

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
December 2, 2019**

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Two interested parties.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Svensson called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**WELCOME GUESTS**

**AGENDA:** Motion by Sue Sawyer, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to amend and accept the agenda to include an update on the meeting with Supervisor Jeske and work session discussion under new business accept the December 02, 2019.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**MINUTES:** Motion by Sue Sawyer, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to approve the November 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom Road – mentioned that the tape on the donation box for the disc golf course is coming off. Also mentioned the mess someone made of the soccer field by doing doughnuts.

**RECEIPTS:**

None.

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Update on tree trimming and funding**

Commissioner Murray stated the money was approved to be moved to complete the tree trimming project, and the work was completed by Kyle Jelinek. Chairperson Svensson reminded the commissioners that before any work is started or completed, a W9 and Certificate of Liability Insurance needs to be turned into the Township Hall.

**2. 2020 budget proposals**

Commissioner Knopf mentioned possibly adding another walk through of the park to the proposed budget. She will be getting an idea for the cost of the walk through. Chairperson Svensson reminded the group that she will be bringing a list of proposals to the Township Board work session.

In regards to the survey results, Chairperson Svensson mentioned that the hope was to send them out with the tax bills. She added that they could still send a special mailing. The commissioners agreed to keep \$700 in the budget for mailings for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Commissioner Sawyer reported information shared by Jack Seaver of Seaver's Lawn Service regarding the ball field. He told her that approximately \$3,000-\$4,000 would be needed to get the field where it needs to be. Mr. Seaver also suggested that the field receive three fertilizations, with the suggestions of May, August and November, but without using pesticides. Chairperson Svensson questioned whether the field is adequate as it is, adding that she wonders if it would be necessary to charge groups to use the field if they will be spending that kind of money to update it. She added that she doesn't like the idea of charging to use the field, and Commissioner Huch agreed. Commissioner Knopf suggested that the group find out how to maintain the field, regardless of how it needs to be maintained, and then go from there. There was a question by Chairperson Svensson as to whether the field maintenance could be something completed by Maintenance Supervisor Brock. Commissioner Sawyer will be calling a few different entities to get information about maintaining the field.

For Contracting Community Service, the commissioners agreed to budget for the full \$3,000.00 amount for Sports 'N Shorts. The walk through of the park would also fall under this category.

For printing and publishing, Chairperson Svensson questioned how much of the budget has been used for publishing, and Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield mentioned that Clerk Rillema would be able to give her this information.

For Repairs and Maintenance, the commissioners agreed that \$3,000.00 would be what is requested for the 2020-21 fiscal year. They agreed to keep \$700.00 in the budget for tennis court crack repairs. The money for the steps on the stairways is being removed, as there are still additional materials left, if needed. They commissioners agreed to increase park signage to \$1,000.00, stating that all signs need to be replaced. They also agreed to increase tree trimming to \$3,500.00, and ball field maintenance to \$1,000.00.

For Capital Improvements, the commissioners discussed trail benches and whether or not to purchase additional benches. During discussions, it was suggested to move some of the existing benches that were on the disc golf course, Chairperson Svensson suggested possibly using some of the pads on the former course for the benches. Commissioner Huch stated that he would like to see all of the pads from the course removed, and he would like to see a trail created with educational opportunities for kids. Commissioner Murray stated that he is completely behind that idea.

In regards to security cameras, Commissioner Murray stated that he talked to Maintenance Supervisor Brock about some small cameras that can be purchased on Amazon. He stated that the cameras connect to the Township Wifi, and that alerts would go to someone's smart phone when there was activity. The commissioners agreed to look into purchasing the camera this year, also leaving the \$250.00 budgeted for the 2020-21 fiscal year in case the cameras work well and they'd like to purchase more.

The commissioners agreed to budget \$500.00 for the shuffleboard and horseshoe area. They also discussed the idea of clearing the beach area at Nestrom Road Park, budgeting \$1,000.00 for this work. Commissioner Murray also mentioned needing new grills and permanent tables at Nestrom Road Park, and Commissioner Huch will be getting information for stainless steel.

The commissioners discussed adding a line item for fencing and fence repair. Commissioner Murray stated that he would like to look at the possibility of fencing in the area next to the parking lot of the Township Hall, and he will be getting quotes for this. The commissioners also agreed to include

\$500.00 for pavilion maintenance, and Commissioner Knopf will be getting information from Kerkstra for possibly getting a portable restroom for Marcus Park and if there will be an increase in fees for the upcoming fiscal year. The commission will also request a survey of each of the parks on their new fiscal year budget.

The commissioners discussed the survey results. Commissioner Murray thanked Chairperson Svensson, adding that it looks like it was a lot of work. Commissioner Huch added that the Commission is knocking out the list of items requested on the surveys, adding that disc golf is out and he doesn't think the Commission should even look at it. Chairperson Svensson added that disc golf at Nestrom Road Park is a done deal, but stated that it could happen if they could find an appropriate, non-intrusive and safe place for the sport. Commissioner Murray agreed that it needs its own place. Commissioner Huch said that only two people in the Township play disc golf, and questioned putting stock into the 33 comments that were in the surveys. After discussions, the commissioners agreed to present the survey results to the Township Board. Commissioner Huch came back to say that he doesn't think that the survey results should be presented to the Township Board. He stated that some of the members on the board want to see disc golf come back and will take the survey results and run with it. Commissioner Huch added that it's going to add fuel to the fire that's not needed, and stated that he thinks the Commission should leave the results off of the report.

### **3. Future grant proposals**

Nothing for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

### **4. Review draft ordinance**

Commissioner Knopf stated that the Commission needs to add "no pets allowed on ball field" to the ordinance. Commissioner Knopf will call the sheriff's department regarding the ordinance and enforcement. Commissioner Huch stated that the Township Attorney is the one to enforce the ordinance, and that if he's not sharp to find someone else.

### **5. Review draft of Master Plan**

Commissioner Knopf gave the commission a list of what needs to happen with and for the master plan. Chairperson Svensson questioned why so many items outside of their jurisdiction are listed in the plan, and Commissioner Murray stated that the plan includes all recreation opportunities. Commissioner Knopf questioned what the Commission's roll will be in the 300+ acres behind the fire barn, and Chairperson Svensson stated that she's not entirely sure and will find out at the work session.

### **6. Update on the meeting with Supervisor Jeske**

Chairperson Svensson gave the commissioners a list of items discussed at her Meeting with Supervisor Jeske. She stated that the tennis and soccer nets are all down. Commissioner Murray stated that he met with Maintenance Supervisor Brock to show him the proper way to do so.

Commissioner Knopf stated that in terms of the natural area, there is plenty of room next to the maintenance building for a new drive, adding that the Commission was promised a new drive when they sold two acres of Duck Lake Road Park to the White Lake Fire Authority. The group questioned as to what is expected of them with the natural area, and Chairperson Svensson stated that she was left unsure after the meeting. Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield sat in on a portion of the meeting and stated that the goal is to collaborate and work together for the area, and that is what she understood to be requested at the meeting between Supervisor Jeske and Chairperson Svensson. Chairperson Svensson suggested that the Township Board needs to approach the Parks and Recreation Commission if they would like their input.

**7. Work session**

The commissioners agreed to try to work out a date for a December Work Session. Chairperson Svensson will be sending an email to the other commissioners regarding possible dates for the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom Road – suggested that if the Commission is going to create a new trail system at Nestrom Road Park, that stumps need to be removed for safety reasons. She also mentioned that the Township Board was not happy with the PINS Officer and Ordinance Enforcer they had, and that both have since been replaced. She added that the new PINS Officer has had a lot of presence at the park, adding that they might be able to utilize him to close the gate. In terms of the Commission clearing the beach at Nestrom Road Park, she recommended that the shrubs on the beach might be keeping sand on the beach, adding that the commissioners should take this into consideration before moving forward. She also mentioned that there used to be flush toilets at the park that were vandalized, so she isn't sure that will ever be an option to come back. Mitenbuler added that the Commission should be included in decisions that are made for the natural area. She also added that she has discussed the ordinances and enforcement with the Sheriff's Department and they told her that ordinances need to be posted as signs to be enforced. Some discussion began to take place between Commissioner Huch and Carlet Mitenbuler, and Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield had to remind the Commission of the proper protocol for public comment.
2. Terrie Hampel, 6171 Duck Lake Road – commended the Commission on how well they're doing on the tasks being completed. She also apologized if her personal opinion is being confused with that of the Township Board. She added that a decision needs to be made soon regarding the natural area, adding that the Parks and Recreation Commission should have input, also suggesting a potential joint meeting between the two groups.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Sawyer stated that there is still a lot to be done.

Commissioner Murray mentioned that the group has officially been working together for a year, and that he is proud of the work they've done. He thanked the other commissioners.

Chairperson Svensson stated that she would like to see more communication between all entities in the Township, adding that they are all on the same side.

Commissioner Huch stated that the group has made good progress and that they have cleaned up a mess. He added that the Commission is a good group.

Commissioner Knopf stated that it's been a very productive, good year for the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Sue Sawyer, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the December 2, 2019 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:30 PM.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary