

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
January 7, 2013**

PRESENT: Chairperson Laura Shields, Commissioner Steve Urban, Commissioner Mary Josephson and Commissioner Lynn Knopf

ABSENT: Commissioner Mary Nagengast

ALSO PRESENT: Trustee Terrie Hampel

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Laura Shields called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Steve Urban, *ADOPTED*, to accept the January 7, 2013 meeting agenda as written.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

MINUTES: Motion by Laura Shields, second from Steve Urban, *ADOPTED*, to accept the November 5, 2012 regular meeting minutes as written.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

RECEIPTS:

Chairperson Shields reported receipts activity as Township Park pavilion rental for \$30.00, for total receipts of \$30.00 for the months of October November and December.

Motion by Mary Josephson, second from Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to accept receipts for \$30.00 for the months of November and December 2012.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Knopf-Aye, Josephson-Aye, Urban-Aye, Shields-Aye

DISBURSEMENTS:

Motion by Steve Urban, second from Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to pay Holly's Irrigation Service, LLC in the amount of \$62.50 for winterizing the sprinkler system at Nestrom Road Park.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Urban-Aye, Josephson-Aye, Knopf-Aye

NEW BUSINESS:**1. Vice Chair Vacancy**

Motion by Laura Shields, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to appoint Commissioner Lynn Knopf to the vice chair position on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Knopf-Aye, Josephson-Aye, Urban-Aye, Shields-Aye

2. 2012-13 Budget Amendment/Motion

Motion by Laura Shields, second from Mary Josephson, **ADOPTED**, to recommend to the Board of Trustees to make the following budget amendments to Department 691 (Parks & Recreation Commission) for the 3rd Quarter 2012-13 Fiscal Year:

Increase account #101-000-667.000 (Township Park Pavilion Rental) \$45.00 for additional income received.

Increase account #101-691-707.00 (Part-Time Wages) in the amount of \$72.12 for under budgeted wages incurred.

Increase account #101-691-910.001 (Health Insurance) in the amount of \$484.44 for under budgeted health insurance costs incurred.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Urban-Aye, Josephson-Aye, Knopf-Aye

3. 2013-14 Budget

Chairperson Shields brought to the attention of the two new commissioners what it is that the Parks and Recreation Commission do have a say in on their budget. When discussing the meeting pay, Chairperson Shields stated that she believes the meeting pay should remain the same, and with 14 meetings budgeted.

Chairperson Shields also stated that she believes the commission should keep the postage amount in their budget in case it is needed for any reason. The amount is \$25.00. She also mentioned the Sports 'N' Shorts program through White Lake Area Community Education, and that she believes it should be lowered from the previous budgeted amount of \$3,000.00. She also stated that the program couldn't always give a definite number because the program is not put together at the time of budgeting, but that in previous years it has remained right near \$1,600.00, and that she feels \$2,000.00 would be a good amount for the budget just in case it increases even slightly. Commissioner Urban suggested that a budgeted amount of \$2,000.00 would be an appropriate amount with what has been used in previous years. Commissioner Josephson stated that it's always harder to go back up, and the other commissioners agreed.

In discussion of printing and publishing, Chairperson Shields stated that she believes the budgeted amount of \$150.00 should remain the same in such cases as needing to publish meetings or information in the local newspapers. For repairs and maintenance, she stated that she would like to increase the amount.

Chairperson Shields stated that she would like to take the \$1,000.00 extra that is generally budgeted toward Sports 'N' Shorts and move it to the repairs and maintenance because it feels as if they are scraping by. She also stated that in looking into the budget that she has been trying to contact Trugreen in regards to what exactly they are spending yearly, and has not had a return phone call from the company. Commissioner Urban stated that he generally doesn't approve it until the spring. Chairperson Shields stated that everything they have received from Trugreen simply states that they will renew previous years pricing, but never gives an amount. Commissioner Urban stated that in trying to contact other businesses, they have stated that they cannot compare to the amount that the Parks and Recreation Commission is getting through Trugreen. Commissioner Urban stated that he would continue contacting Trugreen to get exact pricing for the budget, and what all is covered in treatment and pricing.

Chairperson Shields stated that capital improvements are dictated to the Parks and Recreation Commission from the Township Board. She mentioned the project listing recommendations from the board. She had requested a list from the Township Board in the fall of 2012 of prioritized items they would like to see completed. Board of Trustee Terrie Hampel reported that there has been no prioritizing of the list by the Township Board.

Commissioner Josephson questioned as to whether the list from the Township Board was created after consulting the Parks and Recreation Commission's Master Plan, and Chairperson Shields reported that the list was not created based on the document, but that it was created based on what the Township Board would like to see themselves. Chairperson Shields reported that in the Parks and Recreation Commission's Master Plan, it states that at Duck Lake Road Park, there will be walking, hiking and biking trails created. She said that frankly, the Township Board does not support any work at the Duck Lake Road Park.

Commissioner Josephson also stated that it seems to her as if the Parks and Recreation Commissioners would be the ones in charge of creating the list based off from their Master Plan, and what they deem necessary for the parks. Chairperson Shields stated that it has not been the case. She also said that the commissioners have gone above and beyond doing research and planning in trying to create things they would like to see, and many times things were turned down because their board did not support their ideas.

In discussion of the list from the Township Board, the first item is the installation of a basketball court at Nestrom Road Park. Chairperson Shields stated that the previous commissioners were not at all interested in doing so after having installing a perfectly nice, new court at Duck Lake Road Park. Commissioner Knopf questioned as to whether Duck Lake Road Park is used much, and Commissioner Urban stated that prior to renovations, it wasn't used much at all. Chairperson Shields stated that she feels the Township Board has let the Duck Lake Road Park go down hill. She also stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission had made a five-year plan for the park and that they had installed a grill and placed a few picnic tables at the park. She also reported that the commission ultimately wanted to create walking/jogging/biking trails, and there was interest in even putting in a disk golf course, but the Township Board did not approve or support this idea. Township Trustee Terrie Hampel stated that after reading the five-year plan, she thought it was a great idea, especially in regards to the trails. She stated that in her view, people want to see trails at the park. Commissioner Josephson questioned why the Township Board did not approve the disk golf especially when another group was interested in helping to create the entire course, and Chairperson Shields stated that the Township Board was worried about vandalism, and also that there is not enough parking.

Chairperson Shields had spoken to someone from the Muskegon Nature Club in regards to birdhouses, and after they had spoken to the Muskegon Conservation District, they questioned whether it was a "do good" project or a "feel good" project, and whether or not it would be something that would be continually checked and taken care of.

In regards to a crushed concrete or dolomite parking area, the commissioners' main question is where exactly the Township Board would like to see this parking area. They also question where the Township Board would like to see the sprinkler system extended. Commissioner Urban mentioned the quote from Holly's Irrigation, and the drawing that was also completed by the business. Chairperson Shields asked Secretary Mary Mansfield to bring the drawing to the Supervisor to be placed in the discussion for the joint meeting.

Commissioner Josephson interjected that she still has a problem with how things are looked at, and questioned as to whether the Township Board has always dictated to the Parks and Recreation Commission what they can and cannot do. Chairperson Shields stated she understands where Commissioner Josephson is coming from, but things are just not that way. Josephson questioned as to whether or not things had ever been that way, and when the friction started. Chairperson Shields stated that the friction between the two boards began about ten years prior, and that in years prior to the friction, the Parks and Recreation Commission did have more say. Commissioner Urban said that he believes the economy has surely changed the way things are looked at, and that when the township was in charge of the White River Light Station, it was a great expense for the board as well. Township Trustee Terrie Hampel stated that she feels as if the Township Board sees roads as a priority, and that she feels they might be afraid to spend otherwise.

In regards to improvement of the beach area, Chairperson Shields stated that they needed more information and what the Township Board is thinking. She also reported that installation of a bench or swing would be approximately \$150.00, which would be simple. She said a sledding hill at the park is not a priority of the Parks and Recreation Commission. She also stated that as far as playground ground cover is concerned, sand is there and that nothing additional is needed.

New playground equipment at Nestrom Road Park was a huge topic of discussion. Chairperson Shields stated that this was done two years ago with brand new equipment. Commissioner Urban stated that if the Township Board is going to approve spending \$12,000.00 on playground equipment that they should be paying attention to what they are spending.

In regards to the soccer nets at the park, Chairperson Shields stated that the gentleman who set up the nets would leave the nets at the park. She stated that the youth program practices Mondays and Wednesdays, and would leave the nets so that they do not have to be moved. Chairperson Shields stated that there is room on the soccer field to make a regulation field, and that they are interested in doing so.

When reporting on restroom updates for the park, Chairperson Shields stated that she had personally never been in them, but questioned why the township would want to place permanent ones. She stated that if they were to put permanent restrooms in, it would cost the township upwards of \$30,000. She also stated that the commission has looked at portables, but is not sure what is wrong with the ones that are already in place. Commissioner Knopf stated that they are just creepy and smelly, and simply a pit toilet. She also said that there is no hand washing area. Commissioner Josephson questioned portable sanitizer. There is question among the board as to whether the area is cleaned and maintained.

In regards to updating the pavilion and stairway, the Parks and Recreation Commission have questions as to what exactly the Township Board would like to see. The commissioners all feel as if the stairway is fine the way it is, and are unsure what type of updates the Township Board would like to see.

Commissioner Mary Josephson suggested that before the Parks and Recreation Commission further discuss the project list recommendations, they needed to get further clarification from the Township Board. All of the commissioners agreed. Chairperson Shields stated that she feels as if it's somewhat of a joke, and not something, the Township Board is taking seriously. She stated that she also feels as if Duck Lake Road Park has too much to offer, and is saddened that the Township Board doesn't see it the same

way. Trustee Terrie Hampel questioned where all the proceeds for tree harvesting on the Duck Lake Road Park property went. Chairperson Shields said that she was originally told that approximately 22% of the profit would go back to the Parks and Recreation Commission. She later questioned as to whether or not they could have it set aside in a separate account, like had been done for the Blueberry Festival money, for improvements, and that she was given the answer of “no.” All of the profits of the harvesting at Duck Lake Road Park ended up going into the general fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

UPDATES:

None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Chairperson Shields welcomed both Commissioner Knopf and Commissioner Josephson to the Parks and Recreation Commission and let them know that she’s glad they are part of the group. She also mentioned that if any of the commissioners would ever like anything added to meeting agendas to contact her or Parks and Recreation Commission secretary Mary Mansfield. She also stated that she wanted to make sure that the commissioners give all contact information needed to make sure everyone is reachable when needed.

Commissioner Urban suggested possibly adding the infield of the Nestrom Road baseball field to the Township Board’s wish list for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He stated that since the field gets a great deal of use, there is a great need for more sand in the infield. He also said that the little league group that uses the field would be willing to pay half of whatever costs are acquired in doing so. Commissioner Knopf questioned whether Trugreen just fertilizes the field or if they also mow. Commissioner Urban stated that it is just fertilization that is completed.

Commissioner Josephson questioned as to whether or not the Parks and Recreation Commission does any type of year end report that is created as a means to report items that are completed by the commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by, second from Steve Urban, second from Mary Josephson, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the January 7, 2013 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 8:18p.m.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary