

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
February 3, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Bob Murray, Commissioner Lynn Knopf, and Commissioner Carlet Mitenbuler.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Mark Beegle and Commissioner Ellie Rae VanTongeren.

**ALSO PRESENT:** One interested party.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Murray called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**WELCOME GUESTS**

**AGENDA:** Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to amend the February 3, 2025 agenda with the addition of "Zoom" under "New Business."

**3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT**

**MINUTES:** Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to accept the January 6, 2025 minutes as written.

**3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**RECEIPTS:**

None.

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Chairman Murray reported disbursements activity as \$850.00 to Jelinek Tree service for the tree trimming in the park, for total disbursements of \$850.00.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED**, to pay disbursements in the amount of \$850.00.

**3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT**

*Roll Call Vote: Knopf-Aye, Mitenburler-Aye, Murray-Aye***UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****1. 2025-2026 budget**

Chairman Murray said that he has a meeting set for Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, with Supervisor Jeff Marcinkowski and Clerk Alexa Steffes to discuss the budget.

**2. Property sale/funds**

Chairman Murray reminded the commissioners that the sales for the properties exceeded the amount needed for the restrooms, adding that the Township Board approved the additional funds to go toward other items in the park, such as the roof on each pavilion, sidewalks by the playground, and more playground equipment. Chairman Murray said that he checked into ideas for younger children in the park, stating that adding more swings would be \$1,500.00 plus freight and shipping. He also shared a few smaller pieces of equipment that are options to add in the park.

**3. Restrooms**

Chairman Murray said that Brad VanBergen attended the Township Board Work Session and presented the plans for the restrooms. Chairman Murray added that everything is moving forward.

**4. Program committee update**

Commissioner Knopf informed the commissioners that she connected with a gentleman named Ben that is part of a pickleball group and has five years of experience. She added that he teaches at Spring Lake Country Club. Commissioner Knopf said that he recommended doing classes for ten years and over, adding that he said sixteen and up can be in the adult class. Commissioner Knopf said that she thinks there should be a class for kids 10-15 years old and an adult class for sixteen and up. She said the commissioners would need to think of dates for the event. The commissioners agreed to have him come to the March meeting to discuss the lessons.

The commissioners discussed gauging the interest of residents, and Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield suggested putting out an E-News with a link to a questionnaire on the website to gauge interest and get information. The commissioners agreed to have her do that, and Commissioner Knopf also asked her to include information about upcoming craft events that she would like to have possibly Monday and Thursday evenings next week.

Chairman Murray mentioned the idea of doing a classic car event in the future. He said that they could possibly hold it around the ring road in the park, and the commissioners agreed to connect with others who hold these events locally to see about getting an event started. The commissioners also agreed to look at possibly doing the Easter event and Senior Palooza. Chairman Murray reminded the commissioners to keep the movie night in mind.

**5. DNR Passport Grant/site plan**

Chairman Murray presented a site plan including the accessible pathways they would like to present for the DNR grant.

**6. Sports 'N Shorts**

Chairman Murray shared that Bob Switzer is leaving the program, adding that a gentleman named Mark Brunger is taking over. Chairman Murray said that the fee for the program will stay the same, and the commissioners agreed that they wouldn't like to raise the rate/amount of children involved in the program until they get a waiting list again.

**NEW BUSINESS:****1. Zoom**

Chairman Murray stated that the Township Board has requested that each commission/board consider using zoom for their meetings to reach more residents. The commissioners agreed they are okay with using it.

Motion by Bob Murray, second by Carlet Mitenbuler, **ADOPTED**, to include zoom in their future meetings.

**3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Knopf stated that it was a good meeting, adding that good things are coming for the Commission. She said that she is also excited about the upcoming restrooms.

Commissioner Mitenbuler said that she was hopeful for possible PFAS discussions, adding that it is next door at her property. The commissioners discussed the biggest sources and other aspects that could be affecting it. Commissioner Knopf stated that they're seeing that a lot of unusual chemicals are involved and they're dealing with legacy chemicals. It was questioned if Duck Creek has yet been tested, and Commissioner Knopf stated that it hasn't. The commissioners are concerned and want to continue discussions related to PFAS.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Lynn Knopf, **ADOPTED** to adjourn the February 3, 2025 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:55 PM.

**3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary