

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
December 4, 2023**

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: A few interested parties.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Katy Bradford, *ADOPTED*, to accept the December 4, 2023 agenda as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

MINUTES: November minutes will be approved at the January, 2024 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None.

RECEIPTS:
There were no receipts for the month of November 2023.

DISBURSEMENTS:
Chairman Murray reported disbursements activity as \$4,514.86 to All In Property Services for renovation of Sodini Field, \$2,700.00 to Jelinek Tree Service for tree trimming, \$230.00 to Kerkstra for portable restrooms, and \$119.12 to Patricia Whitener for reimbursement for the Trunk or Treat event for total disbursements of \$7,563.98.

Motion by Carlet Mitenbuler, second from Katy Bradford,
ADOPTED, to pay total disbursements in the amount of \$7,563.98.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**1. Grants**

Chairman Murray stated that he met with Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski and Clerk Breann Fagan to discuss the budget, and grants were also discussed. Chairman Murray stated that permanent restrooms are a priority and they are looking into many options in order to get them covered.

2. Pavilion lighting

Chairman Murray met with Korthase and Sons regarding the lighting, and they suggested two lights at pavilion one and three lights at pavilion two. The total for the lighting job would be \$4,100.00. Chairman Murray stated that the commissioners would get additional quotes, however this figure would give them a number to work with in the budget.

3. 2024-2025 budget/meeting with Township Board

Chairman Murray reminded the commissioners that Supervisor Marcinkowski sent the invite for the meeting in case anyone can't attend in person. He added that it's important for everyone to attend, if possible.

Chairman Murray stated that he would like to look at increasing meeting pay to coincide with what the other boards and commissions are making. He added that the commissioners need to also consider Recording Secretary, Mary Mansfield, when thinking about these increases, as she's also affected by them. Chairman Murray suggested increasing meeting pay to \$50.00 per meeting.

The commissioners agreed to decrease postage, as not much is used. There will be an increase in portable restrooms to seven. Fertilization will stay the same. In terms of maintenance for the field, Chairman Murray said that he is getting a quote from All In Property Services to do the work. For sprinklers, the commissioners are going to move forward with Maintenance Supervisor Arron Ferris doing the job. The commissioners agreed on three mosquito sprays.

Chairman Murray suggested it would be a good idea to contact the head of Sports N Shorts to see if there is a possibility of increasing the staff in order to accommodate more children, and the Commission would pay more. Commissioner Knopf will be contacting them to see if it's a possibility.

The commissioners agreed to put in \$1,500.00 for the Trunk or Treat event, look at putting money in for the Easter event, \$4,000.00 for tree trimming, \$1,000.00 for wood fiber for the playground, \$3,000.00 for miscellaneous repairs, \$2,000.00 for bleacher repairs, and the commissioners will later discuss sand volleyball.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:**1. North Muskegon High School proposal and discussions**

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to talk to Jeremy Loyselle and Jim Colbert of North Muskegon Baseball.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Jeremy Loyselle and Jim Colbert apologized for the work on the fence and the confusion surrounding it. Chairman Bob Murray told the Commission that about five years ago, former Chairman Herb Huch had discussions with the North Muskegon High School baseball coaches regarding the use of Soldini Field, and the need to move the fence line to meet high school standards. Mr. Huch never shared the information with the Commission and then resigned from his position, so the information was never communicated to the current Commission. Mr. Loyselle and Mr. Colbert discussed many ideas that will add to the park if they use it, such as tournaments, possibly parking charges, and advertising, to name a few. One important need is more garbage recepticals, and the placement of a locked dumpster was discussed. They also stated that when North Muskegon builds a new baseball field, Mr. Loyselle and Mr. Colbert stated they would be more than willing to move the fence back to its original placement. Mr. Colbert stated that North Muskegon baseball has been very thankful for all the work completed by Fruitland Township and the willingness of the community to help. He added that he wishes that they had the same community in North Muskegon that we have in Fruitland Township. The two gentlemen again thanked the Commission.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to resume Robert's Rules of Order.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to give North Muskegon Baseball the go ahead to use the field for the next few years pending a written agreement.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

2. Doggie Easter Egg Hung and Kids Eggstravaganza 2024

Commissioner Bradford stated that a committee has been formed for the event and planning is in place. The committee is getting the event fully sponsored this year, but they need the Commission's formal approval to host the event at Nestrom Road Park. The commissioners agreed they are okay with the event being held at the park.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Katy Bradford, **ADOPTED**, to okay the event for 2024 with the committee fully funding the event.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – stated he has a soft spot for North Muskegon having worked there in the past. He's in favor of working with them and having the agreement in place, but stated that Attorney Even needs to look it over. Added that programming is key and the Commission is starting to get that. He added that more would be coming. Supervisor Marcinkowski stated that sand volleyball isn't an issue of money with the Township Board but whether it will be used. He stated that waivers need to be on file for everything within the park, including food vendors.
2. Marilyn Hamilton, 4532 Orshal Road – asked who is running the Easter event and asked for contact information.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Beegle thanked North Muskegon coaches for coming to the meeting to discuss things. He added that he's new to information regarding the Easter event but is interested in learning more.

Commissioner Knopf stated that it was a good meeting. She also said that she will get feelers out on Facebook regarding sand volleyball.

Chairman Murray stated that he's very excited for baseball and for more activity to come to the park.

Commissioner Mitenbuler stated that she likes the idea of looking into an additional worker being added to the staff for Sports 'N Shorts.

Commissioner Bradford agreed with Commissioner Mitenbuler about Sports 'N Shorts. She responded that she would share the contact information for the individuals in charge of the Easter event. Commissioner Bradford also stated that it might be a good idea to have an exit plan for the baseball program in the agreement.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Katy Bradford, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the December 4, 2023 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:11 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary