

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SPECIAL MEETING
April 19, 2018**

PRESENT: Commissioner Greg Barrett, Commissioner Brian Mathiot, Commissioner Maribeth Picard, and Commissioner Thomas Tisue.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: A number of interested parties.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Mathiot called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

AGENDA:

Motion by Tom Tisue, second from Greg Barrett, **ADOPTED**, to accept the April 19, 2018 special meeting agenda.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Bob Murray, 5582 Duck Lake Road – not supportive of the Disc Golf Course remaining open during the critical period.
2. Tom Hamilton, 2785 Weesies Road – supportive of education regarding Oak Wilt.
3. Greg Sherburn, 3560 Memorial Drive – neutral party, stating that the Park is the Commission’s to manage how they see fit. He stated that the concern should be the prevention of any disease spread, and that the solution should not be to shut down the course.
4. Jim Runyan, 6070 Scenic Woods Circle – risk of disease is the biggest factor that needs to be considered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. DNR Recommendations

Commissioner Mathiot read information from the DNR website. One piece of information included to not prune, injure or damage trees from April 15 to July 15. He added that the ultimate fix is to take steps in management and prevention. Mathiot added that other information states to not prune November to March, but that if it must happen, to paint the tree with tree paint or a latex based paint. He also added from the information that oak tree mortality isn’t just from Oak Wilt disease but that there are more things to look at and monitor.

Mathiot also read information from Michigan Oak Wilt that stated to monitor trees and watch for symptoms of disease. Commissioner Tisue stated that there is a serious logical flaw in Mathiot’s argument, adding that the concern is an accidental risk versus a deliberate risk. Commissioner Barrett stated that he is still in favor of tree blockers.

Commissioner Picard stated that a management plan needs to be in place. She added that this needs to be in place before play can continue.

2. Temporary Disc Golf Course closure discussion

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Greg Barrett **ADOPTED**, to propose a motion to temporary close the Disc Golf Course at Nestrom Park effective until the date of May 11th which is the first Friday after the May meeting. During this closure, we will access management of the course per DNR guidelines for tree protection as well as preventative wound maintenance or treatment on the affected assuming they exist and identifying symptoms of trees as well as look into training opportunities from the DNR to make not only us but any other involved parties involved in this process. Create a unified task force to police tree injuries on a weekly or bi-weekly basis and assess the need for their management. The task force will include residents, forest tree experts and commission members or member. The commission will determine the scope, schedule and expectations for said task force. It will be comprised of two Parks & Rec members, two Fruitland Township citizens and one expert yet to be named. The task force I even came up with the name Resource Oversight Committee or (ROC) and it will not only simply include Nestrom Park but it will include all of our Parks. Because again, I'm committed to and I would hope that everyone in this room is committed to Fruitland Township as a whole and the preservation of its resources not just one that is next to your property. There will be a review for the ROC seasonally unless agreed scope includes other responsibilities or areas.

Friendly amendment by Greg Barrett, second by Maribeth Picard, **FAILED**, to change the date from May 11 to May 7 to create the ROC.

2 AYES, 2 NAYS (MATHIOT, TISUE), 1 VACANCY

Second friendly amendment by Brian Mathiot, second by Maribeth Picard, **ADOPTED**, to change the date from May 11 to June 4.

3 AYES, 1 NAY (BARRETT), 1 VACANCY

Third friendly amendment by Tom Tisue, second by Greg Barrett, **ADOPTED**, to amend the ROC members to exclude Parks and Recreation Commission members for service on the task force and appoint two more citizens.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

The commissioners questioned how closure would be implemented, and it was decided to take down signage, post it to social media and other outlets, and to cover the baskets.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion on possible termination of Whitehall Disc Golf Agreement

Commissioner Mathiot reported that the Commission has to decide whether to terminate or amend the current agreement. He pointed out areas of concern within the agreement and tasked the other commissioners with looking into the agreement in order for them to make a decision as a Commission at the May 7, 2018 Parks and Recreation meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Greg Barrett, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the April 19, 2018 special meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:45 PM.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary