

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
May 6, 2013**

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Mary Josephson

ALSO PRESENT: Jan Deur and Township Liaison Terrie Hampel

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Laura Shields called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Laura Shields, second from Steve Urban, *ADOPTED*, to amend the agenda to add Hunts Hardware in the amount of \$47.95 and Lowes in the amount of \$59.03 to the disbursements.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

MINUTES: Motion by Laura Shields, second from Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to accept the April 1, 2013 regular meeting as written.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Deur, 2761 Scenic Drive – Jan wanted to speak in regards to the potential of grant revenues to pursue for the next fiscal year. He sited that in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the number one goal is to maintain an approved plan and apply for state and federal recreation grant moneys, the number three goal is to expand recreation opportunities for township residents, the number five goal is to make better utilization of natural features such as Duck Creek for recreational use, and the number seven goal is to link recreational facilities with a good quality, well designed trail system. Jan believes that five out of the nine goals can be addressed by a program such as the one he brought to the attention of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The specific grant that Jan brought to the attention of the board is the Michigan Natural Resources Fund (MNRTF). Eligible applicants are State and Local units of government authorized to provide public outdoor recreation. A prerequisite is that the applicant must have a current, five-year recreation plan that has been approved by the DNR prior to the application deadline, with minimum match requirement of 25%, which he believes can be done without increasing the Parks and Recreation budget. Eligible projects include Development Projects for public outdoor recreation such as trails, campgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts and restrooms. This project would be a \$15,000 minimum and a \$300,000 maximum. The application deadline

of April 1 has passed, but Jan stated that he believes this gives the Parks and Recreation Commission plenty of time to look into the grant further and do all that is necessary for the grant.

Jan also mentioned that he sits on the board of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, and he stated that about three years ago, a request was received from an estate of a resident in Fruitland Township who left approximately one million dollars for use in preferably dune land in Fruitland Township to preserve it. The Land Conservancy could not find any dune land that would meet the requirements of this request, so the Land Conservancy went to another township where some was available and used a portion of the money. There is still a considerable portion of the money left. Jan stated that he has spoken with the staff of the Land Conservancy and asked that if Fruitland Township could come up with a good plan to embellish and further develop the trail system on our property if they could help out with some of the match requirement, and there is indeed a possibility of them doing so once a plan is in place. Jan mentioned that he had also spoken with Supervisor Sam St. Amour and the rest of the Fruitland Township board and they all agree that this is a great idea to pursue. Supervisor Sam St. Amour also put in a call to Erin Kuhn, a planner on the staff of West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, and asked her to come out because she has worked on several different Master Plans in Muskegon County, and she has said she would come out to help give ideas on how to pursue this grant. Jan mentioned that there are several trails behind the fire barn by Duck Lake Road Park, and that they are frequently used. He stated that there are a lot of issues to work out, such as what the trails would be used for and what would be allowed, and that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan has to be in synch with what is being asked for with the grant. Jan stated that an amendment could be made to their Master Plan in order to make this happen, including the designation of the land and possibly gaining more of the property for the trails.

Commissioner Urban questioned as to whether we could lump projects together, such as a flushable restroom at Nestrom Road Park that the Parks and Recreation Commission had once considered, and Jan said he was unsure, but that he believes the parks would have to be linked together somehow, such as with the trails.

RECEIPTS:

Chairperson Shields reported receipts activity as Township Park pavilion rental for \$20.00, for total receipts of \$40.00 for the month of April 2013.

Motion by Mary Nagengast, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to accept receipts for \$40.00 for the month of April 2013.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

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

DISBURSEMENTS:

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Steve Urban, **ADOPTED**, to pay A-1 Excavation in the amount of \$1,900.00 for the installation of a parking area by the pavilions, Alan Vande Vusse in the amount of \$204.55 for the building and installation of bluebird and wood duck houses, Hunts Hardware in the amounts of \$36.00 and \$47.95 for ball field updates, and Lowes in the amount of \$59.03 for picnic table repairs.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Community Service Projects

Chairperson Shields reported that she had hoped to hear at the meeting from Commissioner Josephson as to what was completed on the township hall's flowerbed by the high school students for their community service project. In looking at the area, Chairperson Shields stated that it looks as if the students only planted flowers in the path area of the flowerbed, and she thought they were going to clean up leaves and spruce up the front area as well.

Chairperson Shields also reported that she had a woman interested in her family and herself helping with some type of volunteer work for the township. Chairperson Shields stated that she thought it might be a good idea to fix up the area in front of the township hall windows where there is currently bushes. She suggested something such as hostas, and have the family maintain both areas as their community service once a month. The commissioners showed concern of planting hostas in the past due to deer eating the plants, and Commissioner Knopf suggested a similar plant that would not be eaten. Chairperson Shields said that she would wait to hear back from the individual interested in helping, and she would move forward after that.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2013-14 Budget Item Schedule

Chairperson Shields reported to the commission that the parking area and pull off near the pavilion is complete. She stated that in the process of creating the parking area, there was a problem with how deep the area was, therefore the parking area was not as large as the commission planned. Chairperson Shields said that in discussions with Mike Thomas from A-1 Excavation, the company that completed the job, he would go back to the park and fix it to the standards the commission had hoped for. Shields stated that the parking area is now complete, and that should there be more charges, she hopes that the Township Board will allow the Parks and Recreation Commission to use a portion of the money from the removal and installation of the swings from St. James Church to Marcus Park.

Commissioner Nagengast reported that Mike Thomas is also going to be completing the removal and installation of the swings at Marcus Park, and that the project should be done sometime in the second or third week of May.

Commissioner Urban reported that the ball field is complete, and that he had worked on it quite a bit during the week. He also stated that one more bill would be coming in for work completed at the ball field. Chairperson Shields reminded everyone to make sure they are designating where everything is going, and that everyone brings in proper paperwork and receipts for work being completed.

Commissioner Knopf brought bench and swing quotes to the commission to narrow down and soon purchase the items for Nestrom Road Park and Marcus Park. The best quotes were from NVB Playgrounds, Inc. Because Commissioner Knopf received quotes from a few different companies, freight charges were on all estimates. It was suggested that Commissioner Knopf contact the company to see what the freight would be if both items were to be purchased through them, and if there would be any sort of discount. Commissioner Knopf also reported that she had looked at a company that offered free shipping for a limited time, and that she would also look into them once more, and decide which avenue would be best to pursue.

UPDATES:

None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by, second from Mary Nagengast, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the May 6, 2013 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:37p.m.

4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary