

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
April 5, 2010**

PRESENT: Chairman Jim Duncan, Commissioners Laura Shields, Jeff Marcinkowski, and Steve Urban

ABSENT: Commissioner Roger Missimer

ALSO PRESENT: Curator McDonnell, Supervisor St. Amour, Clerk Rillema, Trustee Bard, and fifteen (15) interested parties

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR CHAIRMAN:

Motion by Laura Shields, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to nominate and elect Jim Duncan as Chairman to the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR VICE CHAIRMAN:

Motion by Jim Duncan, second from Jeff Marcinkowski, **ADOPTED**, to nominate and elect Laura Shields as Vice Chair to the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR SECRETARY:

Motion by Laura Shields, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to nominate and elect Jeff Marcinkowski as Secretary to the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

APPOINT RECORDING SECRETARY:

Motion by Jim Duncan, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to appoint Ericka DeCair as recording secretary to the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

ESTABLISH MEETING DAYS AND TIME:

Motion by Jeff Marcinkowski, second from Laura Shields, **ADOPTED**, to establish meeting days and time for the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission as the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fruitland Township Hall.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

AGENDA:

Motion by Jeff Marcinkowski, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to accept the April 5, 2010 meeting agenda as written.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

MINUTES:

Motion by Laura Shields, second from Jeff Marcinkowski, **ADOPTED**, to accept the March 1, 2010 regular meeting minutes as submitted.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Betsy Grein, 5780 Oak Tree Lane – stated that she is part of the Friends Group and there was misinformation in the last E-News. She stated that the Friends Group is a non-profit and they were organized to buy artifacts and create educational opportunities, therefore they can not help raise funds because it is against their bylaws. She stated that there is no agreement between the Friends Group and the Township, as stated in the Recreation Plan. She is glad that all of the Trustees are on board to help find funds for the lighthouse. She hopes the Parks and Recreation Commission will organize a non-profit group to help raise funds for the lighthouse. She does not believe there is an income tax problem because the curator lives at the lighthouse as a convenience to the Township. She believes that having the curator live at the lighthouse helps to deter theft and vandalism. She also stated that she has an issue with stopping the gift shop because it was a revenue source for the lighthouse.

Lee Holly, 6820 South Shore Drive – would like to know what the water situation is on Duck Lake with regard to water quality and fishing. He stated that he is working on a plan for the

Township that would include surrounding areas such as Whitehall Township, City of Whitehall, Montague Township, City of Montague, and White River Township, and he has given Chairman Duncan a copy of the plan. He has contacted the Muskegon Community Foundation and has received an outline of a tax deductible contribution plan that could be used.

Orvil Smith, 607 Alice Street – suggested sending letters to surrounding townships, cities, and service areas regarding the lighthouse funding because the lighthouse is important to the community. He would like the lighthouse to be preserved and kept open.

Sam St. Amour, 4445 Michillinda Road – explained the letter that he had sent to the Commissioners. He stated that the Township needs a copy of the internet bill to match with the invoice to comply with the Township's policies and procedures. He explained that the Commission has trimmed down the Recreation Plan and made it more effective. He stated that the budget is tight and there may be budget issues next fiscal year. He suggested that the Friends Group could change their bylaws to allow them to help with fundraising, and that the Parks and Recreation Commission look at all options for fundraising. He explained that the Township auditors believe there is a violation and they are looking at what needs to be done. Supervisor St. Amour stated that he spoke with the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Executive Director and he is willing to talk with the Commission about ways that other lighthouses are funded. He stated that the Commission has done a lot of work at the lighthouse and on the Recreation Plan.

Lynn Knopf, 4328 Mystic Lane – would like clarification on the expansion of the Marcus Park beach area that is mentioned in the Recreation Plan. She explained that she works with the Duck Creek Watershed group and they do E Coli testing and the results are available online. She stated that the Duck Creek Watershed meets the second Tuesday of every other month at the Fruitland Township Hall if anyone would like to come.

Chairman Duncan asked how many members they had and Ms. Knopf stated less than ten right now. Chairman Duncan urged Ms. Knopf to get more members.

Karen McDonnell, 6199 Murray Road – stated that she no longer wants to be reimbursed for her internet. She stated that the weather station is used from her internet, which was the reason for the reimbursement.

RECEIPTS:

Secretary Ericka DeCair reported receipts activity as museum sales in the amount of \$14.00 for total receipts in the amount of \$14.00 for the month of March 2010.

Motion by Laura Shields, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to accept receipts in the amount of \$14.00 for the month of March 2010. **4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT**

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

DISBURSEMENTS:

Motion by Jeff Marcinkowski, second from Laura Shields, **ADOPTED**, to pay Hunts Rental in the amount of \$25.60, Verizon in the amount of \$44.41, Karen McDonnell (April internet) in the amount of \$44.99, Consumers Energy in the amount of \$182.91, DTE Energy in the amount of \$355.59, J&J Farm Sales in the amount of \$130.95, and White Lake Beacon in the amount of \$139.75, for a total disbursement of \$924.20.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Proposed Recreation Plan (began at 7:38 p.m.)

Lee Holly, 6820 South Shore Drive – would like a map that shows which property is owned by the Township.

Chairman Duncan stated that he received a letter from Glenn Hayden stating that he would like the Commission to consider any parking or trails that would abut Watershed properties.

Motion by Jeff Marcinkowski, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to consider the letter from Mr. Glenn Hayden, Chair of the Duck Creek Watershed Assembly, to include the items as stated in the letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission dated March 29, 2010.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Shields-Aye, Duncan-Aye, Marcinkowski-Aye, Urban-Aye

Lee Holly, 6820 South Shore Drive – would like to compliment the Commission on the plan, especially page 16 regarding public input.

Betsy Grein, 5780 Oak Tree Lane – asked if anything about the lighthouse would be included in the Recreation Plan. Ms. Grein asked if there would be a vision statement for the lighthouse in the Recreation Plan.

Chairman Duncan answered not at this time.

Irene Pierson, 6100 Murray Road – asked if the Recreation Plan included all of the land that the Parks and Recreation Commission are responsible for.

Chairman Duncan explained which properties the Commission has jurisdiction over.

Bruce Rissi, 5820 Duck Lake Road – asked about the tables on page 21 of the Recreation Plan regarding Marcus Park and the location and space for parking place. He had questions regarding the current and proposed parking. Mr. Rissi asked about numbers 4 and 6 on page 19 of the Recreation Plan. He also asked if the Commission agrees with the court ruling regarding Marcus Park.

Chairman Duncan addressed Mr. Rissi's questions and concerns regarding the Recreation Plan and Marcus Park.

Supervisor St. Amour mentioned that when Scenic Drive gets paved this year, the guardrail that runs along Duck Lake will be shorter.

Karolyn Rillema, 5549 Scenic Drive – asked if the agreements that are mentioned in the Recreation Plan are written or verbal.

Chairman Duncan stated that there are no working agreements, but the Commission is getting documentation for each artifact as they come in.

Commissioner Shields stated that she would like to adjust the Recreation Plan once the 2010 Census is done. She would like to adjust the partnership language on page 7, state that the playground equipment has been upgraded on page 10, and adjust the pocket park wording on page 13.

Public hearing ended at 7:54 p.m.

MARCH MUSEUM REPORT:

1. Museum Artifact Ownership and Inventory:

Curator McDonnell stated that she has started working on artifact inventory and getting estimated values on the artifacts.

Supervisor St. Amour stated that the Township insurance renewal is June 1st and wondered if the artifact inventory list would be finished by then. Chairman Duncan thought it would be.

Tom Grein – explained that the Friends Group gives the artifacts to the Township as a gift, but others might have given the artifacts on loan.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Marcus Park Update:

Chairman Duncan explained that an agreement is being looked over by legal counsel and that Commissioner Missimer should be back next month, so there should be more information at the next meeting.

Bill Traynor – stated that he would be willing to help with this situation in whatever way he can.

Bruce Rissi – asked about the agreement and who was involved in the agreement.

Chairman Duncan explained a little about the agreement and who was involved in creating it.

Mr. Rissi asked if the Commission had tried to contact the Duck Lake Riparian Association regarding the agreement.

Chairman Duncan answered no.

Mr. Rissi asked why the Commission did not try to contact them.

Chairman Duncan explained why they have not tried to contact them.

Mr. Rissi asked about the basis for the Commission's stance on the Marcus Park issue and if they had received legal input.

Chairman Duncan explained the basis for the Commission's stance and stated that they had received legal input.

2. Other: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Museum Volunteer Article:

Chairman Duncan stated that the article was just for information for the Commission.

2. Plaques for Channel:

Chairman Duncan explained that he had given the wording of the signs to the Commissioners and he believes this should be a joint decision with the Board of Trustees because of the past history. He stated that there are no plaques like this at the Channel right now.

3. Other: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Chairman Duncan suggested starting a separate 501c3 community organization to raise money for the lighthouse, and the entire community should be involved because it is an area attraction.

Betsy Grein – asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission would be doing this.

Chairman Duncan stated that he and Mr. Holly will work on it.

Commissioner Shields urged everyone to read the plaques and she believes that they are a good warning to the community.

Orvil Smith – explained that he and Chris' dad were not involved in the lawsuit against the Township and they would get the posts and put the plaques up.

Commissioner Urban stated that the playground equipment has been purchased and is ready to put up, but the Commission will need volunteers to help put in the new equipment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Laura Shields, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the April 5, 2010 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 8:10 p.m.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Respectfully submitted,

Ericka DeCair, Recording Secretary