

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
March 2, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Steve Urban, Commissioner Mary Nagengast, Commissioner Lynn Knopf and Commissioner Robert Zoellmer

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Laura Shields

**ALSO PRESENT:** Township Liaison Terrie Hampel

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairperson Urban called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Recording Secretary Anne Thomsma administered the oath of office to Robert Zoellmer. Mr. Zoeller was appointed by the Fruitland Township Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on January 20, 2015 to fill the vacancy on the Commission. His term will expire in November 2016.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**WELCOME GUESTS**

Commissioner Urban welcomed Brad Shafer and his son, Tyler of 5595 Wabaningo to the meeting.

**AGENDA:** Commissioner Knopf asked to amend the agenda to add her to the discussion of the Trail Plan in regards to the Master Plan.  
Motion by Mary Nagengast, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to accept the amended March 2, 2015 agenda.  
*Voice Vote: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT*

**MINUTES:** Motion by Mary Nagengast, second from Rob Zoellmer, **ADOPTED**, to accept the December 1, 2014 regular meeting minutes.  
*Voice Vote: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Terrie Hampel, 6171 Duck Lake Road stated she is a cheerleader for the Parks and Recreation Commission. She also apologized, as Board liaison, for pushing to have an early delivery of the Parks and Rec Master Plan to the Township Board of Trustees, as the plan is not complete and ready for Board approval. The Board has tabled a vote as they feel it needs to come back to the Commission for revisions and completion. She would like to see the Master Plan driven by this Commission with input from all members and having a clear time-table for finishing the plan. She encouraged the Commission to delve into the recreation opportunities available in Fruitland Township; to be pro-active in their work of building up Township parks and also recreational programs at the parks; and to be collaborative and develop partnerships with other agencies. She has a listing of some agencies she feels we could partner with successfully. She finally would recommend that the Commission set up some volunteer committees to do some of the work for the Commission.

**RECEIPTS:**

Vice Chairperson Urban reported receipts activity as Township Park pavilion rental, for total receipts of \$50.00 for the months of December 2014 and January 2015.

Motion by Steve Urban, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to accept receipts for \$50.00 for the months of December 2014 and January 2015.

**Roll Call Vote: Zoellmer-Aye, Knopf-Aye, Nagengast-Aye, Urban-Aye, I Absent**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Budget Amendments**

Motion by Steve Urban, second from Mary Nagengast, to amend the 2014/2015 Parks and Rec budget to increase Revenue Account #101-000-667.000 Township Park Pavilion Rental in the amount of \$15.00 and also to increase Fund Appropriations Account #101-691-707.000 Part Time Wages in the amount of \$5.00.

**Roll Call Vote: Urban-Aye, Nagengast-Aye, Knopf-Aye, Zoellmer-Aye, I Absent**

##### **Grants for Parks Projects**

Lynn Knopf reported she went to a few presentations by the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. She passed out some information that she printed off their website regarding grants. She stated she would like to see the Commission apply for a grant at the next go-round, which means the grant proposal is due to the Foundation in August of 2015 and announcements of the awarded grants will be in November 2015. She reviewed the process to apply for the grants. She is asking if the Commission feels she should get started with the process, which would be putting the Parks and Rec Commission profile on the Foundation website. After some discussion it was decided that each Commissioner would bring one or more ideas/wish list for grants to the next scheduled meeting.

Rob Zoellmer stated he went to a DNR presentation on grants. Most of the grants are for land procurement but development grants get priority. The DNR website has a link showing guidelines and requirements for the grants and the amounts, along with a PDF showing due dates, etc. Proposals are due to the DNR by March 1<sup>st</sup>, so we would be looking at ideas for next year to present in a proposal. Rob believes that Fruitland Township, back in 1984, received a DNR grant for Nestrom Road Park to build the pavilion, ballfield, shuffleboards, courts, etc.

Lynn Knopf said she spoke with Connie Maxine at the county regarding getting a multipurpose trail in Fruitland Township. Connie mentioned that there is a big push to get bike/multipurpose trails in Muskegon County. Connie stated that Fruitland Township and Muskegon Heights are the only areas in Muskegon County that do not have bike trails in them. Muskegon Heights is putting in a trail using the old railroad lines. Connie stated that in order for grant money to be allocated, there has to be Township support and it has to be shown that the Township supports the idea as part of the Parks and Rec Master Plan. The grants committee also likes to see collaboration between the various groups (i.e., multipurpose trail group and the Township, etc.) Lynn would like to see the Parks and Rec Master Plan showing collaboration between themselves and other groups. She said that would be very helpful to get the multipurpose trail in Fruitland Township and that since the township does not have a multipurpose or bike trail, it would be in a good position to receive a grant to make the trail a reality.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Master Plan – Liaison Terrie Hampel stated that the Township Board does not feel that the Parks and Rec Commission Master Plan is completed yet and will not be reviewing and commenting on it until it is completed. Steve Urban went over old minutes and stated that this Commission had pushed to get the Master Plan completed and sent to the Township Board by December of 2014. The reasoning behind this was to give plenty of time to make corrections, etc. and get Township Board approval by December of 2015. He stated that the last time the Master Plan was completed, it took 8 or 9 months to get everything

revised and approved by the Township Board. Liaison Hampel stated that the Master Plan does not meet the DNR guidelines. There was discussion of wanting to do a survey to bring up-to-date public input into the survey. Also, the Commission needs to look at a timeline to get the Master Plan completed and sent to the Township Board for comments, which may or may not include a survey. The recommendation was made to bring ideas for gathering public opinion on the Master Plan to the next Parks and Rec meeting in April. The Commission members were also asked to bring one or two questions they would like to see on a survey.

**UPDATES:****COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Lynn Knopf wanted to clarify that at the last meeting she made the motion to change some of the wording to the Master Plan document. She wants it recorded that she did not mean to state that she felt Marcus Park would be exempt from the Critical Dunes Act. She feels that removing the sand and debris from the current shoulder/parking area to allow for parking on the shoulder of the road, like at the State Park, would not violate the Critical Dunes Act. If a parking area were to be created, then that would impact the dunes, whereas, if only cleaning up along the road shoulder, that would not violate the CDA. We would not be moving sand, just cleaning off the shoulder of the road.

She also wanted to clarify that while she did make the motion at the December meeting to the Master Plan, she has had time to rethink one of the wording changes. She does not agree with the recommendation of removing the first sentence under Section 7, page 22 under Township Trail System. She would like, instead, to see the sentence read: "One of the major specific improvements desired by the survey respondents was a Township trail system", as this is what survey respondents had requested and she feels it is important to keep in the Master Plan.

The Commissioners welcomed Rob Zoellmer to the Commission and stated they are happy to have him serving and look forward to working with him.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Mary Nagengast, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the March 2, 2015 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 8:12 PM.

*Voice Vote: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT*

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Thomasma, Recording Secretary