

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
March 5, 2018**

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Williamson, Commissioner Greg Barrett, Commissioner Thomas Tisue, Commissioner Brian Mathiot and Commissioner Maribeth Picard

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: A number of interested parties.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Mark Williamson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS A number of interested parties.

AGENDA: Motion by Maribeth Picard, second from Brain Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to accept the March 5, 2018 agenda as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

MINUTES: Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Greg Barrett, **ADOPTED**, to accept the February 5, 2018 regular meeting minutes.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Bob Murray, 5582 Duck Lake Road – questioned why the commissioners continue to ignore top experts and questioned whether or not the commission is going to follow the guidelines this year.
2. Robert Penny, 5830 Duck Lake Road – mentioned several experts giving opinions on the risk at Nestrom Road Park for Oak Wilt disease, and how it can be controlled and prevented. He questioned why the letter from the DNR hasn't been discussed.
3. Aaron Mitchell – professional disc golfer who travels all over the United States and has never seen any disc golf courses closed due to Oak Wilt.
4. Garry McKeen, 3600 E. Scenic Woods Circle – enjoys disc golf, but is concerned for the course at Nestrom Road Park. He stated that we aren't going to stop the disease from coming, so we have to protect the trees.
5. Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom Road – stated that all promises made regarding the disc golf course have been broken, and that the course was not delivered as promised. Mitenbuler questioned what the commission was going to do with the critical period approaching.
6. Lynn Knopf, 4328 Mystic Lane –questioned how the Commission is going to provide funds for Oak Wilt if it should occur. She questioned how the tree trimming quote ballooned to \$2,500.00 and whether it included trees on the Disc Golf Course.
7. Hoyt Fonger, 5538 Duck Lake Road – very concerned about Oak Wilt. Fonger added that the Parks and Recreation Commission will be accountable if the trees in Nestrom Road Park get Oak Wilt disease, and that they have a chance to stop or prevent it.
8. Amy Bedau, 601 Hansen Street – grew up in Fruitland Township. Nestrom Road Park was hardly used before the installation of the Disc Golf Course. She loves that the course brings more people to the area, and hopes that others become more accepting.

RECEIPTS:

Chairman Williamson reported receipts activity as disc golf donations in the amount of \$9.75 for the month February 2018.

Motion by Mark Williamson, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to accept receipts for \$9.75 from Disc Golf donations for the month of February 2018.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

DISBURSEMENTS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**1. Stafford tree trimming**

Chairman Williamson stated that the tree trimming Stafford's will be completing will be in the park proper, not on the Disc Golf Course. He added that the reason the quote has increased is due to more trimming than just around the pavilion, and that multiple tree limbs hanging throughout the park that could pose a threat will be removed. Chairman Williamson stated that no trees on the course will be trimmed or removed. Commissioner Barrett stated that as soon as weight restrictions are lifted, Stafford's is ready to proceed.

2. Natural resource survey

Commissioner Tisue stated that he would like to go back to have the quote revised to only reflect Nestrom Road Park. He added that he would like to see an inventory of natural features and an evaluation of health. Commissioner Tisue stated that he would like guidance for the Commission on critical issues as well, as it is hard to manage what they have. Chairman Williamson agreed with Commissioner Tisue, adding that the Commission can't just stop at the study, but should add in an educational component. He said he will talk with Shawna Meyer to see about getting a proposal and quote together. Both Commissioner Tisue and Chairman Williamson stated that they would both get quotes to include only Nestrom Road Park.

Commissioner Mathiot stated that there are many frustrations on both sides, adding that the commission needs to do what is necessary moving forward. Commissioner Williamson agreed.

3. Park Guidelines

Motion by Mark Williamson, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to accept the new park guidelines as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

NEW BUSINESS**1. Tree guard design**

Chairman Williamson presented a potential tree guard for the trees on the Disc Golf Course that would be designed like a picket fence, approximately 12-16 feet high, that would be placed 1-2 feet in front of the trees. He added that they would be placed on seven-foot metal posts that would be driven into the ground. Chairman Williamson added that the cost per tree guard would be

approximately \$50-\$60. As Chairman Williamson was discussing blocking or cutting down trees, he mentioned that Shawna Meyer and Dallas Goldberg both made the recommendation to remove some trees. Commissioner Picard questioned how many would be removed, and if the trees can be protected or guarded before the critical April 15th date. Chairman Williamson said that they could do so, but that an inventory of the park would need to be completed. Commissioner Barrett added that he and Chairman Williamson attempted to do so, but that the ribbons the two had in place were removed. Commissioner Tisue stated that he doesn't have an objection to protecting and/or removing trees, but he objects to the commissioners making the decision. He recommended having it completed by an arborist. Commissioner Mathiot agreed, questioning also why they couldn't just repair damaged trees rather than remove them. Commissioner Tisue and Chairman Williamson agreed to contact Shawna Meyer to inventory the park.

In discussion about the tree guards, the commission agreed to giving the new guard a try, and that it should be constructed prior to the inventory being completed. Commissioner Mathiot stated that the commission should invest in the first tree guard to see if it's going to be acceptable, and they all agreed to funding the tree guard.

2. Resolution 2018-01 Conveyance of Duck Lake Road Park to White Lake Fire Authority

Motion by Mark Williamson, second from Tom Tisue, **ADOPTED**
Resolution 2018-01 – Conveyance of Duck Lake Road Park to the
White Lake Fire Authority.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

3. 2018-19 Budget

The commission agreed to have Chairman Williamson go back to the Township Board to see about increasing the budget for the natural resource survey to \$3,000.00.

UPDATES:

None.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Tisue stated that he had some questions for the park use survey, and he distributed the questions to the commissioners for review. He also read a statement indicating that he is opposed to Nestrom Road Park Disc Golf Course being open and used for play during the critical period. Commissioner Tisue stated that if he knew before what he knows now, he wouldn't have voted for the course to be put at Nestrom Road Park. He added that the commission was given incomplete and possibly misleading information from the disc golf course designers and supporters, including Commissioner Barrett and Brian Mulnix. He ended by saying that play on the course should cease until the issues can be properly addressed.

Chairman Williamson stated that for the last two to three weeks, he's been bombarded with emails and he has been responding. He added that when he responds, replies are coming back with more aggression, which is borderline harassment. He asked that everyone have tact when emailing regarding the issues, stated that it needs to be constructive, and that he will respond when he can.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mark Williamson, second from Tom Tisue, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the March 5, 2018 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:36 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary