

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
January 3, 2017**

PRESENT: Chairperson Lynn Knopf, Commissioner Greg Barrett, Commissioner Brian Mathiot, Commissioner Thomas Tisue, and Commissioner Mark Williamson.

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Knopf called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS Trustee Terrie Hampel was in attendance.

AGENDA: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Mark Williamson, *ADOPTED*, to amend and accept the January 3, 2017 agenda to include "Boy Scout Eagle Badge Project" under New Business and to include "Planning Grand Workshop" and Recreation Plan Submission under Old Business.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT

MINUTES: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Mark Williamson, *ADOPTED*, to accept the October 3, 2016 regular meeting minutes.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Terrie Hampel welcomed the new commissioners. She also added that the County Recreation Authority meeting will be taking place tomorrow, and that she will be going in order to represent the board.

RECEIPTS:

No receipts for October, November, or December 2016.

DISBURSEMENTS:

Chairperson Knopf reported disbursements activity as \$165.00 to Kerkstra, \$44.92 to Lowe's, \$110.25 to Scheid Plumbing, \$55.00 to Tru-Green, and \$42.50 to Holly's IR for total disbursements of \$252.67 for the months of October, November and December 2016.

Motion by Mark Williamson, second from Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to pay total disbursements of \$252.67.

*Roll Call Vote: Mathiot-Aye, Tisue-Aye, Barrett-Aye,
Williamson-Aye, Knopf-Aye*

NEW BUSINESS:**1. Introduction of New Members**

Chairperson Knopf stated that she included this in the agenda so that everyone could give a little background of who they are, and what interested them in joining the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Mathiot stated that he has been a resident of the township for 17 years. He added that he helped with the Scenic Road re-work project, as well as the McMillan Road end project. He said that what interested him in joining the board is what can be done within the township.

Commissioner Tissue stated that he has been a resident for 11 years. He added that he is an environmental chemist, and his interest and concern is keeping our environment healthy.

Commissioner Barrett stated that he has been a resident for 16 years. His interests include getting a bike path placed on Scenic Drive, a disk golf course, and keeping the ball field going at Nestrom Road Park.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he has been a resident for 24 years. He added that he came onto the commission last January and plans to stay committed to it. His motivation to be a member is to improve Fruitland Township the best way he can. His interests include Nestrom Road Park, Marcus Park and Duck Lake Road Park.

Chairperson Knopf stated that she has been spending her summers on Duck Lake since 1990, and has been a resident for quite some time. She added that she initially ran for Township Trustee, and once she was defeated, she was approached about a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Knopf stated that she started as a commissioner, and has been the Chairperson for approximately a year.

2. Vice Chair Vacancy

Chairperson Knopf stated that there is a vacancy of the Vice Chair position on the Commission, and that it needs to be voted on.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to appoint Commissioner Williamson as Vice Chair for the Commission.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT

Chairperson Knopf added that because Commissioner Williamson was previously the Secretary of the Commission, someone will need to be voted into this position as well.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Mark Williamson, **ADOPTED**, to appoint Commissioner Mathiot as the Secretary for the Commission.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT

3. Baseball Field Maintenance

Chairperson Knopf stated that Steve Urban, a previous Parks and Recreation commissioner, has taken care of the Nestrom Road Park baseball field for many years, that he is retiring and giving up the project. Commissioner Williamson added that it has been 17 years of care that Steve Urban has provided, and although he tried talking him into continuing the care, Steve is no longer interested. One concern is that the field is underutilized. Mark added that the field needs to be promoted, and possibly start tournaments at the park.

Commissioner Mathiot questioned what kind of upkeep is needed, and Chairperson Knopf stated that she has tried getting an inventory from Steve Urban, but that she has been unsuccessful. Commissioner Mathiot stated that it has probably been hard for Steve Urban to give a detailed description because it has been his passion and heart. Chairperson Knopf also added that the commission needs to work on the upcoming budget, and that the work that Steve has done previously needs to be included. Commissioner Williamson stated that he's sure we can get Tru-Green to take care of the field since they are already fertilizing it and taking care of other areas for the Township. Commissioner Mathiot suggested checking around as well, as he has used another company for his home in the past and the cost is much more reasonable.

Commissioner Mathiot added that it is hard to put money into something when it is underutilized, and Chairperson Knopf said that it's not something the commission can just let go. Commissioner Mathiot said that he has a friend that is very involved with the Little Vikes and added that he will speak with the friend to see about interest in using the ball field at Nestrom Road Park.

The commission has agreed to looking into what upkeep is needed and what fees will be included as well.

4. Boy Scout Eagle Badge Project

Chairperson Knopf stated that she received a call from Clerk Karolyn Rillema with a young man interested in doing a project for the township in order to earn his Boy Scout Eagle Badge. She added that she has a few ideas. One idea included 4 x 4 posts to show where the walkways and trails are located throughout the township that the commission requested to do last year's budget. Commissioner Williamson asked when the young man needs to know what he's doing, and Chairperson Knopf stated that he has to know what he'll be doing by the middle to end of the week.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Items for 2017-2018 Budget

Chairperson Knopf stated that a lot of townships offer comment boxes at their parks, and she thinks it would be a good idea to include them at each pavilion at Nestrom Road Park, as well as one at Marcus Park. Commissioner Barrett questioned what the cost would be, and she responded that when she looked into having them made last year, the cost was \$175 for three boxes. Commissioner Mathiot admitted that a comment box is not something he would personally use, that he would instead go directly to the township regarding any issues he had.

Commissioner Barrett questioned whether it would be a good idea to advertise the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings on these comment boxes, and Commissioner Williamson stated that he would use the township E-News to do such a thing, which is something he would like to have the commission included in. After much discussion, the commissioners agreed that

signs with an email or possible future Facebook page would be more beneficial and with the times, and that they would look into the possibility of creating or having a Facebook page created.

Chairperson Knopf stated that another project would be the tennis courts at Nestrom Road Park. She added that the courts are blocked off due to the fences, and that she would like to have pieces of the fence cut out for easier access. Another project she added is the parking at Marcus Park. Chairperson Knopf stated that this is one large area of complaint for residents. She added that a permit has to be applied for to get dolomite down to the park, and the permit itself is \$600.00. There are very specific requirements for the permit as well. Chairperson Knopf stated that the application is 18 pages, and she already has pictures and diagrams to include with it. Commissioner Tisue stated that he has surveying tools and would be more than willing to help with measurements of the area.

Chairperson Knopf said that the pavilions at Nestrom Road Park are an area of concern because they are very old and not in good condition. She said she is interested in getting bids to have work done on them, and that she would send the information out to the commissioners to receive help. Chairperson Knopf admitted that although it will be a very costly project for the commission, she feels that it is important and needs to be completed.

2. Planning Grant Workshop

Chairperson Knopf stated that because the Township Board would like the Parks and Recreation Commission to focus much of their attention and budget on Nestrom Road Park, she would like to apply for a grant in order to receive the funds to help with projects at the park. She added that a grant workshop is taking place, and she will be passing information along to the commissioners in case they are interested in attending.

Commissioner Mathiot stated that he has a friend who is a grant writer, and that he would talk to her about possibly writing the grant for the commission.

3. Recreation Plan Submission

Chairperson Knopf stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission Recreation Plan needs to be submitted by March 1st.

UPDATES: None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the January 3, 2017 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 8:30 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary