

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
January 3, 2024**

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Two 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 Mark Beegle, *ADOPTED*, to accept the January 3, 2024 agenda as written.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Murray, second from Katy Bradford, *ADOPTED*, to accept the November 8, 2023 minutes with one small change.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

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

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Mark Beegle, *ADOPTED*, to suspend Robert's Rules of Order.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Herb Huch, 4272 Gibson Road – spoke of rumor that he had given permission for the baseball outfield fence to be moved, adding that he never gave anyone permission. He said he doesn't remember even discussing older kids using the field when he was on the Commission.

Chairman Murray stated that he isn't worried about assigning blame to anyone and that the Commission is starting new, adding that there will be a written agreement in place and the fence will come back in once the high school students are finished using the field.

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

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

RECEIPTS:

There were no receipts for the month of December 2023.

DISBURSEMENTS:

There were no disbursements for the month of December 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Crafting event

Commissioner Knopf stated that the crafting event she held wasn't Commission related, but that it went really well and the individuals seemed to really like it. She added that she would like to hold another event in late January or early February.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. 2024-2025 budget

Chairman Murray stated that he, along with Commissioners Mitenbuler and Bradford, met with the Township Board to go over the entire budget. He stated that the biggest item of discussion was around the item of sand volleyball. The Township Board likes the idea, but wasn't sure it was worth the cost associated. The Township Board also agreed that they would like to see the Commission focus on fixing things within the park before adding more, most specifically being the tennis courts. Chairman Murray reminded the commissioners that there is still \$60,000.00 set aside in the ARPA funds for the tennis courts. Chairman Murray asked if the Commission would like to do one tennis court and four pickleball courts. Commissioner Knopf questioned if that would be more money, and Chairman Murray stated that it would, but only because of the nets and posts. Commissioner Knopf stated that pickleball isn't going away. She also suggested the idea of putting up a net for volleyball to see how it goes and how much it gets used, and the other commissioners agreed it was a good idea. Commissioner Bradford agreed with the idea of one tennis court and four pickleball courts, and Commissioner Beegle said the commission could always edit things based on use.

Chairman Murray told the commissioners that they are allowed \$73,549.80 for the budget, adding that the Commission is currently at about \$47,000.00 that they're requesting.

2. Restrooms

Commissioner Bradford mentioned that the Township Board is in support of flush restrooms. Chairman Murray said that there is a possibility of getting a DNR grant, but that it could take a long time to get. He mentioned that Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski said it could be run through appropriations and that a letter has been sent to Senator Bumstead.

3. Tennis courts

Discussed during budget discussions.

4. Sports 'N Shorts

The commissioners discussed the idea of paying more to be able to add an additional worker so more kids could join the program. Commissioner Bradford suggested looking into the amount of individuals on the wait list to determine how much the Commission would like to increase the budget for the program. Commissioner Knopf will be contacting Bob Switzer of Sports 'N Shorts to determine this information so the commissioners can decide how they would like to proceed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Marie Hamilton, 4532 Orshal Road – stated that she agrees that volleyball is a great idea and likes the idea of putting up a net to start. Stated that she's also excited about the crafting events and thinks they are an exciting addition for the Township.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Beegle asked about getting bids for the restrooms, and Chairman Murray stated that the Commission has already received a few bids for the grant applications. Commissioner Beegle suggested getting a simpler restroom such as cement block to drop the cost. He also added that he might have some individuals interested in kicking in some money for the project.

Commissioner Knopf stated that it was a good meeting.

Chairman Murray stated that he felt bad for Herb Huch but added that everything is all good and nobody is to blame. The Commission is moving forward.

Commissioner Mitenbuler agreed with the idea of doing cement block for the restroom.

Commissioner Bradford agreed with Commissioner Beegle on the restrooms, and she added that a changing station needs to be included in the plans. Chairman Murray agreed and stated that he would also like a bottle filling station to be added.

Commissioner Bradford also mentioned that the Easter event taking place this year is getting bigger than expected, and she suggested that the Commission consider pulling some funds to help out. The commissioners discussed the possibility, and Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield suggested putting a number in place and where they would like it to come from in case it gets approved.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Katy Bradford, **ADOPTED**, to move \$250.00 for the Easter event from the Specialty Fund.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Katy Bradford, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the January 3, 2024 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:10 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary