

**FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
SCHEDULED MEETING
January 7, 2019**

PRESENT: Commissioner Lynn Knopf, Commissioner Herb Huch, Commissioner Bob Murray, Commissioner Sue Sawyer, and Commissioner Deb Svensson.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: A number of interested parties.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Svensson called the meeting to order at 6:32p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME GUESTS

AGENDA: Motion by Herb Huch, second from Sue Sawyer, **ADOPTED**, to amend the agenda to include Bob Switzer from White Lake Area Community Education to the beginning of Unfinished Business and Parks and Recreation Commission mission to Updates to the January 7, 2019 agenda.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

MINUTES: Motion by Herb Huch, second from Bob Murray, **ADOPTED**, to accept the December 3, 2018 regular meeting minutes with a few changes.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Carlet Mitenbuler, 4623 Nestrom Road – thanked the commission for adding a public comment section to the end of the agenda. Also commended the commissioners on communication being a focus.

RECEIPTS:

None.

DISBURSEMENTS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Bob Switzer – Sports N’ Shorts

Bob Switzer from White Lake Area Community Education spoke to the commissioners regarding some questions surrounding Sports N’ Shorts. He reported that there are approximately 40 kids per site every year, and that many years and locations, kids are turned away. Mr. Switzer stated that the

\$3,000 requested is not a lot of money, as it goes back to the program and the people in our township. The commissioners agreed to ask for \$3,000 in the next budget year.

2. Information/update on projects

Commissioner Murray reported on the soccer nets that are existing at the park. He stated that they aren't code compliant, and that he found three different websites with the same nets and clips needed at different prices. He stated that the most reasonable price he found for two nets and clips for both nets totaled \$344.00, well under budget.

Motion by Herb Huch, second from Sue Sawyer, **ADOPTED**, to purchase the soccer nets and clips in the amount of \$344.00.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Commissioner Murray also reported on the steps at Nestrom Road Park. He stated that many things are wrong and not compliant with the steps. He also added that he is willing to do the work on the steps so that the Commission is able to keep the costs down. Commissioner Huch agreed to give him a hand with the project as well. During the discussions, the commissioners realized there isn't enough in the budget for the quote given to the Commission by Lowe's.

Motion by Bob Murray, second from Sue Sawyer, **ADOPTED**, to request a budget amendment for a maximum of \$1,200.00 for stair repair.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Commissioner Murray also shared information regarding playgrounds. The quotes for playground equipment ranged from \$93,000 to \$125,000. Chairperson Svensson stated that she would request for the \$30,000 from the Township Board be moved over for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Sawyer gave an update regarding the baseball field. She is going to get in contact with Jeremy Loyselle of the North Muskegon Youth Baseball Club, the individual former Commissioner Maribeth Picard had been in contact with regarding working on and using the Township's baseball field. She also plans to contact an individual from White Lake.

Commissioner Knopf reported that she will be attending a DNR Grant Workshop on January 17th and invited other commissioners to join her. She also added that some things need to be worked on regarding the Master Plan and missing items needed by the DNR by February 1st.

Commissioner Knopf also reported on the tennis courts, adding that the best option is replacement. She said that the total to remove and replace the courts is \$85,000.

3. Budget guidelines

Chairperson Svensson reminded the commissioners that the new budget year begins April 1st. She added that a rough outline of the budget needs to be to Supervisor Jeske in February, and a budget presentation will take place at the Township Board work session the second Monday of March.

Chairperson Svensson stated that she would like to propose an increase to postage, as she would also like to propose a quarterly newsletter to send to residents. Commissioner Huch agreed that the newsletter is a wonderful idea. Chairperson Svensson also mentioned possibly sending another survey to the residents as well.

Chairperson Svensson also added that TruGreen will be implementing a 3% increase in the new fiscal year. She also added that amount requested in the budget for Sports N' Shorts should be \$3,000. For printing and publishing, Chairperson Svensson stated that she may want that increased to print the newsletters to send out quarterly. Commissioner Knopf mentioned park signage and getting them completed before the new fiscal year. The trail benches are going to be put on hold until the Natural Resource Survey is completed.

The commissioners discussed the South pavilion, and whether or not it should be rented as well as the North pavilion. They are going to look at adding this as a possibility for the new fiscal year. Chairperson Svensson and Commissioner Sawyer are going to look into what it will take to bring water to the South pavilion.

Chairperson Svensson requested that the commissioners come to the February meeting with additional thoughts and ideas for the new fiscal year budget.

4. Commissioner communication between meetings

Chairperson Svensson stated that the intent of the Open Meetings Act is to make sure there is no business being done behind closed doors. There were questions as to whether or not individuals can call or Skype into meetings. Chairperson Svensson passed on information to the other commissioners that Supervisor Jeske stated it is permissible to Skype or call into a meeting. Chairperson Svensson is going to send the commissioners an email regarding the upcoming work session.

5. Communication with the Maintenance Supervisor

Chairperson Svensson mentioned that the commissioners are able to talk to Maintenance Supervisor Steve Brock, but they are not allowed to ask him to do anything. Any direction on projects has to be requested to his supervisor, Supervisor Jeske, and she will give him direction.

6. Communication with residents

This item was covered during budget discussions.

7. Parks survey and Forest Inventory and Health Assessment Report

Chairperson Svensson reported that she is still unsure as to whether the commission is responsible for the natural resource management of the Township, and also added that she is unsure what the Commission is supposed to do with the information received with the survey is completed. After much discussion, Chairperson Svensson signed the contract with Shawna Meyer.

8. Meeting times

The commission agreed to keep meeting times as they are.

UPDATES:

1. Bleachers

Commissioner Murray stated that the bleachers at Nestrom Road Park are not compliant because anything with three or more rows is required to have side rails and a back rail. He added that replacing the bleachers would cost around \$3,200-\$3,800.

2. Ongoing contracts

This item was discussed during budget discussions.

3. Parks and Recreation Mission

After discussing this with the other commissioners, Chairperson Svensson stated that she would speak with Supervisor Jeske about the Commission's mission.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Terrie Hampel, 6171 Duck Lake Road – understands the commissions frustration of not knowing their mission. Encouraged them to find what that is.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Chairperson Svensson said that she apologized if anything she said was offensive or insulting to anyone during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Herb Huch, second from Sue Sawyer, *ADOPTED* to adjourn the January 7, 2019 scheduled meeting of the Fruitland Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 9:00 PM.

5 AYES, 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mansfield, Recording Secretary