conservation District for the treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid is much higher than the quote received last year from Ottawa County. He added that Ottawa County was underquoted. Commissioner Murray reported that Nestrom Road Park has approximately 1,100 hemlock trees, adding that they don't all have to be done at once. His opinion is that the Commission should focus on the larger trees first, as they will be the most expensive to take down later. Discussions took place regarding the high cost of the survey, and Commissioner Murray informed the commissioners that the survey is very extensive, including measuring of the diameter of the trees, tagging, and tagging with GIS. He also added that the quote is generally higher on the estimate, but usually comes in less. Commissioner Murray also made the suggestion of only doing the trees from the crest of the hill to the lake, also possibly not doing trees under five inches in diameter. He also said that the Commission could put a cap on the amount they're willing to spend. Commissioner Mark Beegle made the suggestion of surveying trees five inches in diameter and above, but only treating trees ten inches in diameter and up. Commissioner Knopf suggested possibly having the maintenance staff to be certified to do it, but Commissioner Murray stated that special equipment would be needed for the work and that it would cost a great deal of money. Commissioner Beegle suggested cutting the amount of the quote in half and only completing that much of the park this year, and then completing more later on.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to tell the Muskegon Conservation District that we're willing to look at surveying trees only over five inches in diameter from the top of the hill going toward the lake and we're only willing to treat trees ten inches in diameter or larger.

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

Chairman Huch suggested doing a walkthrough of the park, and the commissioners agreed to do so during their May meeting, weather permitting.

### **3. Communication with Fruitland Trails**

Commissioner Knopf stated that since the Duck Creek Natural Area was not put under Parks and Recreation's jurisdiction, it's somewhat a moot point. She added that she would caution the Friends group with their trail cleaning event, adding that the group suggested in their invitation to bring pruning and power tools. Commissioner Murray stated that he attended the event last year, and only hand pruners and rakes were used. Commissioner Knopf also added that she would definitely suggest not completing any pruning after April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – clarified that the Commission is to seek three bids for projects they will be completing. He added that if the commissioners do their due diligence and don't receive three quotes, they would just have to include a letter stating this and attach it to the quote they do receive. Supervisor Marcinkowski reminded the commissioners that for gypsy moth spraying last year, it was only 28 acres of the park because the rest didn't include trees. The total for the work was \$1,820. He also stated that he likes the idea of splitting up the treatment for hemlock woolly adelgid. Supervisor Marcinkowski questioned if the Township will need an electrical contractor to hook up the scoreboard during installation.
2. Gee Achterhoff, 4830 Duck Lake Road – questioned whether there is a survey for the Duck Creek Natural Area, adding that she would hope individuals working on the property are careful not to go on the properties next to it.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Murray stated that in terms of the Duck Creek Natural Area, he would never accept that the area isn't a park. He said he did, however, understand that it does become a budget issue with the amount the Commission is allotted for their budget. He added that he is ready to move on and complete the Commission's projects.

Commissioner Beegle stated that he liked Mary Ann Bard's comment. He also thanked Commissioner Murray and Chairman Huch for all of their work.

Commissioner Knopf echoed Commissioner Murray's comments, adding that she hopes the topic of the Duck Creek Natural Area coming under Parks and Recreation's jurisdiction is looked at again if park amenities are added.

Chairman Huch thanked the guests for attending.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the April 4, 2022 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:50 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary