

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
November 9, 2022**

PRESENT: Commissioner Bob Murray, Commissioner Mark Beegle, Commissioner Lynn Knopf and Commissioner Carlet Mitenbuler.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: One interested party.

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to amend the November 9, 2022 agenda to include “bleacher inspection” to New Business.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

MINUTES: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to accept the October 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes with a few changes discussed.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None.

RECEIPTS:
Commissioner Murray reported receipts as \$30.00 for pavilion rentals for the month of October 2022.

DISBURSEMENTS:
Commissioner Murray reported disbursements activity as \$450.00 to Kerkstra for portable restrooms and \$62.45 to TruGreen for fertilizer for total disbursements of \$512.45.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Mark Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to accept the receipts of \$30.00 for pavilion rentals and to pay total disbursements in the amount of \$512.45.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

Roll Call Vote: Beegle-Aye, Knopf-Aye, Mitenbuler-Aye, Murray-Aye

Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield mentioned to the commissioners that all seats were listed on the agenda in case individuals elected to current positions get elected to a new position.

NOMINATION/ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Bob Murray nominated by Lynn Knopf, seconded by Mark Beegle.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

NOMINATION/ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Lynn Knopf nominated by Bob Murray, seconded by Carlet Mitenbuler.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

NOMINATION/ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Carlet Mitenbuler nominated by Mark Beegle, seconded by Bob Murray.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Herb Huch resignation

Chairman Murray stated that Herb Huch resigned from the position for new opportunities. He wished him well and thanked him for his dedication.

2. Spark grant

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to discuss Spark grants with Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned that the Spark grants are being pushed by many State representatives. He said that there are three rounds of grants, adding that one application is due by December 19th. Supervisor Marcinkowski stated that if the December 19th deadline is met and their applications aren't accepted, they get pushed on to the next round of applications for consideration. The second two rounds will be in 2023. Supervisor Marcinkowski stated that the Spark grants are similar to the ARPA funding. The Spark grants are a non-matching grant with a \$100,000.00 minimum and a \$1,000,000.00 maximum. He said that the Township is allowed three applications, and the areas he suggested are Nestrom Road park, Marcus Park and the Duck Creek Natural Area. Supervisor Marcinkowski told the group that he really just needs to know, at this point, if the Commission wants to apply for one or two parks so he knows if he needs to find another area to focus on, adding that if the Commission decides to apply for applications, they determine what the elements of their applications include.

Chairman Murray said that there are not as many hoops to jump through with Spark grants, adding that they move quickly. Supervisor Marcinkowski said that the money for the December 19th application will be given as soon as January 2023.

The Commission question whether it's possible to include two parks on one application, as they don't think they will have enough to include for Marcus Park in order to reach the minimum required. Supervisor Marcinkowski stated that he will look into this.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to resume Robert's Rules of Order.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

Chairman Murray gave a list of ideas to include on the Spark grant for Nestrom Road Park including the circle drive repairs, paving the parking lot, potentially adding parking, two sand volleyball courts with a small shelter for players, fencing on the border of the park, possible fencing to close in an area to make it "pet friendly" but not a dog park, gates at the entrances, lights, cameras, WiFi, sidewalks that are ADA compliant, redoing the tennis courts and go with a post tension concrete, stand alone pickleball courts, flush restrooms, expand irrigation, and possible soccer field improvements.

Commissioner Beegle stated that he thinks the Commissioner needs to consider expanding the park into the trees to the south. He added that all of the additions to the park will congest what is already in the park, and more people will come to use it all. Chairman Murray stated that he's not opposed to moving the circle drive over some, but that he is not a fan of removing trees. Commissioner Beegle said that it's not necessary to remove all of the trees, but to consider removing some to not congest what is already here.

Chairman Murray asked the other commissioners who might consider working with him alongside Supervisor Marcinkowski for the grant, and Commissioner Knopf volunteered to help.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to propose that the Commission apply for two Spark grants to include Nestrom Road Park and Marcus Park.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

3. 2023/2024 budget

Chairman Murray encouraged the commissioners to consider ideas for the upcoming budget. Commissioner Knopf stated that she would call Kerkstra and Sports 'N Shorts organizers to determine costs for next year.

Chairman Murray stated that with the budget for the current year, the Commission approved for winterization to be completed by Randy Smith. He mentioned that Dave Jarka, the individual that installed the new irrigation, came back to winterize. Chairman Murray stated that the commissioners would have to make a budget amendment to approve the payment to Dave Jarka and that they will have to contact Randy Smith to let him know the park has been completed.

Commissioner Knopf asked if Randy Smith was our previous irrigation person, and Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield informed the group that he has always done the summarization and winterization in the Township, including the Township Hall, the cemetery, and Nestrom Road Park. Chairman Murray stated that he's made a few attempts at calling Dave Jarka and he hasn't returned any phone calls. Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield also informed the commissioners that Dave Jarka also hasn't turned in a copy of workers compensation and it needs to be turned into the Township before he can do any other work in the Township. The commissioners agreed to pay Dave Jarka and they will contact Randy Smith to let him know that the park is already completed.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to approve the payment to Dave Jarka for winterization of the park.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

4. Bleacher inspection

American Athletics is a local company that sent a proposal to look at and complete an inspection of the bleachers. The proposal is \$100.00 for the two sets of bleachers. Chairman Murray stated that the cross bracing in the back is missing some pieces that he's mentioned before, and he added that American Athletics will also fix the issues, if necessary. Commissioner Mitenbuler said that she thought issues were already handled, and Chairman Murray stated that there still could be issues beyond what he mentioned. He added that even if the Commission doesn't have them do any work, at least an inspection is on file.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to have Chairman Murray call American Athletics to come out and do the inspection for \$100.00 to be paid for out of Repairs and Maintenance.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Project updates

Chairman Murray stated that the dugouts have been stalled for right now.

Commissioner Knopf questioned what happened with the discussions of Sodini field, and Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield reminded the commissioners that they voted in the October meeting to dedicate the field to the Sodini family and that they approved having a sign made to be discussed at a later time where the money will come from. The commissioners agreed in October to place the new sign on the backstop.

2. Tree trimming

Chairman Murray stated that after walking through with Commissioner Knopf and Commissioner Mitenbuler separately, three trees need to be removed within the park.

3. Tennis/pickleball courts

This was covered during Spark grant discussions.

4. Pumphouse

Chairman Murray stated that insulation was placed in the pumphouse by Maintenance Supervisor Arron Ferris. He added that it was imperative to get it completed because the pumphouse is for the irrigation and for the Township Hall. The commissioners discussed the different insulations, and agreed that it is important to have Maintenance Supervisor Arron Ferris check the building weekly for any issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – stated that he would like to have weekly meetings in regards to the Spark grant and getting applications ready to apply. He added that he likes the idea of combining Nestrom Road Park and Marcus Park, stating that he also likes the idea of new play equipment, a dock and parking. Supervisor Marcinkowski stated that he agrees with the idea of going into the south area of the park, adding that he agrees with what Commissioner Beegle mentioned regarding expanding the park and bringing more people in. He reported that Jelenek has

completed work at the community building, the cemetery and the transfer station, but they still need to complete work at the Township Hall and the White River Light Station. He asked that the commissioners follow up with the baseball organization that uses our fields to determine when practices will start since they are putting off the work on the dugouts. He added that the commissioners might consider moving this project to next fiscal year and using the moneys for something else by making a budget amendment.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Beegle again mentioned to the commissioners that they need to think about adding more space, but said that the entire wooded area doesn't need to be cleared. He also added that moving the circle drive isn't easy and is much too expensive to do.

Commissioner Knopf stated that it was a good meeting, and Commissioner Mitenbuler agreed.

Chairman Murray thanked the commissioners for their vote of confidence in nominating him as the chair of the Commission, adding that he's going to be as transparent as possible and will be doing things by the book.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the November 9, 2022 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:34 PM.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 VACANCY

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary