

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
September 6, 2017**

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

**ABSENT:** Chairperson Lynn Knopf.

**ALSO PRESENT:** A number of interested parties.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Barrett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**AGENDA:**

Commissioner Tisue stated that commissioners had no chance to say anything about the agenda for the special meeting, adding that he would like them to all be included for input on additions/deletions going forward with all meetings and agendas.

Motion by Tom Tisue, second from Brian Mathiot **ADOPTED**,  
to accept the September 6, 2017 special meeting agenda.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom Road – stated that four things on the agenda caught her attention. The first comment referenced the Marcus Park picnic table. She added that there is a large wooden picnic table on the north side of the park that is anchored down so that motorists wouldn't hit it. Mitenbuler also stated that Commissioner Tisue requested that the Disc Golf Course discussion and decisions be tabled until the following meeting to give time for environmental studies to be completed. Mitenbuler questioned whether or not this has been completed and discussed. She added that nothing should be voted on for the course if this hasn't happened. Mitenbuler referenced the disc golf community's discussions of being a "family" at the August meeting, and asked the commission why they would pour more money into the Disc Golf Course when the golfers stated that they would help financially and they could raise the money. Mitenbuler asked why quiet signs are being looked into. She stated that it's not about the noise, but the quality of the noise.
2. Bob Murray, 5582 Duck Lake Road – stated his disturbance by the agenda because impact studies haven't been completed, adding that the Disc Golf Course discussions were tabled until these studies have taken place. Murray added that the commission has rushed to make judgements on the course. He said that in February, the Disc Golf Course was presented as a low environmental impact project, but things aren't moving in that direction. Murray said that the commission has spent the entire year focused on the Disc Golf Course only, and referenced the Master Plan stating the upkeep of existing facilities as their priority. Murray added that this isn't the case, and things will have to wait until next year since the Disc Golf Course has become the priority. Murray added that mistakes have been made, and they need to be admitted and everything should move forward with careful consideration.

3. Tom Thompson, 5564 South Shore Drive – reported that he used to enjoy walking the nature trails, and went down to look at the course on Monday. He added that he noticed damage to trees and erosion on high banks. Thompson said that he doesn't think it's safe for anyone to take walks with discs being thrown, adding that the Disc Golf Course should've never been placed on the water's edge. He also said that if the course stays, the commission needs to fix the problems as soon as possible going forward.
4. Christine Murray, 5582 Duck Lake Road – reported that she was asked to read a letter from Dave and Christine Pequet of 5650 Duck Lake Road. The Pequet's letter stated that environmental studies need to be completed. It also stated that a wealth of expert information is available at no charge to the Township, and that two experts have weighed in and suggested moving forward with caution. The Pequet's urged the Commission to use the tools available before making decisions about the Disc Golf Course.

Commissioner Tisue reported that he personally received a letter from Dr. David L. Roberts from Michigan State University to be entered into the minutes. The letter was an assessment of the impact on the Disc Golf Course on the health of the trees.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Lynn Knopf's letter of resignation**

Motion by Tom Tisue, second from Brian Mathiot **ADOPTED**, to accept Lynn Knopf's resignation.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

##### **2. Request one additional meeting from Township Board for fiscal year 2017-2018**

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Tom Tisue, **ADOPTED**, to request one additional meeting from the Township Board for fiscal year 2017-2018.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

##### **3. Request from Township Board to create a Disc Golf Course Fund to have disc golf funds held in General Fund account #101-000-669.000 be transferred to a specialty fund.**

Discussions among the board determined that they want to have the fund named as a specialty fund, not specifically for disc golf.

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Tom Tisue, **ADOPTED**, to have the Township Board create a Parks and Recreation Specialty Fund and have Disc Golf monies be placed into said account for any Parks and Recreation projects as determined by the Commission.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**4. Request from Township Board to amend account #101-691-977.000 - \$862.00 budgeted by redesigning the pickleball court repaint to be spent to construct more benches for the Disc Golf Course**

Commissioner Mathiot stated that it would be irresponsible of the Commission to move forward with enhancements to the Disc Golf Course when they still have work to do on the course and before they can determine the continued use of the course. Commissioner Tisue agreed, stating that he is opposed to spending this money on benches and that the money may be needed for other things. Commissioner Picard suggested that the pickleball repainting could possibly become a project for NHS students as well.

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Tom Tisue, **ADOPTED**, to move the \$862.00 budgeted amount for pickleball redesign to the newly created Parks and Recreation Specialty Fund.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**5. Nestrom Park Disc Golf Course**

**a. Tyler Shafer's Eagle Scout Erosion Project to resume**

Tyler reported that his project includes signs and barriers to protect the erosion areas. The North Country Trail is also being consulted and Tyler is in collaboration with them for this project. Tyler added that five holes are in the erosion control areas.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Tom Tisue, **ADOPTED**, to allow Tyler Shafer to move forward with his Erosion Control Eagle Scout Project.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**b. Funds needed for Erosion Project to be allocated from account #101-691-930.000 not to exceed \$300**

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to provide the Eagle Scout project the funds from account #101-691-930.000 not to exceed \$300.00.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**c. Construction of tree guards on trees being damaged throughout the course (funds to be allocated from account #101-691-930.000) not to exceed \$500.00.**

Commissioner Tisue questioned what kind of tree guards are being looked at for the course, as well as the number of trees to be guarded.

Motion by Maribeth Picard, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rule of Order to discuss the tree guards with Steven Gullen.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

Steven Gullen reported that after looking at the trees and the damage on the course, there are 66 total trees that they are wanting to place guards on. He added that not all of the 66 trees are damaged, but they are in the line of fire of the discs. Gullen added that 25 trees are being monitored for future guards. In terms of tree guards, Gullen stated that they are looking at a spacer with plastic fencing in place to protect the tree. He added that there would also be some form of elastic or clasp in place to allow for tree growth. Gullen also said that an option would be to use dead trees and place them in front of damaged trees. He informed the commission that some damaged trees are near t-pads, and some are near baskets. Gullen added that only 1/3 of the trees that they are looking to protect are showing visible damage. Commissioner Tisue said that he has looked into options online for tree protectors, adding that younger trees are more susceptible.

Commissioner Mathiot stated that he doesn't see holding off on getting the trees protected while waiting for expert opinions. Commissioner Tisue agreed, adding that protection needs to happen. He also said that the commission needs to look further into protecting the trees and that they should get data on the success of the tree blockers before moving forward with purchasing protectors for all of the trees.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to follow Roberts Rule of Order and go back into meeting discussions.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Tom Tisue, **ADOPTED**, to take a brief recess.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

The meeting was recessed at 7:59p.m.

The meeting was called back into order at 8:04p.m.

Commissioner Tisue questioned whether the budgetary amount needed to be raised, and Commissioner Mathiot said that he believes the commission should keep the cap at \$500.00 to see how far they get with the tree guards. He added that it's a good idea to get a per-tree average cost as well. Commissioner Tisue added that with what's at stake, it is important to do the best possible guards for the trees.

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Maribeth Picard, **ADOPTED**, to construct tree guards on trees being damaged throughout the course, funds to be allocated from account #101-691-930.000, not to exceed \$500.00 until the commission obtains a better idea of per-tree costs for tree guards.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**d. Removal of two small oak trees being damaged on hole #4**

Commissioner Barrett reported that the two trees in question are two that are hit the most. He added that they are both red oaks, and one is under 4" while one is just over 5". Commissioner Picard questioned why the commission should cut the trees rather than cover them with the tree guards. She added that the commission should move forward with protecting them, and that this would be a good time to test their tree guards. Commissioner Mathiot added that the commission should operate under the practice of covering first and cutting second. Commissioner Tisue also agreed. The Commission agreed to leave the trees up for the time being.

**e. Signage placement****iii. Disc Golf – beneath road sign**

Commissioner Barrett reported that these signs were placed under the Nestrom Road Park Sign by the road. He added that these were placed without permission, and voting would be to keep the signs in place.

Motion by Tom Tisue, second from Maribeth Picard, **ADOPTED**, to keep the Disc Golf signs in place underneath the Nestrom Road Park sign.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**ii. Caution flying discs – where needed**

Commissioner Barrett stated that he would like to alert people on the trail, as well as at the top of the steps near hole one. Commissioner Mathiot questioned how they would be placed and how many places people can enter the course and trail area. Commissioner Barrett responded that there are two sets of stairs, as well as a two-track on the property for entrance. Commissioner Picard also suggested the beach area for kayakers and canoers. Commissioner Barrett suggested that he would like to purchase six signs in total, and that they're approximately \$15 per sign. Commissioner Mathiot suggested tabling the decision of signs until the October meeting, and the commissioners agreed.

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Maribeth Picard, **ADOPTED**, to table the "caution flying disc" signs decision until the October meeting so that they are able to receive exact placement and costs.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**iii. Quiet zone – hole #'s 3, 11, 12, 13**

Commissioner Barrett suggested that he would like to place these signs on these holes for the benefit of the neighbors. Commissioner Tisue stated that this is very important, and that it is unacceptable that the neighbors are dealing with such an issue. He added that he's not sure a sign by itself is going to take care of the issue. Commissioner Barrett responded that he would like to give the signs a try before making any decisions to move holes. He added that holes could be moved, but it would result in the redesign of the entire course, which he said would be difficult, but is possible. Commissioner Mathiot stated that the Commission doesn't have any recourse to address the noise/profanity issues that keep being mentioned. He added that he is sure there were issues before the disc golf course was installed, and that the noise and profanity is a natural byproduct of

action on the course and in the park. Commissioner Mathiot stated that there are ways they can try to deter noise, but with it being a public park, these things are going to happen. Commissioner Tisue stated that part of the issue is where holes have been placed, and that the Commission may have created a problem by placing the holes where they are. Commissioner Mathiot suggested moving the discussions and decision to place quite zone signs to the October meeting. Commissioner Tisue commented that he was unsure

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Maribeth Picard, **ADOPTED**, to table the “quite zone” signs on hole #'s 3, 11, 12, and 13 until the October meeting.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**f. Add a step at the bottom of the North stairs (funds to be allocated from account #101-691-930.000)**

Commissioner Barret mentioned the large drop from the last step on the North stairs. He added that the Disc Golf volunteers have said they would build the new step.

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Maribeth Picard, **ADOPTED**, to add a step at the bottom of the North stairs with funds to be allocated from account #101-691-930.000.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**6. Nestrom Road Park Repairs**

**a. Establish park hours**

The commissioners agreed to table this discussion until the October meeting.

**b. Determine pavilion door repair**

Motion by Tom Tisue, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rule of Order to discuss the pavilion door repair with Lynn Knopf.

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

Knopf stated that Lowe's had a discount, and that she put \$35.00 down to get the deal. She added that the price of the door included installation, and it was a bit more to the uneven surface of the ground. Knopf added that someone has to pick out the lock for the door. She stated that she would forward her information to Mary Mansfield to send to the commissioners. The commission made that Commissioner Mathiot would contact Lowe's to complete the purchase and installation.

**c. Determine tree trimming necessary around pavilion(s)**

Commissioner Barrett asked Knopf about the quotes received for tree trimming other than Stafford's. She added that a quote was also received from Dale's Tree Cutting. Knopf said she would forward the quotes to Mary Mansfield. Commissioner Barrett asked Knopf if she knew the exact trees and branches that would be trimmed, and if it included the branches hanging over the drive. She stated that it just included the trees over the pavilions.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Brian Mathiot, *ADOPTED*, to get three bids for trimming and have it available by the October meeting.

**d. Determine playground slide and tile capping by ball field repairs (funds to be allocated from account #101-691-930.000)**

Commissioner Barrett reported that the slide was taken care of during Patrick Bouman's Eagle Scout Project. The commission agreed to table discussions about the tile capping until the October meeting so they are able to get pricing.

**7. Marcus Park**

**a. Picnic table repairs (funds to be allocated from 101-691-930.000)**

Alternatives were discussed with what to do with the picnic table. Commissioner Picard said that she would look into different options and prices and would have this available for the October meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Brian Mathiot, *ADOPTED* to adjourn the September 6, 2017 special meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 9:00 PM.

***5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT***

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary