

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
October 2, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Greg Barrett, Commissioner Brian Mathiot, Commissioner Mark Williamson and Commissioner Thomas Tissue.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Maribeth Picard

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**WELCOME GUESTS** A number of interested parties.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Mark Williamson, **ADOPTED**, to amend the October 2, 2017 agenda to move “Proposed Duck Creek Natural Area & Conservation Easement” to the beginning Old Business and add “Mail Concern” to New Business, with Commissioner Tissue not agreeing without explanation.

**3 AYES, 1 NAY (Tissue), 1 ABSENT**

**MINUTES:** Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to accept the August 7, 2017 regular meeting minutes and the September 6, 2017 special meeting minutes.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Bob Murray, 5582 Duck Lake Road – stated that the issues with the Disc Golf Course are not just the damage to the trees, but also to the forest floors. Mr. Murray added that at the September meeting, the commission discussed some of the holes on the course being blind spots and adding signs for flying disks. He said that no danger to the public should be present at the park. Mr. Murray stated that many holes need to be looked at. He also referenced the tree guards, stating that no cost was mentioned for them. Mr. Murray has an issue with the number of trees that are being looked at for protection, too.
2. Jack Mitenbuler, tourist – read the report from Dr. Roberts, and pointed out that Dr. Roberts said that it’s obvious a trail and the course don’t go together. Mr. Mitenbuler added that the priority should be the health of the park.
3. Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom Road – stated that disk golf doesn’t go with trails. She asked why the commission doesn’t move the course to a different property.
4. Karolyn Rillema, 5549 Scenic Drive – reported on the proposed Duck Lake Natural Area and Conservation Easement. She stated that on the entire property, the Parks and Recreation Commission has jurisdiction over 19.62 acres, adding that this could be a potential trailhead. Karolyn said that the Parks and Recreation Commission has the option to relinquish their portion

of the property, maintain their portion and partner with the Township Board, or take over the remainder of the property and maintain it as well.

5. Jan Deur, 2761 Scenic Drive – stated that he endorses Karolyn’s project. He said that he serves as the Representative for the County Parks and Recreation committee. Mr. Deur mentioned a Tiger Grant, which goes toward things like transportation or possible bicycle trail. He said that unfortunately, due to the due date of the grant coming so soon, the County will not be applying for the grant at this time.

#### **RECEIPTS:**

Commissioner Barrett reported receipts activity as Township Park pavilion rental in the amount of \$50.00 and disc golf donations in the amount of \$211.90, for total receipts of \$261.90 for the months of August and September 2017.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Mark Williamson, **ADOPTED**, to accept receipts for \$261.90 for the months of August and September 2017.

**Roll Call Vote: Mathiot-Aye, Tisue-Aye, Barrett-Aye, Williamson-Aye, Barrett-Aye.**

#### **DISBURSEMENTS:**

Commissioner Barrett reported disbursements activity as \$450.00 to Kerstra, \$55.00 to Tru-Green, \$1,104.00 to Smith, Haughey, Rice & Roegge, and \$973.07 to Patrick Bouman for total disbursements of \$2,582.07.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Tom Tisue, **ADOPTED**, to pay total disbursements of \$2,582.07.

**Roll Call Vote: Barrett-Aye, Williamson-Aye, Tisue-Aye, Mathiot-Aye.**

#### **TRANSFER:**

Commissioner Barrett reported that the Township Board approved the transfer of the pickleball funds to the Specialty Fund.

#### **WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Barrett welcomed Mark Williamson to the commission.

#### **NOMINATION/ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to nominate and elect Mark Williamson as Chairperson to the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Duck Lake Natural Area & Conservation Easement**

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Mark Williamson, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rule of Order to discuss the Duck Creek Natural Area with Clerk Karolyn Rillema.

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

Rillema reported that the subcommittee is putting together a plan for goals and objectives for the area. During discussions, she said that the 19.62 acres currently under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission is being looked at for possible parking and/or a trailhead to the area. Commissioner Barrett questioned whether the Township would be selling the property, and Karolyn responded that they're just putting an easement over the property, which is already being used informally. Jan Deur mentioned that there is a grant available to help with the easement. He added that if an easement is not given, riparian owners could be contacted. Deur also said that it is in the best interest of everyone if the Township grants the easement. Commissioner Tisue asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission could accept the easement without accepting the document that was presented, and Rillema said that they could, and things are still being tweaked. Chairman Williamson said that the Township Board is going to move forward with the easement and the process with or without the help of the Commission. Rillema stated that the commissioners don't need to make a decision immediately regarding partnering, but that within the next two to three months, the Township Board would need a response. The commissioners agreed to continue discussions at the December meeting.

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

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

## **2. NHS volunteering**

The commissioners will get an update from Commissioner Picard at the December 2017 meeting.

## **3. Pavilion door replacement**

Commissioner Mathiot stated that he has been in contact with two contractors and is waiting on quotes from each. He said he should receive the quotes by next week and would like to decide and complete the project before winter.

## **4. Park inspection**

Commissioner Barrett reported that he observed protrusions at the tennis courts that need to be removed, and suggested that this might be a project for the NHS volunteers. He also added that both the North and South stair rails are very flimsy. Commissioner Barrett said that he spoke with the Maintenance Supervisor who said that he could put in 4x4 posts to firm them up a bit. Commissioner Barrett stated that the cost for the posts and bags of cement would be approximately \$650.00.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to approve a budget of \$700.00 from Repairs and Maintenance to fix the posts on both stairways.

**3 AYES, 1 NAY (Tisue), 1 ABSENT**

## **5. Park hours**

Commissioner Mathiot suggested that seasonal hours may be a good idea. After discussions, the commissioners agreed.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to set the Nestrom Road Park hours to be October 1 to April 30, 8:00a.m. to 8:00p.m., and May 1 to September 30, 7:00a.m. to 10:00p.m.

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

**6. Marcus Park picnic table update**

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Mark Williamson, **ADOPTED**, to have the Maintenance Supervisor fix the picnic table.

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

**7. Step at the bottom of the North stairs**

Commissioner Barrett reported that the Maintenance Supervisor completed the landing at the bottom of the North stairs.

**8. Tree trimming**

Commissioner Barrett reported that the tree trimming quotes were expanded to include the whole park, excluding the hall. He added that some of the low hanging branches throughout the park will be trimmed as well. Commissioner Tissue asked what place the commissioners had in making the decisions about what needs to be cut and what shouldn't, stating that they are no experts in the matter. He added that the commission should be contacting a forester to help with this matter, later agreeing that he would help with this matter.

Motion by Mark Williamson, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to table the discussion and decisions regarding tree trimming until a forester is contacted.

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

**9. Baseball fence capping**

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Mark Williamson, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rule of Order to discuss the baseball fence capping with Clerk Karolyn Rillema.

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

Chairman Williamson asked Karolyn how often things are looked at throughout the park, and she responded that they come out every two to three years.

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

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

The commissioners discussed the costs involved with the capping, adding that it was included for the current budget.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Mark Williamson, **ADOPTED**, to table the discussions and completion of the baseball fence capping until next year.

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

**10. Dr. Roberts' Disc Golf Course assessment**

Chairman Williamson said that the report is well written and unbiased. He added that he would like to get others involved and have more investigations completed. Chairman Williamson stated that eventually there is going to have to be a time where a decision is made, and encouraged the other commissioners to look at the course in detail.

**11. Noise complaints/rules and regulations**

The commissioners discussed having rules and regulations for the course, deciding that they would all look at ideas and bring them to the December meeting.

**12. Caution and quiet zone signs**

Commissioner Barrett stated that the quiet zones would be placed in the North and South boundaries of the park. He added that after pricing them out, the cost for eight signs would be approximately \$242.00. Commissioner Barrett said that there is still \$65 left in the Disc Golf Course funds. Commissioner Tisue stated that the signs are a good idea and will be a positive move to help with the complaints from neighbors, adding that this should be just the first step but not the only step. Chairman Williamson said that it is the commission's due diligence to spend the money on the signs to see if it helps.

Motion by Greg Barrett, second from Brian Mathiot, **ADOPTED**, to purchase the signs for \$242.00 using the \$65.00 remaining in the Disc Golf Course funds and the remaining amount from Repairs and Maintenance.

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

**13. Tree Guards**

Commissioner Barrett stated that the materials used for the test tree would be \$11.00 per tree. He was asked about the materials used, and he said that garden fencing with a flexible strapping and bungee cord to allow for the trees to expand. The commissioners agreed that the guards are favorable and look much better than expected.

**14. Parks and Recreation Specialty Fund**

Commissioner Barrett reported to the other commissioners that the specialty funds are not available until the next fiscal year.

**NEW BUSINESS:****1. 2018-2019 Budget**

Chairman Williamson stated that the budget season is quickly approaching, and that the commission should have ideas together by December for projects they would like to complete. Commissioner Barrett stated that the Township Board has recommended new playground equipment and redoing the tennis courts. He also said that there is a grant that could be applied for to complete the court.

Commissioner Mathiot said that the grants keep getting pushed off, and the commission needs to step up to the plate and get things accomplished.

**2. Disk Golf I.D. cards**

Commissioner Tisue stated that in golf, players have to check in and identify themselves before they are able to play. He suggested to the other commissioners that they create identification cards for players to use before playing the course. Commissioner Mathiot stated that he agrees it is a good idea, adding that the individuals who don't want to get an identification card are the ones we are having problems with. Commissioner Williamson said that having the players register also gives them ownership. The commissioners will continue discussions at the December meeting.

**3. By-laws**

The commissioners discussed the addition to the by-laws, and most agreed. Commissioner Tisue stated that he needed more time to review and think about the addition.

Motion by Mark Williamson, second from Greg Barrett, **ADOPTED**, to add section XV "Removal of Officer" to the Parks and recreation By-laws.

**3 AYES, 1 NAY (Tisue), 1 ABSENT**

**4. Mail concern**

Commissioner Mathiot reported to the group that he received mail at his personal address regarding an individual's personal beliefs and perspectives regarding what needs to happen with the Disc Golf Course. He added that under no circumstances will he accept mail at his personal address.

Commissioner Mathiot said that any further mail will have to come to the township hall and he will receive it from there. Chairman Williamson said that he will talk to Township Supervisor Jeske and Township attorney Kevin Even regarding the matter.

**UPDATES:**

None.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Brian Mathiot, second from Mark Williamson, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the October 2, 2017 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 9:23 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary