

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
September 8, 2026**

PRESENT: Commissioner Lynn Knopf, Commissioner Carlet Mitenbuler, and Commissioner Doug Potts.

ABSENT: Commissioner Mark Beegle and Commissioner Bob Murray.

ALSO PRESENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Lynn Knopf called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Doug Potts, ***ADOPTED***, to accept the September 8, 2026, agenda as written.

3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT

MINUTES: Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, ***ADOPTED***, to accept the July 6, 2026, minutes as written.

3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None.

RECEIPTS:
Commissioner Knopf reported receipt activity as pavilion rentals in the amount of \$200.00 for the months of July and August 2026.

DISBURSEMENTS:
Commissioner Knopf reported disbursements activity as \$1,830.00 to Kerkstra for portable restrooms, \$302.64 to SSB Charges for dolomite in the park, and \$46.25 to Wilde Signs for a name plate for Doug Potts for total disbursements of \$2,178.89.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second by Carlet Mitenbuler, ***ADOPTED***, to accept receipts in the amount of \$200.00 and to pay disbursements in the amount of \$2,178.89.

3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Potts-Aye, Knopf-Aye, Mitenbuler-Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Remove invasives at Nestrom Road and Marcus Parks

Commissioner Knopf stated that she received an email from a resident that is interested in removing mullein. Commissioner Mitenbuler asked if it is something that can wait until the bees are done. The commissioners agreed to do so, and Commissioner Knopf stated that she would have him fill out a volunteer form before completing the removal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Future park projects/budget items

Commissioner Mitenbuler said that aquatic flora is an issue on the shoreline of Duck Lake near the park, adding that it is so thick that people can't walk into the lake without getting caught in it. She suggested that the commissioners consider the idea of possible spraying in the next budget. Commissioner Mitenbuler also suggested contacting Dave Paquet to get in on the pricing the riparians receive.

2. Program committee updates/future events

Commissioner Knopf said that she had planned to talk to Commissioner Beegle about the car show tonight. She added that she would put something online to see about interest.

Commissioner Knopf said that she doesn't have a date for the Trunk or Treat event yet, adding that she is trying to stay away from dates of other events in the area. She also added that she would like to have a pumpkin decorating contest. Commissioner Knopf mentioned the idea of possibly having the Township Board be the judges. She also said that the pumpkins could be at the Township Hall or at local restaurants. Commissioner Knopf said that decorating would take place at home, and she would do different age groups for the prizes. She said that she likes the idea of having the decorated pumpkins at the hall and having them here for the Trunk or Treat event.

3. Restrooms and cleanings

Commissioner Knopf shared a draft letter that she wrote to the Township Board about requesting part-time staff cleaning the restrooms. She also mentioned the possibility of them opening the restrooms or the commissioners doing it remotely. The commissioners also agreed not to open the restrooms until next year.

Commissioner Mitenbuler mentioned the idea of hiring a staff member to do the hall and restroom cleanings, adding that having someone in house would benefit everyone. She said things could be taken care of on a regular basis rather than once a week like Recording Secretary Mary Mansfield stated is happening for hall cleanings.

Commissioner Knopf stated that the portable restroom is being taken out of Marcus Park this week. The commissioners agreed to keep at least one portable restroom at Nestrom Road Park until the youth soccer season is complete. The commissioners questioned when soccer is here playing, and Commissioner Knopf stated that one group is at the park on Tuesdays and Thursdays while the other group is here the other nights.

4. Fence quotes

Commissioner Knopf stated that Oasis Fence will be at the park to complete the work October 19-23 for a full week of work.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second by Doug Potts, ***ADOPTED***, to approve Oasis Fence to replace the fence for \$12,467.80.

3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT

Roll Call Vote: Knopf-Aye, Potts-Aye, Mitenbuler-Aye

5. Baseball field maintenance

Commissioner Knopf said that West Michigan Sports Turf offered to throw in maintenance of the field for free to get it ready, adding that he will remove vegetation from around the field and will place stone dust where necessary.

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second by Doug Potts, ***ADOPTED***, to approve the quote from West Michigan Sports Turf for ball field maintenance.

3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT

Mitenbuler-Aye, Knopf-Aye, Potts-Aye

6. Path markers

Commissioner Knopf stated that she will be meeting with Maintenance Supervisor Arron Ferris to do this work before winter.

7. Pollinator garden

Commissioner Knopf stated that Chance Spencer from the Muskegon Conservation District contacted her regarding the garden. She said that while she hasn't received the quote quite yet, she would like to start the garden in the fall. The commissioners discussed areas to place the garden, adding that fencing the area in might be necessary. Commissioner Knopf is going to contact Mr. Spencer regarding ideas on where to place the garden.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

Commissioner Knopf said that she's working on a side project with Mr. Tree regarding tree diseases and taking care of issues regarding them.

Commissioner Mitenbuler commented on the Master Plan and it needing to be looked at because it's been five years. She said that it would be nice to tweak what they already have or have a committee form to complete the work. She also mentioned the idea of taking parts of the Master Plan that's currently being worked on for the Township and apply the parts for the park to use.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lynn Knopf, second from Carlet Mitenbuler, ***ADOPTED*** to adjourn the September 8, 2026, scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:56 PM.

3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary