

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
April 1, 2019**

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Five interested parties.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Svensson called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Herb Hugh, second from Sue Sawyer, *ADOPTED*, to accept the April 1, 2019 agenda as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Murray, second from Herb Huch, *ADOPTED*, to approve the February 28, 2019 work session minutes and the March 4, 2019 regular meeting minutes as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

RECEIPTS:

None.

DISBURSEMENTS:

Chairperson Svensson reported disbursements activity as \$1,000.00 to Shawna Meyer for the Natural Resource Survey, \$1,216.55 to Lowe's for lumber for the stairs at Nestrom Road Park, \$1,850.00 to Midway Sheet Metal for bleachers, \$344.00 to Goal Kick Soccer for soccer nets, and \$237.98 to Northern Tool for a grill, for total disbursements of \$4,648.53.

Motion by Herb Huch, second from Bob Murray, *ADOPTED*, to pay total disbursements of \$4,648.53.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Roll Call Vote: Knopf-Aye, Huch-Aye, Svensson-Aye, Murray-Aye, Svensson-Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**1. Acknowledgement of 2019-2020 budget**

Chairperson Svensson reported that with the exception of Sports N Shorts and the playground, the budget was approved. She added that \$1,500.00 was given for Sports N Shorts and \$17,500.00 was given for playground equipment. Commissioner Knopf questioned what the objection was for Sports N Shorts, and Chairperson Svensson stated that it was the same argument of not enough Fruitland Township residents using the program. Chairperson Svensson stated that this may be going off hearsay rather than actual data, and that it would be good to gather data from the program to back up their findings.

2. Potential work session to walk Nestrom Park for assessment and plan timeline for improvements

There was no opposition from any commissioners to have a work session to do a walk-through of the park.

Motion by Sue Sawyer, second from Herb Huch, **ADOPTED**, to schedule a work session to do a walk-through of Nestrom Road Park.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

3. Informational mailing to residents

Chairperson Svensson reported that they will determine what information to send out to residents and will discuss this topic at their next work session. Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield mentioned that there have been quite a few calls coming into the Township Hall regarding the Disc Golf Course and what is happening with the closure, and that Supervisor Jeske said that it would be a good idea to put something in the E-News mailing in regards to the closure. Chairperson Svensson asked if the office staff could record the number of calls coming in, including names and numbers of individuals. More details regarding the communication of the closure will be discussed at the work session.

4. Completion of the steps and bleachers

Commissioner Murray stated that he received the lumber delivery and everything was accounted for with the exception of being short spindles. He added that they would be receiving those as well.

Chairperson Svensson asked the commissioners to start keeping track of all extra hours they work on projects outside of the realm of their positions. She added that if this number is large enough, they may be able to request more hours from the Township Maintenance Supervisor in the next budget.

Commissioner Murray stated that when he came to the Township Hall last week, he discussed the bleachers being in incorrect places and that he would like to see them moved. He added that the Maintenance Supervisor moved the bleachers without him asking and that they are now in the correct placement. Commissioner Huch added that the metal to complete the work on the bleachers will be here soon.

Chairperson Svensson stated that she would like to send thank you cards to volunteers. Commissioner Knopf added that all volunteers should be filling out waivers.

Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield mentioned the Parks and Recreation portion of the Fruitland Township website, adding that there is a section for volunteers with numbers of past commissioners to contact for different projects. Chairperson Svensson stated that it is okay to take this information off of the website, adding that the commissioners will discuss what they would like to have on the page at their work session.

5. Update on seasonal closing of Disc Golf Course

The commissioners reported that the Disc Golf Course sign has been removed, and notice of the closure has been posted. Commissioner Murray stated that a quick inventory of the baskets was taken when they were put into storage, and he submitted the sheet to Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield to place on record at the Township Hall.

6. Purchase and placements of cameras

Chairperson Svensson stated that the cameras are not just for security, but to monitor the park and its use as well. Continued discussion regarding cameras will take place at the work session.

7. Update on grant applications

Commissioner Knopf stated that working on the Master Plan and having that completed will give the Commission the chance to have their profile approved by the State of Michigan. Discussion took place regarding different grants through the Community Foundation, with the addition of being in communication with contacts at the Community Foundation to connect with them before applying for grants.

8. Review and revision of Master Plan with an articulation of mission, goals and objectives

Chairperson Svensson stated that it would be beneficial to divide and review the sections individually and then bring their ideas and opinions to a meeting. Commissioner Knopf will review sections one and two, Commissioner Huch will review sections three and four, Chairperson Svensson will review sections five and six, Commissioner Sawyer will review sections seven and eight, and Commissioner Murray will review section nine.

9. Specific goals and objectives for 2019

Chairperson Svensson reported that some of these were set with the 2019-2020 budget. She added that the commissioners need to do a walk through of the park first. Commissioner Huch added that this needs to be done, and that they need to itemize everything, take pictures, and take an inventory of what needs to be completed. The Commission decided to discuss this at their work session and complete the project during their walk through.

10. Natural Resource Survey progress

Chairperson Svensson stated that she received information from Shawna that she should have her information completed and to the Commission as early as the beginning of April. Chairperson Svensson asked if any of the commissioners would like to follow up with Shawna Meyer regarding the completion of the Natural Resource Survey, and Commissioner Knopf stated that she would follow up with her.

11. Baseball field

Commissioner Murray stated that the baseball field capping is about half way completed. He added that is very hard to work with due to it being cut and left for the winter. This caused the capping to curl up tightly inside itself, making it difficult to handle. Commissioner Huch asked why it is so difficult to work with, and Commissioner Murray added that it is not actually fence capping that was purchased, so it's technically not the right product. It was discussed that the wrong product was purchased because it would be a cost savings, but the commissioners who have worked on the capping stated that it's very difficult to work with.

12. Sports N Shorts

Commissioner Svensson said that there was a solid rationale as to why the program was good for the Township as a whole. She added that there is a minimum of \$3,000.00 to hold the program at Nestrom Road Park, and that she would like to possibly look into getting donations for the other \$1,500.00 so they are able to still host Sports N Shorts in Fruitland Township in an effort to show the

Township Board the importance of the program. She asked Commissioner Knopf what the protocol is for inclement weather, as well as if there is a chance of getting documentation from previous years regarding the number of individuals registered, and it is going to be looked into. Commissioner Knopf stated that the group was here only a few days last year, and she added that she would like to look into having a volunteer come in to teach them pickleball, and possibly even have something for the Township residents to learn about the game. All commissioners agreed that looking into donations would be a good idea so that Sports N Shorts can be hosted at Nestrom Road Park. Commissioner Murray added that it might be a good idea to replace the Disc Golf Course pictures with the flyer for Sports N Shorts on the Parks and Recreation page of the Township website.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED** to support the concept of seeking an additional \$1,500.00 in order to sponsor the program.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

13. Meeting start time

Chairperson Svensson stated that with so much work for the Commission to do, it would be a good idea to start meetings at an earlier time. Concerns were mentioned of people not being able to attend, and it was mentioned that the Township Board meets as early as 5:00p.m., and that people come to meetings when they are interested.

Motion by Deb Svensson, second from Herb Huch, **ADOPTED** to change the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting time to 5:30p.m.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Deb Svensson, second from Herb Huch, **ADOPTED** to make the budget amendments that were under budgeted.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom Road – mentioned it would be a good idea to inform The White Lake Beacon of the meeting time change, as well as information regarding Oak Wilt and it's spread north of Norton Shores.
2. Bob Penney, 5830 Duck Lake Road – stated that sap is running from the trees, and it would be a good idea to alert the Township residents of this and about Oak Wilt so people are not cutting/trimming.
3. Terrie Hampel, 6171 Duck Lake Road – she mentioned that there will be a fundraiser on May 15th for the Friends of the Fruitland Township Trails.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Murray thanked Chairperson Svensson for a job well done with the budget presentation to the Township Board. He added that it was very professionally done and that he appreciated all of the time and attention she put in.

Chairperson Svensson stated that she would like the Commission to continue to increase communication with the Township.

Commissioner Huch thanked the audience for attending the meeting and encouraged anyone with questions or comments to contact the commissioners directly.

Commissioner Knopf mentioned that she is sponsoring a clean-up on the 300 acres the Township owns on April 20th for Earth Day, adding that the second half of the day will be spent at Duck Lake State Park. She added that people can be sponsored or volunteer.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Sue Sawyer, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the April 1, 2019 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:28 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary