

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
November 6, 2024**

PRESENT: Commissioner Bob Murray, Commissioner Mark Beegle, Commissioner Lynn Knopf, Commissioner Carlet Mitenbuler and Commissioner Ellie Rae VanTongeren.

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 Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to accept the November 6, 2024 agenda with one small change.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

MINUTES: Motion by Carlet Mitenbuler, second from Lynn Knopf, *ADOPTED*, to accept the October 7, 2024 minutes with one small change.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Jeff Marcinkowski, 3744 Jay Road – thanked the commissioners for all of their hard work and dedication the last four years. Discussed the sidewalk work within Nestrom Road Park, adding that he would like have the Commission apply for a grant for the work. Added that all of the work the commissioners have on the list of items they'd like to add to the park can be completed in the next four years.

RECEIPTS:

Chairman Murray reported receipt activity as pavilion rentals in the amount of \$30.00 for the month of October, 2024.

DISBURSEMENTS:

Chairman Murray reported disbursements activity as \$750.00 to Kerkstra for portable restrooms and \$4,500.00 to Whitehall District Schools for Sports 'N Shorts, for total disbursements of \$5,250.00.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second by Mark Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to accept receipts in the amount of \$30.00 for pavilion rentals to pay disbursements in the amount of \$5,250.00.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Roll Call Vote: Beegle-Aye, Knopf-Aye, Murray-Aye, Mitenbuler-Aye, VanTongeren-Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Programs committee updates

Commissioner Knopf reported that the trunk or treat event went well. She purchased items for the event that she will be donating to the Township. Commissioner Knopf asked that the items be stored at the Township Hall. She added that she would like for the sign up to be sent to Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield as well as herself, and that she would like for sign up times to start way before they started this year. For story time, the commissioners agreed that they would like to have solar lighting for the area. Commissioner Knopf stated that the donuts went very quickly, also asking the commissioners if they would like to continue doing them. They all agreed that they are a good addition to the event. Commissioner Knopf asked the commissioners if they would like to consider changing the time for the event, and Chairman Murray said that he thinks the reason things slowed down for the event was only due to the Michigan/Michigan State start time. He added that the game time for the following year isn't known in advance and that it isn't always at the same time. Commissioner Knopf also stated that she would like to have more volunteers and would like to consider recruiting for this.

Chairman Murray said that he liked having the event in the park rather than the parking lot. He also said that he feels as if the story time should be a little bit closer as it seemed too far away. Commissioner Knopf said that she was asked if the cars could be just a little closer together so the participants are able to socialize some. The commissioners agreed.

For next year, Commissioner Knopf stated that she would like to make sure the garbage cans are checked before the event. She also added that she would like to jazz up the pavilions with more decorations. Chairman Murray suggested possibly doing something in the trails for future years.

The commissioners discussed prizes for the trunks, agreeing that a \$50 gift card would be given to the winner.

For Christmas time, Commissioner Knopf stated that she would like to do a craft event at the hall.

2. Pickleball gates

Chairman Murray stated that the pickleball gates are fixed.

3. Temporary roadway grading

Chairman Murray stated that he and Commissioner Beegle still need to connect to get this completed.

4. Baseball updates

Chairman Murray reported that the ceilings of the dugouts are complete and he thanked Commissioner Mitenbuler for her help. He added that the group that maintains the field will be coming in to do so. Commissioner Murray contacted the North Muskegon coach regarding the Varsity baseball team and their use of the field. The coach stated that the Varsity team will be using the field in early spring, adding that the Junior Varsity team would like to play their games at the field this season. The North Muskegon Youth program will also be using the field.

5. 2025-2026 budget

The commissioners again discussed increasing the pavilion rental fee to \$50. Kerkstra is sticking to the same fees for the next fiscal year. Chairman Murray discussed marking the walking trails below the park, adding that in the fall the trails can be harder to see due to the leaf cover. He said that he would be willing to print them with his 3D printer and donate his time, adding that they will just need to ask for a way to post them throughout the trails and the filament to make them. Chairman Murray stated that the Commission previously used Mosquito Joe for the spraying, adding that a new owner is taking over the business. He is going to get a quote from them as well as O'Malley's in Muskegon. The budget for TruGreen will be staying the same. Chairman Murray stated that he will check with the individuals who take care of the field to determine what the budget needs to be for ballfield maintenance. The commissioners are going to get a quote for Sports 'N Shorts and are hoping it will be the same for the next fiscal year. The commissioners discussed that instead of having separate amounts for all the different programming events, they would like it to be all together in one portion of the budget. The commissioners will also be getting a quote for a pickleball instructor to come to the park.

For repairs and maintenance, Chairman Murray said that he will check on the number for miscellaneous repairs and what has been used in this year's budget. Commissioner Beegle asked if it needs to be increased due to the new restrooms going in. Chairman Murray said that he has asked the cleaners for the Township Hall to give them a quote for the work, as well as for emptying the garbage cans on weekends during the summer months. He added that this will go under contracting. The commissioners are also having trash bins made by Maintenance Supervisor Arron Ferris. Five bins will be made for \$250.00 each.

Chairman Murray said that \$850.00 of the \$4,000.00 tree maintenance budget is left. He said that there are quite a few limbs over the courts that are causing issues. He requested that he is able to meet with Jelinek Tree Service to address these issues, adding that they told him they could still complete the work this year.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to authorize tree trimming at the courts to be completed by Jelinek Tree Service not to exceed \$850.00

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

The commissioners also discussed fencing around the park. Chairman Murray shared quotes he received from Oasis Fence, which include taking out the old backstop fence near the road that hasn't been used in years. Commissioner Knopf asked if it would be more economical to place "park property ends here" signs along the property line with some fencing rather than replacing the entire fence. Commissioner Mitenbuler said that there really isn't a need to replace the fence along her property line with the Township. Commissioner VanTongeren stated that she likes the idea of the t-posts with signs, adding that it is the owners' responsibility to keep their pets off of adjacent properties. She added that it might be a good idea to include additional signage regarding keeping pets on leashes. Commissioner Beegle stated that he also likes the idea of doing some fencing and some signage to lesson the fee of the fencing.

Chairman Murray again stated that the baseball field will need some new bases, adding that they are \$600.00-\$869.00. He mentioned again that clay bricks will be needed for the home plate and pitcher's mound. Chairman Murray stated that there is a local company that the bricks can be purchased from for around \$600.00. Commissioner Knopf asked who will do the work with the bricks, and Chairman Murray said that he will do the work himself. The commissioners will be

getting a quote to add additional angled parking in a few places throughout the park. The pavilions will be re-shingled in the next budget as well. The commissioners also discussed doing runs in the park and donating money, so they will be looking into this and having the attorney write something up so they are able to do so. Chairman Murray stated that they are still looking into a kayak launch at Marcus Park.

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

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Jeff Marcinkowski, 3744 Jay Road – stated that he would like the commissioners to approve him to do three things. First, he would like to request that the Township Board will utilize the money from the properties sold to dedicate for the Commission's use on the restrooms. Additionally, he would like to have Asphalt Paving Inc. to come to the park to give a quote for the angled parking within the park. He would also like for the Commission to give him permission to seek and apply for a grant for the handicap accessible sidewalk throughout the park.

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

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Mark Beegle, **ADOPTED**, to have Asphalt Paving Inc. give an estimate for single row angled parking throughout Nestrom Road Park.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to give Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski permission to seek and apply for a grant for the ADA sidewalks throughout the park.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to allow Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski to ask the Township Board to use the money from the sale of the vacant property to be used for restrooms.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Beegle stated that he enjoyed working with the commissioners. He added that a lot of good things are coming.

Commissioner Knopf thanked Chairman Murray for all of the extra work he's putting into the Commission, and Commissioner Beegle agreed.

Chairman Murray said that he would love to see Commissioner Beegle appointed back to the Commission and encouraged him to stay.

Commissioner Mitenbuler stated that she echoes what everyone else has said, adding that Commissioner Beegle has been very valuable and she hopes he considers staying.

Commissioner VanTongeren said she is excited to be a part of the Commission. She also said that she agrees that Commissioner Beegle should be appointed and stay with the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the November 6, 2024 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:44 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary