

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
March 4, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Bob Murray, Commissioner Mark Beegle, Commissioner Lynn Knopf, 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 Lynn Knopf, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, *ADOPTED*, to amend the agenda to include “restrooms” to unfinished business on the March 4, 2024 agenda.

*5 AYES, 0 NAYS*

**MINUTES:** Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to accept the February 5, 2024 minutes with one small change.

*5 AYES, 0 NAYS*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**RECEIPTS:**

There were no receipts for the month of February 2024.

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

There were no disbursements for the month of February 2024.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Petition for Parks and Recreation Commission**

Chairman Murray reminded the commissioners that the packets for running are available. He reminded them of the process to run as well.

**2. Citizens for Local Choice Petition Drive**

Chairman Murray stated that a presentation was completed at the Township Board level and he passed out some information to the Commission. There is a new law that takes the hand away from local Townships regarding solar and wind energy. The petition is in place to get it on the ballot.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****1. 2024-2025 budget**

Chairman Murray suggested the Commission run through the budget one last time. He reported that the meeting pay is requested to be \$50.00 per meeting. Postage was placed at \$250.00. For contracting for items in the park, the commissioners increased portable restrooms having one handicap and five standard restrooms at Nestrom Road Park and one standard restroom at Marcus Park. The quote from Kerkstra \$7,000.00 for the year. The restrooms will be placed from approximately April to September at Nestrom Road Park and from May to August at Marcus Park. Chairman Murray stated that there is a potential to pull a few restrooms from the ball diamond once baseball is complete in order to save some money. The Commissioner also requested baseball field maintenance at \$3,600.00, trail maintenance at \$2,000.00, and mosquito spraying at \$537.00.

For contracting community services, Commissioner Bradford mentioned that the Commission had previously talked about different events, such as crafting events and a Christmas tree event, possibly adding it into the budget. the Commissioner agreed to request Sports 'N Shorts for forty children at \$4,500.00, Trunk or Treat at \$1,500.00 and Easter Eggstravaganza at \$750.00. (After discussions with Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski during public comment, the Commission agreed to add new programming at \$5,000.00). The Commission will request \$200.00 for printing and publishing.

For repairs and maintenance, the Commission agreed to request \$3,000.00 for miscellaneous repairs, \$4,000.00 for tree maintenance, \$1,000.00 for playground wood fiber, \$4,100.00 for pavilion lighting, \$2,000.00 for bleacher repair, \$1,200.00 for the volleyball set, and trash receptacles for \$600.00.

Commissioner Bradford questioned not getting a comparison from the Township Board from year to year and nothing was received. She stated that it is important for the Commission to see the figures. Chairman Murray stated that unfortunately the Commission has to approve the figures now because it will be approved this month.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Mark Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to send the budget for Parks and Recreation onto the Township Board for their approval.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

Motion by Katy Bradford, second by Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to amend the budget request to include \$5,000.00 in the proposed budget for new programming.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

**2. Eggstravaganza update**

Motion by Katy Bradford, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rules of Order to discuss the event with Patricia Whitener.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

Patricia Whitener stated that things are going very well for the first time having the event. Donations and sponsorships included Montague Foods at \$250.00, Whitehall Pet Practice at \$150.00, and a \$100 gift certificate from Meijer. The group was looking for donations of dog treats and candy for the event, and someone went through Amazon and sent everything needed for the event. Trophy Center is giving a discount for printing of a banner. They will also be printing on volunteer vests and printing yard signs for the event. Ms. Whitener also stated that she has almost all the volunteers in place. The event just needs to be publicized. Commissioner Bradford and Ms. Whitener listed other things available at the event such as pictures with the Easter bunny, a craft station and photography. They also reminded everyone that the event is open to anyone, but dogs have to be registered.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Katy Bradford, **ADOPTED**, to resume Roberts Rules of Order.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

### **3. Tennis court/pickleball update**

Chairman Murray discussed the quote he gave to the Commission for the project. He added that a local company gave an estimate of \$101,000.00 for the same job. The Township Board has approved the project, taking the \$60,000.00 set aside for the tennis court and pull the remaining \$41,000.00 from the specialty fund.

### **4. Fencing quotes for tennis/pickleball and baseball backstop**

Chairman Murray stated that there are still fencing issues, so he contacted three fencing companies and two companies came out. Affordable Fencing came in at \$32,000.00 and Muskegon Fencing has yet to send their quote. Chairman Murray stated that he asked Affordable Fence how much it would cost to do the backstop and they quoted \$15,900.00. He said that is an item to think about in the future. Commissioner Mitenbuler asked where the fencing money would come from, and Chairman Murray stated that the Township Board would have to determine that.

### **5. Roadway and parking lot update**

Chairman Murray reported that the individual that quoted for the tennis courts gave a lower quote for the roadway, including a widening of roadway. The Township Board has put the item on hold for the next meeting, but that it sounded positive.

### **6. Baseball update**

Chairman Murray stated that it's been an adventure to deal with everything that's going on. He stated that he talked with the high school coach who said a lot of things are out of his control but rather in the control of the Athletic Director. Chairman Murray stated that they might not even be practicing at Nestrom Road Park. He also added that the Commission has added things into the budget due to the extra use of the field, and Sports Academy, who also uses the field, will be pitching in the help with the added expenses. Chairman Murray also stated that the fencing will be moved back as well.

### **7. Restrooms**

Chairman Murray stated that he presented to the Township Board in regards to the plan for the restroom. One comment received is that there should be a single-family restroom as well. Chairman Murray also stated that it has to be determined where the funding will come from, adding that it could come from the ARPA funding. If the Commission applies for a grant, it could take at least a year to get through. He also added that putting a roadway in and then getting the restrooms completed isn't a great idea. Chairman Murray stated that he would like to get it figured out before a new board takes over.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to suspend Roberts Rules of Order.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

1. Jeff Marcinkowski, 3767 Jay Road – three things the Township Board will approve is the tennis courts/pickleball courts, the fencing, and restrooms. He said that the Township Board is waiting to see what the roll over will be from the General Fund and will put it into an area to support these projects. Chairman Murray stated that \$10,000.00 was put aside from Wifi and he added that it could be used for fencing. The roadway is another area that the Township Board agrees on and it will come from the road funding. Supervisor Marcinkowski mentioned asking the Township Board to set aside \$10,000.00 - \$15,000.00 each year for programming rather than it being a part of their budget. The maintenance of these items will otherwise take up their budget. Supervisor Marcinkowski stated that there are enough funds in place to take care of all projects, but that the Commission just needs to be ready to ask.

Chairman Murray stated that the Commission has been fighting to get these things put into place and is very thankful that it's finally happening, especially referencing the tennis courts and how long they've been in need of repair.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Beegle good meeting.

Commissioner Knopf mentioned that she volunteered and cleaned Veterans headstones in the Township cemetery and mentioned that she will be doing it again.

Chairman Murray thanked Supervisor Marcinkowski for all that he's done for Parks and Recreation during his term. He added that it's been wonderful to have the support.

Commissioner Mitenbuler agreed.

Commissioner Bradford thanked Chairman Murray as well for all of his work for the Commission's meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the March 4, 2024 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:33 PM.

**5 AYES, 0 NAYS**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary