

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
August 9, 2023**

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: One interested party.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Katy Bradford, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to amend the August 9, 2023 agenda to include discussions of Hemlock Wooley Adelgid under “Unfinished Business.”

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

MINUTES: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Mark Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to accept the July 3, 2023 regular meeting minutes as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Francis Busiek – visiting from Portland, Oregon. Said that we have a very nice park and playground.

RECEIPTS:

Chairman Murray reported receipt activity as pavilion rentals in the amount of \$150.00 for the month of July, 2023.

DISBURSEMENTS:

Chairman Murray reported disbursements activity as \$1,495.00 to Kerkstra for portable restrooms, cleanings and emergency cleanings and \$3,500.00 to Whitehall District Schools for Sports ‘N Shorts for total disbursements of \$4,995.00.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to accept receipts in the amount of \$150.00 for pavilion rentals and to pay total disbursements in the amount of \$4,995.00.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Marcus Park property swap

Chairman Murray recapped the potential of a property swap to increase the size of Marcus Park for potential parking. He mentioned that it's not completely up to the Commission since the property that will be exchanged is the Township Board's jurisdiction, but the Commission does have to agree in order to move forward.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, that the Parks and Recreation Commission is in favor of making the property swap with the DNR for Marcus Park.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

2. Spark Grant update

Chairman Murray reported that the decision for the awarding of the grant will be decided sometime in September.

3. Portable restrooms – Nestrom Road Park

Chairman Murray said that there was quite a disaster within the park. Additional cleanings and emergency cleanings took place due to increased usage of the park. The commissioners discussed that moving forward, it would be a good idea to add additional restrooms within the park so to decrease the need for emergency cleanings.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to approve the additional cleanings and restrooms to finish out the year.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

4. Future projects

Commissioner Knopf and Commissioner Bradford have set up a small committee to work on the Trunk or Treat event. The idea to create a page for the event on the Township website was mentioned. Possible dates were discussed, but the Commission will wait to decide the event date once the school has chosen theirs.

Chairman Murray mentioned that he was approached regarding adding lighting to the ball diamond. He said that he's not in favor of doing so, adding that he thinks about the neighbors and how they would feel about it. He also added that there isn't a need for it with the hours of the park. Commissioner Knopf stated that she would rather spend money on lighting the pavilions. Chairman Murray said that lighting the pavilions would be a great future project.

The commissioners discussed the potential dog park idea. Commissioner Bradford shared some research with the other commissioners regarding costs and considerations for such an addition. The commissioners agreed to keep the idea on the list for future projects and to complete further discussions.

Chairman Murray said that he's having some walking trails put in on his property and explained how the work will be completed. He added that it might be a good idea for the Commission to look at doing the same work in the trails in Nestrom Road Park. Chairman Murray said that he would report back to the Commission once the work on his property is completed.

Commissioner Knopf mentioned an issue with some swimmers that came to Nestrom Road Park and a boat that came close to the swimming area for fishing. She suggested looking into a roped off area. The other commissioners agreed that with it being a one-time issue and a lot involved in such an addition, they wouldn't like to look at doing so at this time.

Commissioner Knopf also mentioned an issue with a local business driving through the park at excessive speeds. The Commission discussed additional signage for the speed limit and kids at play. Recording Secretary mentioned that with Sports 'N Shorts taking place, she's noticed many cars pulling out of the circle drive the wrong way, so that it might be a good idea for the Commission to look at additional "one way" signs for the circle drive. The commissioners agreed to improve signage.

5. Soccer net replacement

Chairman Murray asked the commissioners their thoughts on replacing the soccer nets. Commissioner Knopf stated that if it's in the budget, the Commission should purchase them. Commissioner Beegle agreed. Chairman Murray asked if they should purchase one or two, and Commissioner Beegle stated that they should purchase two, and put both of the new nets up and use the current net that's in good condition for an extra so that the newest net doesn't sit and potentially have issues.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second by Mark Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to purchase two nets from Sports Facility Group for \$150.00 each.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

6. Hemlock Wooley Adelgid

Chairman Murray reported that the treatment has been started.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Food truck ordinance

The commissioners discussed the food truck ordinance that the Township Board is looking at. The commissioners discussed the food trucks and agreed that it would be a good idea to have in place and to allow them in the park. The commissioners agreed that it wasn't necessary to put into place where exactly the trucks would have to go, but added that by the pump house would be idea with the special plug was installed.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to allow food vendors in Nestrom Road Park.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Beegle stated that it's nice to have a full board again. He also added that he likes the idea of the Marcus Park expansion and the idea of food trucks coming to the park.

Commissioner Knopf mentioned that someone asked her about the possibility of a structure for younger children in the park, adding that it might be a good idea to add to future projects. Chairman Murray stated that he would like to look into one for Marcus Park.

Commissioner Mitenbuler thanked Commissioners Knopf and Bradford for their work on the Trunk or Treat event.

Commissioner Bradford agreed with Commissioner Beegle about liking the idea of the Marcus Park expansion.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Mark Beegle, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the August 9, 2023 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:20 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary