



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 - 6 pm

REGULAR MEETING – MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER – 6 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 2. PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Sports Equipment Bins/Lending Boxes – Eagle Scout Candidate William Jenness
 - B. MParks Awards Recognition
 1. Park Design Award – HNC Exploration Area
 2. Fellowship Award – Director Maisner
 3. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. January 15, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
 6. COMMUNICATIONS
 7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Park Commission Vacancy
 - B. MParks Conference Sessions
 8. ACTION ITEMS
 - A. Candidate recommendation to Park Commission
 - B. Potential Eagle Scout Project
 10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
 11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
 - A. Commissioner Comments
 - B. Event Calendar:
 1. Howl at the Moon: Friday, February 15 and March 22, 7 pm; Harris Nature Center
 2. Meridian Ice Fishing Derby; Saturday, February 16, 9 am – 12 Noon; Central Park South Pond
 3. Moonlight Ski and Shoe; Saturday, February 23, 6-9 pm; Harris Nature Center
 4. Owl Prowl Campfire; Saturday, March 2, 7 pm; Harris Nature Center
 5. 3rd Annual Benefit Pancake Breakfast; Saturday, March 9, 8-11 am; 242 Community Church
 6. Family Special: Lucky Shamrocks; Saturday, March 17, 2 pm; Harris Nature Center
 - C. Next Park Commission Meeting – Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 pm; non-televised; Meridian Service Center
 12. CLOSED SESSION
 - A. Potential Land Acquisition
 13. ADJOURNMENT
-

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Parks & Recreation Director, LuAnn Maisner:
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.
Meeting Location: Town Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Park Commission Meeting
February 13, 2019

5. MINUTES

- a. January 15, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING **DRAFT** MINUTES
Location: Administrative Conference Room, Meridian Municipal Building
Okemos, MI 48864

DATE: January 15, 2019
PRESENT: Chair Michael McDonald; Commissioner Amanda Lick; Commissioner Mark Stephen
EXCUSED: Schaetzl
STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McDonald called the regular meeting to order at 8:03pm.

2. PRESENTATIONS - NONE

3. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
NONE

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lick moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lick moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2018 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Jane Rose, Meridian Historical Village Education Director; RE: An award for the Village Chapel

B. Commission Information

1. Press Releases:

a. Meridian Historical Village Wins 2018 Best Business for Wedding Venues

b. Township Christmas Tree Disposal Begins December 26th

c. Meridian Township Park Commission Looks to Fill Vacancy – Commissioner Wisinski Elected by Board to Township Trustee

2. Support the Harris Nature Center on your next big adventure! Mackinac Bridge Tower Adventure Auction
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response
None

Commissioner Stephens moved TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Status of Farmers' Market Project
- B. Culvers Fundraiser - January 28, 5-8pm
- C. Kiwanis Duck Race Fund Raiser for 2019 Celebrate Meridian
- D. Kickoff meeting for HNC Pavilion and Restroom Project was held with Viridis Design Group
- E. Progress meeting with Wolverine Engineering – Central Park Improvements
- F. 2019 Projects:
 1. Farmers Market
 2. Bridge and Restroom in Village
 3. Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector
 4. Large dog Park
 5. Ribbon Cutting small dog park
 6. Pavilion and restroom in Historical Village
 7. New Park sign design

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Property Donation - Refer for Section 61 Review, Parcel #33-02-02-09-201-013 (Sleepy Hollow)

The owners of parcel #33-02-02-09-201-013 has offered to donate their 2-acre parcel to the Park Commission for park purposes. This wooded wetland area is located adjacent to Brattin Woods Park and can serve as pedestrian access into the park from Sleepy Hollow subdivision as well as more direct pedestrian access to Newton Road Park on Lake Lansing Road. A Phase I Environmental study is underway currently. This land donation requires a Planning Commission Section 61 Review to approve the land with regards to character, size and extent.

Commissioner Stephens moved TO FORWARD THE PROPERTY DONATION OFFER OF PARCEL #33-02-02-09-201-013 TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR SECTION 61 REVIEW. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. 2019 Projects
 1. Farmers' Market Relocation Project – Construction and Grand Opening
 2. Central Meridian Regional Trail connector – Construction and Ribbon Cutting

3. Footbridge and restroom in Historical Village – Construction and Ribbon Cutting
4. Large and Small Dog Park – Construction and Ribbon Cutting
5. Pavilion and Restroom at Harris Nature Center - Construction and Ribbon Cutting
6. Expand Parking lot at North Meridian Road Park

B. Appointments

The Commission discussed visiting the board meetings for the Friends of Historic Meridian, Nokomis and HNC Foundation to talk about goals and objectives. Staff will provide dates of future meetings in 2019.

C. MParks Conference Sessions

The MParks Conference is scheduled in Kalamazoo on January 29-February 1, 2019 and many of you are registered to attend. The draft session schedule is included in your packet. Be sure to attend the Thursday Night Awards Banquet. I heard it will be very special!

D. Park Commission Vacancy

Following Commissioner Wisinski's appointment to the Township Board, the Commission must work toward identifying a replacement. A total of three applications have been received in the Clerk's office already. A press release announcing the vacancy was sent to the media on Friday with a deadline of late January.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE

11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Comments

B. Event Calendar:

1. Meridian Skates; Friday, January 25, 8:3-9:50 pm; Suburban Ice East Lansing
2. Winter Wonderland; Saturday, January 26, 10 am – 3 pm, Harris Nature Center
3. Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk; Sunday, January 27, 10 am race time, Central Park
4. Pavilion Ribbon Cutting - North Meridian Road Park; Saturday, February 2, 6 pm
5. Moonlight Sledding; Saturday, February, 6-9 pm, North Meridian Road Park
6. Meridian Skates; Sunday, February 3, 5-6:20 pm; Suburban Ice East Lansing
7. Moonlight Ski and Shoe; Saturday, February 9, 6-9 pm; Harris Nature Center
8. Chinese New Year Celebration; Sunday, February 10, 1-3 pm; Meridian Mall
9. Meridian Ice Fishing Derby; Saturday, February 16, 9 am – 12 Noon, Central Park South Pond

C. Next Park Commission Meeting – Tuesday, February 12, 6 pm Work Session; 7 pm Regular Meeting (televised); Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building

12. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

14. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 12, 2019**, in the Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, with the work session at 6 pm and televised regular meeting at 7 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

February 13, 2019

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

B. Commission Information

1. Joint Meeting: Park Commission Report, January 15, 2019
2. Harris Nature Center Nature Exploration Area MParks Design Award Outstanding Park Application
3. Chinese New Year Celebration Program – February 10, 2019
4. Email from The Patronicity Team, To: Director Maisner congratulating Township for reaching the goal and Township Manager Walsh congratulating team
5. Press Releases:
 - A. Get an Active Start to 2019 with Annual Winter 5K – Township to Host 12th Annual Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk
 - B. Mackinac Bridge Tower Adventure with HNC Foundation – Harris Nature Center Foundation Auctions Mackinac Adventure Package
 - C. Embrace Winter with a Wonderland of Activities – Harris Nature Center Hosts Seasonal Event
 - D. Township Welcomes Commissioner Courtney Wisinski as New Trustee – Park Commissioner Joins Township Board
 - E. Haslett – Okemos Kiwanis Club Donates \$25,000 Toward the Marketplace on the Green Project – Marketplace on the Green Project is Halfway to Fundraising Goal
 - F. Donate While You Dine with Marketplace on the Green – Parks and Recreation Department Hosts Fundraising Event with Culver's
 - G. Meridian Celebrates New Park Pavilion – Township to Host Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
 - H. \$67,145 Raised for the Marketplace on the Green Project! – Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign Exceeds Fundraising Efforts

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

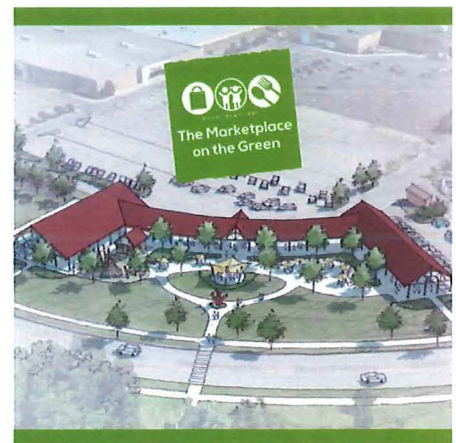
Joint Meeting

Park Commission Report January 15, 2019

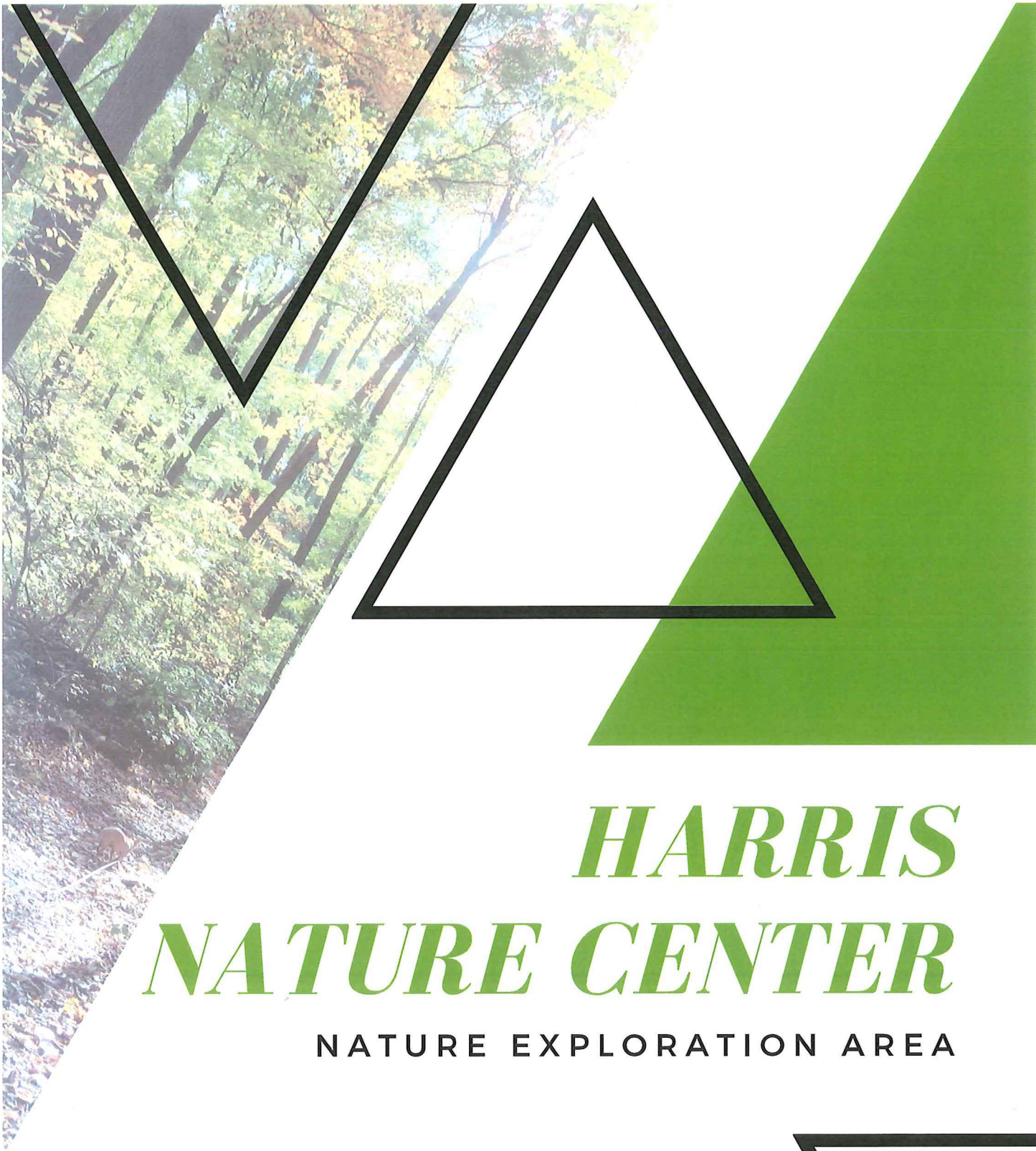


2018 in Review:

- **Grand Opening of Towner Road Park** – this facility will serve the Haslett portion of the community with sports fields, pickleball courts, 1/3 mile paved looped trail, pavilion, restroom and parking lot.
- **Installation of new interpretive signs in the Meridian Historical Village** a total of five signs were installed in the village depicting life in the late 1800's and the role our structures played in our community. This project was generously funded by the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club.
- **New Trail and Directional signs in our parks** – a big shout out to Sr. Park Naturalist Kati Adams for managing this program starting with walking and GPS marking every trail, managing the design of the signs, and participated in the installation. In an effort to declutter signs in our parks, Kati was able to combine a map of the park, amenities, and park rules all on to one sign.
- **New Pavilion in North Meridian Road Park** – Funded in part with a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant – ribbon Cutting scheduled for Saturday, February 2 at 6pm.
- **Project planning for 2019 projects which include:**
 - **Farmers Market Relocation Project** – Working with Meridian Mall to relocate and construct a new park that includes a large pavilion to host the farmers Market with an agreement to utilize the Meridian Mall Parking lot. Construction is planned to begin this summer.
 - There is a crowdfunding event taking place now through February 8. Go to www.patronicity.com/Meridian to donate. We are working to raise \$50,000 that will be matched with funds through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.



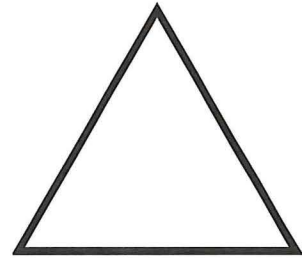
- Also...on **Monday, January 28 from 5-8pm, Culver's Butter burgers** on Marsh Road is hosting a fundraising event for the Farmers Market and LuAnn and her staff will be there as servers dressed in their vegetable costumes!
- **New footbridge and restroom facility in the Historical Village** funded in part by a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund together with the Park Millage. Construction will be completed later this summer.
- **Central Meridian Regional Trail connector** is a 1/3rd mile paved trail through Central Park that includes an overlook dock in the Central Park South pond. This project is funded in part by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund together with the Park Millage.
- **Harris Nature Center Pavilion and composting - year around restroom facility** Grants were received from the LWCF, MNRTF, Capital Region Community Foundation and the Harris Nature Center Foundation for this project. Construction is scheduled for later this summer. The Nature Center has become a total destination location in our community and these projects will encourage even greater use of our park and paved and natural trails, Nature Exploration Area, as well as the Nature Center itself.
- **Dog Parks**
 - **Small Dog Park** is located in Nancy Moore Park. the Fence is up and final touches are in process for a grand opening in 2019.
 - **Large Dog Park** will be located in Central Park South
- **Big year ahead! FOR SURE! ☺**



HARRIS
NATURE CENTER

NATURE EXPLORATION AREA





NARRATIVE

Community Background

The community of Meridian Township lies along the eastern border of East Lansing and the campus of Michigan State University and in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol. Centrally located in the palm of Michigan's hand, Meridian Township has nestled within its borders two healthy and active communities; Haslett and Okemos. A smaller portion of the Township is comprised of East Lansing and Williamston mailing addresses.

Founded in the early 1800's along the Red Cedar River as a trading point, Meridian Township residents enjoy quiet, safe, and well maintained connected neighborhoods with outstanding schools, exceptional public safety, and plenty of parks, pathways, and recreational opportunities for visitors and families to enjoy. With natural beauty on roads, interurban pathways, and a vibrant business corridor, Meridian Township is a great atmosphere for families, seniors, and young professionals.

With a population sitting at around 41,139 and a park system that has 911.58 acres of park land in 29 parks and 798 acres of land preserves, Meridian Township welcomes visitors from surrounding areas to its parks and to the largest lake within 25 miles of the State Capital, Lake Lansing. A destination for raising families since before the turn of the century, Meridian Township offers an array of quiet neighborhoods and an abundance of natural beauty with four seasons of outdoor activities.

Where it all Started

In 2005, Richard Louv introduced the term, "Nature Deficit Disorder" in his book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*; bringing nationwide attention to the physical, emotional and ecological literacy losses that people, especially children, have suffered in the last 50 years. While it has always been the goal of Meridian Township's Harris Nature Center to provide opportunities for people of all ages to engage in nature experiences through programs such as guided walks, educational classes, stewardship, and personal time on the park trails, we still felt that we could do more to encourage nature play.

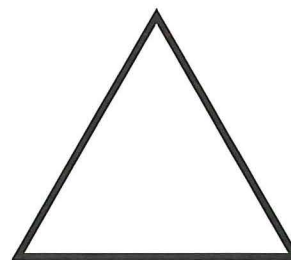
Working with the volunteer organization, Harris Nature Center Foundation (HNCF), staff began in 2012 to create a plan for the Nature Exploration Area (NEA), a space within Meridian Riverfront Park, near the nature center building, which would provide children an opportunity for unstructured, imaginative nature play. Meridian Township launched the effort by hiring Viridis Group to translate our ideas into a concept drawing which the HNCF could use for fundraising and igniting community excitement for this project. Six years later, we have a quarter-acre nature play area that is enjoyed by 20,000 people each year.

Ground Breaking Start

After initial fundraising efforts, the Harris Nature Center Foundation was able to commission local artist Doug DeLind in 2013 to build a climbable turtle sculpture that children, young and old, could climb on and play under. The concrete turtle which is approximately six feet tall and eight feet long has bright patterns on the shell made with ceramic tiles and lake stones donated by local businesses and individuals. It has become a favorite photo spot for park visitors as it stands near the parking lot like a beacon, drawing folks into the Nature Exploration Area.



Nature Exploration Area



While the HNCF continued fundraising for some of the larger NEA features, we worked with the Michigan State University Accounting Club in 2014 to create an area where kids could use their imaginations to build things using natural materials. We called it Sticks and Stones. The volunteers dug out a depression and collected saplings and rocks so that building materials would be handy for young engineers wanting to create a structure. Kids have built things like a giant bird's nest, a shelter and a fox's den. The same year, volunteers from a local business, Emergent BioSolutions, spent an afternoon constructing a split rail fence on the north side of the Nature Exploration Area to protect visitors from a steep drop.

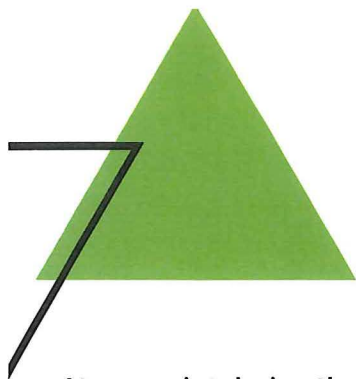
Project Funding

In 2015 the HNCF received a \$10,000 grant from the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club and a \$5,000 grant from Flagstar Bank of Okemos to build the Gathering Circle. This feature, nestled in the trees at the far end of the Nature Exploration Area, includes a stage and bench seating for 75 people. We use it as an outdoor classroom and as an amphitheater for musical performances, live animal presentations and puppet shows. The stage frequently attracts impromptu singing and dancing by visitors.

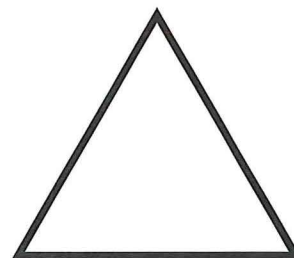
When people explore in the woods, two favorite activities are climbing trees and walking along fallen logs. We wanted to re-create this experience for our visitors to the NEA. With a \$1,000 grant from the Meridian Area Business Association, volunteers Brian Van Order and Tony Bauer designed and built the Log Jam. This crisscross of large logs lying on the ground, piled up on angles and anchored in place, along with a group of stumps sunk into the ground at different heights, provides an area for kids to jump, climb and balance in true woodland fashion. It's especially fun to watch them play games such as "follow the leader" through this area.

Significance

After 3 years of research and planning, the Michigan Fossil Dig opened in 2016. This popular feature of the NEA offers the simple experience of digging in sand or a paleontological experience for kids who find, clean and identify the fossils buried in the dig. The 25 x 13 foot pit is surrounded by large rocks to define the edges and help keep the sand in. In the middle are 3 large rocks brought down from the LaFarge quarry in Alpena that are full of fossils and also divide the dig in half. Small Paleozoic sea fossils such as corals, trilobites, brachiopods and gastropods are buried in the sand on one side while the other side holds casts of Pleistocene mammal bones and teeth from mammoths, mastodons and giant beavers. Interpretive signs around the dig allow kids to identify the fossils they find and understand the concept of the geologic timeline. Volunteers worked with experts from Michigan State University, University of Michigan and American Institute of Professional Geologist to insure that all scientific information presented was correct. The Michigan Fossil Dig required a lot more funding than the previous features we had developed, but the geologic community, as well as the Red Oak Foundation and citizens at large, were generous with their support.



Nature Exploration Area



At one point during the development of the Nature Exploration Area, a group of students from Michigan State University (MSU), as part of a class assignment, interviewed preschool children to get their input on a natural-style play house. This launched us on a wonderful experience in community partnership as the Beaver Lodge feature unfolded. Another group of MSU students from the same class found an architect willing to design the Beaver Lodge for us. After creating the drawing, David Vanderklok of Studio [intrigue] Architects offered to build the structure himself and find funding for the majority of the materials needed. Because this playhouse represents a beaver's lodge, it is built from saplings and is surrounded by a glass deck to represent the water. Beavers' lodges are primarily underwater with the entrance hole also underwater, therefore our glass deck is 6 feet above the ground. Kids can play under the "water" and enter the playhouse there and they can climb stairs up to the surface of the "water" for a bird's eye view of the surrounding area. Many volunteers were involved in harvesting over 100 saplings, removing their branches and carrying them from the woods to the project site. Construction firms such as Aaron Glass, Kelly Brothers and VanErmen Smith made in-kind and monetary donations to the project as well, while David and his team from Nobody Wants a Skinny Santa hand-built the entire feature. Since its completion in June 2018, children and adults have marveled at this unique feature, which seems fitting since beavers are known for their engineering feats!

In addition to the major grants, donations and volunteer efforts mentioned above, many people and organizations contributed to the over-all project. From these funds, the Harris Nature Center Foundation also bought and installed a rope spider web that challenges children to a climbing activity and adults seem to love as a hammock for relaxing. They created pathways to connect all of the features and encourage visitors to go further into the trees and discover the entire NEA. The Kiwanis Club of Okemos built and installed benches within the Nature Exploration Area so that parents can easily sit and watch their children play. We found that having adult seating leads to longer play sessions for the children. We will be adding one last feature to the NEA: a dirt hill. At times during the building of these various features, there has been a temporary dirt hill and that always attracted children the way flowers attract bees. In 2019 we will put in a permanent hill with a small slide on one side- a great place to play at being river otters!

The best part of creating and building the Nature Exploration Area has been the positive response from our community. It has been gratifying to see visitors come to play in the NEA and then head out on the trails for a walk. This is exactly the result that we were hoping for!

7

Nature Exploration Area

PHOTO COLLECTION



"Spider Web": Crawling around like spiders.



"Gathering Circle": outdoor classroom & amphitheater for creative performances.



"Log Jam": A climbing and balancing experience on real logs.



"Beaver Lodge": This feature includes an "underwater" entrance like a real beaver lodge and stairs to the glass plate water surface where beavers can run.



"Michigan Fossil Dig" fossils from Michigan's history: real and replicas.



"Eastern Box Turtle Sculpture"; Guests of all ages climbing over, under and through.



"Beaver Lodge Playhouse"



"Michigan Fossil Dig": Digging for fossils.

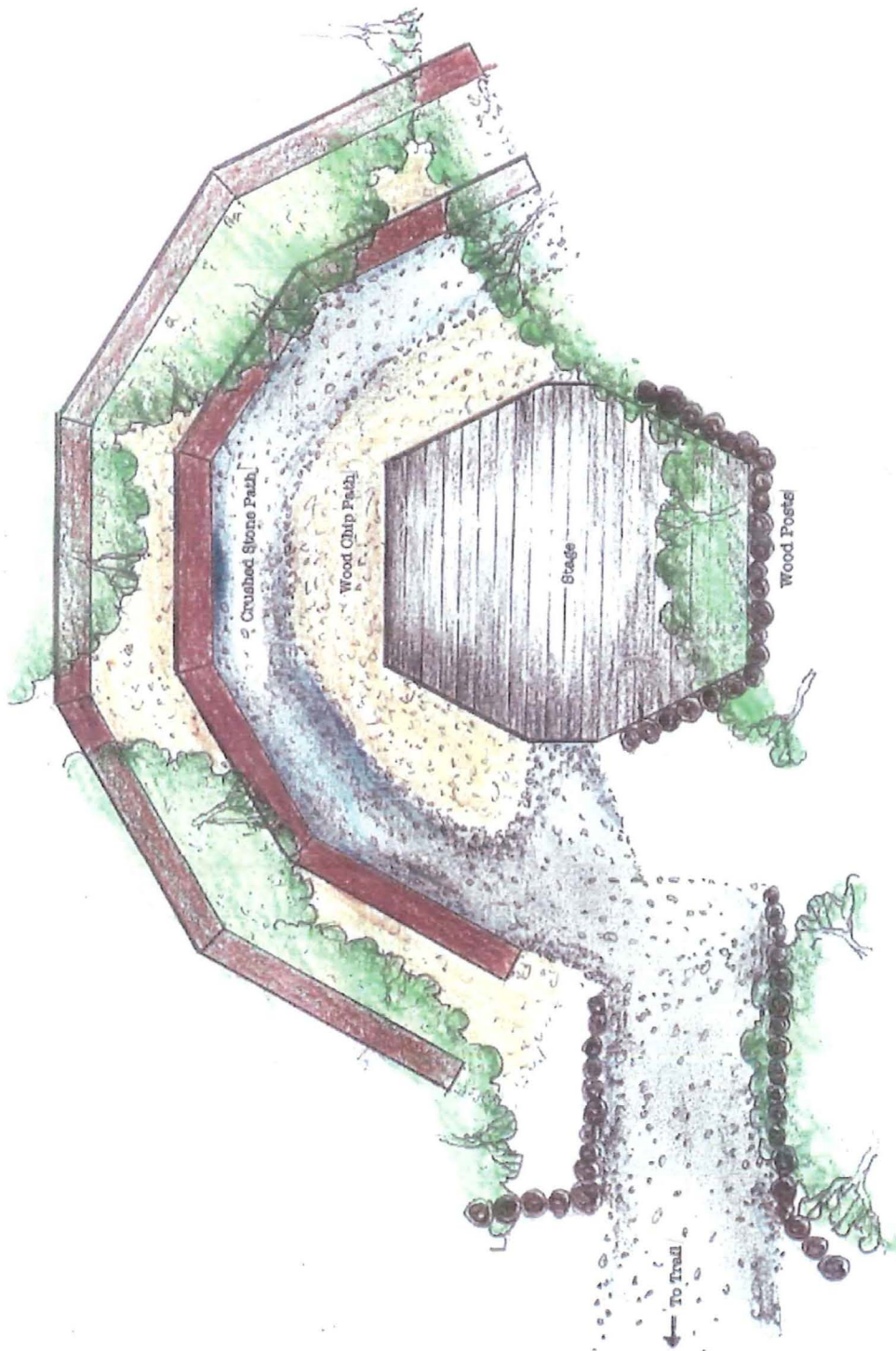
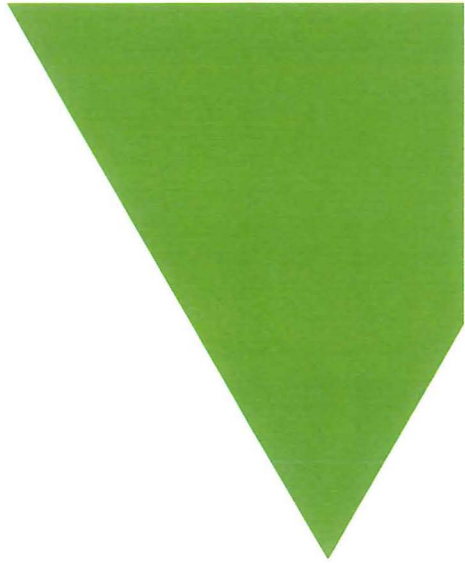
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Nature Exploration Area

PLAN DESIGNS



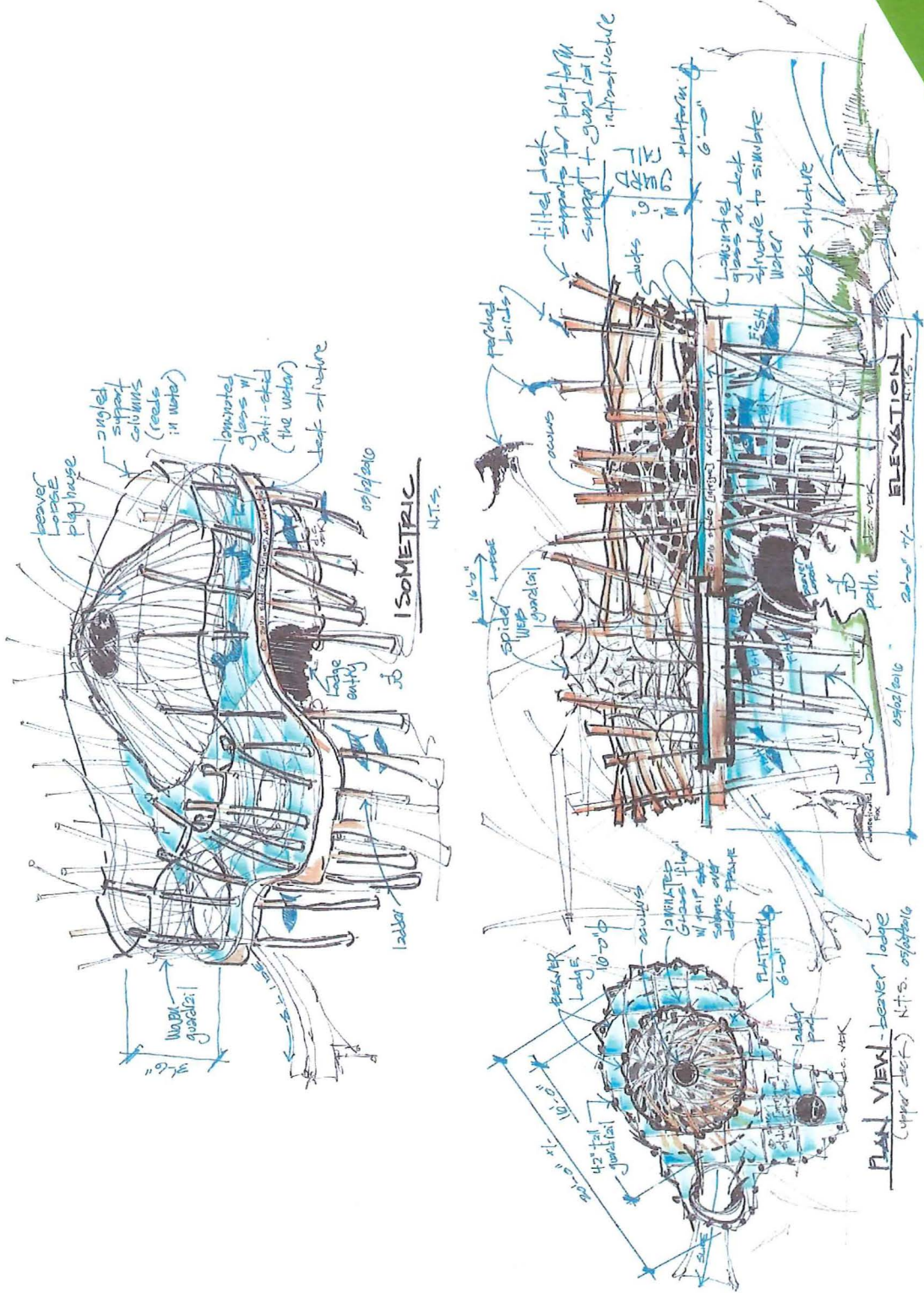
Full View of Nature Exploration Area



The Gathering Circle



Nature Exploration Area



The Beaver Lodge



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2019

CONTACT: Darcie Weigand, Parks & Recreation Specialist
517. 349.4616 | weigand@meridian.mi.us

Get an Active Start to 2019 with Annual Winter 5k
Township to Host 12th Annual Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk

Meridian Township, MI – Join Meridian Township for the 12th Annual Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk. This family friendly activity is a fun way for participants to enjoy the winter weather in Central Park and Nancy Moore Park.

- What:** Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk
- When:** January 27th, 10:00 am, Check-in at 9:00 am
- Where:** Meridian Township Municipal Complex, 5151 Marsh Rd. Okemos, MI
- Who:** Open to all ages, runners and walkers
- Why:** To register go to <http://bit.ly/MeridianRegister>
Preregistration is \$20. Race day registration is \$25.

Packet pick-up will be Saturday, January 26th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at Playmakers (2299 W Grand River Ave, Okemos) or on race day at the Meridian Township Municipal Complex.

Awards will be given to the top 3 male and female finishers in each division.

Event will take place in rain, shine, or snow. Free parking and restrooms will be available.

For more information about the Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk call the Parks & Recreation Department at 517.853.4600 or visit the Meridian Township website meridian.mi.us.

###

The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

Rain, Shine, or Snow!

❄️ **Check-in 9:00 am** ❄️ **5K Run/Walk 10:00 am**

Meridian Municipal Complex - 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI

Free parking & restroom available

5K Runners/Walkers Pre-Registration: \$20

Race Day Registration: \$25

All Polar Bears registered by January 11 will receive a race giveaway!

**Awards will be given to the top 3 male & female
finishers in each division**



8 & Under	30-34	55-59
9-14	35-39	60-64
15-19	40-44	65-69
20-24	45-49	70-74
25-29	50-54	75 & Up



Packet Pick-Up: Saturday, January 26th from 10 am - 2 pm at
Playmakers or on race day at Meridian Township Municipal Complex

To register go to bit.ly/MeridianRegister or for more information call
Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department at 517.853.4600



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2019

CONTACT: Kit Rich, Harris Nature Center Coordinator
517.349.3866 | rich@meridian.mi.us

Mackinac Bridge Tower Adventure with HNC Foundation
Harris Nature Center Foundation Auctions Mackinac Adventure Package

Meridian Township, MI – The Harris Nature Center Foundation will be hosting an online auction for a Mackinac Bridge Adventure Package beginning Saturday, January 26th through Friday, February 8th.

The Adventure Package includes two tickets to climb the North Tower of the Mackinac Bridge, one night stay at the Grand Hotel for two, round trip for two on Shepler's Ferry and a carriage tour of Mackinac Island.

Funds from the online auction will go towards the new pavilion at the Harris Nature Center as well as help fund the School Bus Scholarships to help local schools pay for transportation to the Nature Center for environmental education programs.

"Climbing to the top of the Mackinac Bridge and looking out at the beautiful Great Lakes will be an incredible experience," said Kit Rich, Harris Nature Center Coordinator. "The funds raised will help Harris Nature Center provide amazing nature experiences right here in Meridian Township."

Adventure package sponsors include Mackinac Bridge Authority, The Grand Hotel, Shepler's Ferry and Mackinac Island Carriage Tours. For more information on the adventure package visit hncfoundation.org.

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A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2019

CONTACT: Kit Rich, Harris Nature Center Coordinator
517.349.3866 | rich@meridian.mi.us

Embrace Winter with a Wonderland of Activities
Harris Nature Center Hosts Seasonal Event

Meridian Township, MI – Enjoy the winter weather in Meridian Township with Winter Wonderland hosted at the Harris Nature Center. Designed for all ages, this annual family friendly event will get participants excited for the cold weather.

- What:** Winter Wonderland
- When:** January 26th, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Where:** Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd. Okemos, MI
- Who:** Free and open to the public
- Why:** Winter Wonderland gives families an opportunity to experience a variety of winter activities all in one location.

Watch sled dog demonstrations and get your picture with the furry pups. Children will have fun playing games in the Kids Outdoor Activity Area and you can take fun pictures with the "face in the hole" photo props.

Learn how to cross country ski or snowshoe with our knowledgeable instructors. Equipment will be provided. Warm up by the campfire or inside the Harris Nature Center building. Meet children's book authors or visit the HNC Foundation Silent Auction.

Free refreshments will be available. This event will take place with or without snow.

For more information about Winter Wonderland call the Harris Nature Center at 517.349.3866 or visit the Meridian Township website at meridian.mi.us.

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SATURDAY
JANUARY 26
10 AM – 3 PM

Winter Wonderland

HARRIS NATURE CENTER

Embrace winter at Harris Nature Center's Winter Wonderland event on Saturday, January 26 from 10 am – 3 pm! Recreational dog sledders will be on hand to demonstrate dog sledding and introduce their dogs, while you warm up by the campfire. Children will have fun playing games in the Kid's Outdoor Activity Area. This year you can take silly photos using our seasonal "Face in the Hole" photo props.

Don't forget to stop in the building to meet children's book author Ron St. Germain and look for something special at the HNC Foundation Silent Auction. Get active on the trails with a winter hike or try out snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Bring your own equipment or use the Nature Center's cross country skis and snowshoes available for free.



The Winter Wonderland family-friendly event will continue with or without snow since many of the activities including the dog sledding demo can take place in any weather. Free

517.349.3866 | facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2019

CONTACT: Frank Walsh, Township Manager
517.853.4254 | walsh@meridian.mi.us

Township Welcomes Commissioner Courtney Wisinski as New Trustee
Park Commissioner Joins Township Board

Meridian Township, MI – On Monday, January 15th Meridian Township welcomed Park Commissioner Courtney Wisinski as the newly appointed Township Trustee with a swearing-in ceremony.

Park Commissioner Wisinski was sworn in by Township Clerk, Brett Dreyfus. Speakers included Township Supervisor Ronald Styka and Township Manager Frank Walsh. Commissioner Wisinski was also joined by her husband and two children.

“I’m exceptionally honored to be here. I’m really excited to work to make sure Meridian Township is as safe and healthy as possible. And I look forward to all of your input and doing the best job I can,” said Commissioner Wisinski.

Commissioner Wisinski was appointed to the Meridian Township Park Commission in August of 2017. She has served as a civil servant for the State of Michigan for more than 13 years.

Commissioner Wisinski will take office as Township Trustee at the January 15th Township Boards and Commissions Joint Meeting beginning at 6:00 pm in the Meridian Township Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864.

The Swearing-In Ceremony can be watched on the HOMTV Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/WisinskiSwearingIn>. Photos of the Swearing-In Ceremony can be viewed on the Meridian Township Flickr page at <http://bit.ly/TrusteeWisinski>.

###

The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.



A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 16, 2019

CONTACT: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation
517.853.4610 | maisner@meridian.mi.us

Haslett – Okemos Kiwanis Club Donates \$25,000 Towards the Marketplace on the Green Project
Marketplace on the Green Project is Halfway to Fundraising Goal

Meridian Township, MI – The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department began a \$50,000 Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign in December 2018 for Marketplace on the Green Project.

The proposed new project will transform the Farmers’ Market into a social and economic centerpiece in Meridian Township, providing community space for the Farmers’ Market, craft fairs, Township-wide events, adult and youth sports, live music and more.

If funding for the Marketplace on the Green Project reaches the \$50,000 goal by February 8th, a matching grant through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Public Spaces Community Places Program will be awarded to the Township. The \$25,000 donation from the Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis brings the Parks and Recreation Department a giant step forward in reaching that goal.

“This \$25,000 donation from the Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis Club is the first installment of a three year \$75,000 commitment to this project,” said LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation. “We are excited about what is in store and look forward to even greater public involvement to help us reach the finish line.”

To date, \$32,135 has been raised for the Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign. 90 people have donated thus far with three donations above the \$500 level:

\$500 – DeAndra Beck

\$1000 – Advanced Rheumatology, PC; Chris Buck and Martha Hentz

\$2000 – Greater Lansing Association of Realtors

The additional list of donors who gave previously to the project that are not engaged in our Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign include:

Meridian EDC – \$50,000

Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club – \$35,000

Capital Region Community Foundation – \$75,000

Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis Club – Pledge of \$50,000 in the next two years.

Liaison for Intergovernmental and Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC) – \$3,000

Community members can take part in the investment of the new facility by donating to the Marketplace on the Green Project at patronicity.com/meridian.

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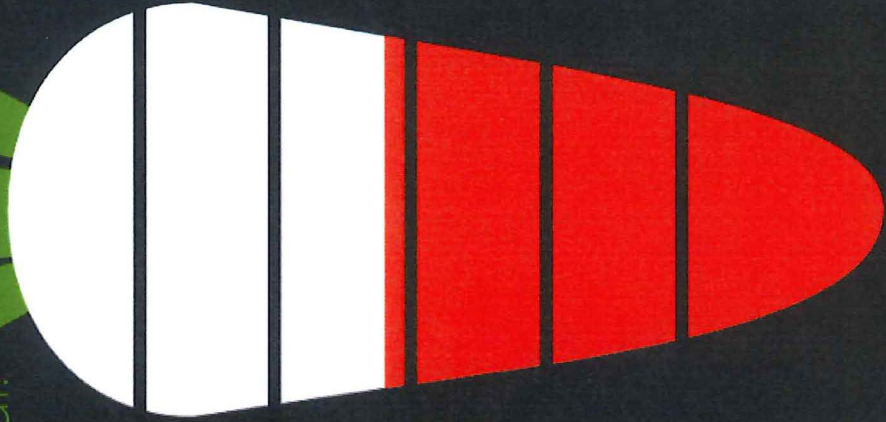
Join the Crowd(Funding)!

We're over halfway to our goal!



SHOP. PLAY. EAT

The Marketplace
on the Green



\$50,000

\$40,000

\$30,000

\$20,000

\$10,000

patronicity.com/meridian



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22, 2019

CONTACT: LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Recreation Director
517.853.4604 | Maisner@meridian.mi.us

Donate While You Dine with Marketplace on the Green
Parks and Recreation Department Hosts Fundraising Event with Culver's

Meridian Township, MI – The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department invites the public to a fundraising event at Culver's in Okemos for Meridian Township Farmers' Market Marketplace on the Green.

- What:** Marketplace on the Green Fundraiser with Culver's
- When:** January 28th, 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm
- Where:** Culver's of Okemos, 5140 Times Square Dr. Okemos, MI
- Who:** Open to the public
- Why:** Enjoy a night at Culver's and a percentage of your sales will go towards the Meridian Township Farmers' Market Marketplace on the Green Relocation Project.

The Meridian Township Farmers' Market is in its 45th year and has outgrown the existing facility. They are looking for fundraising dollars to help finance a new location that will serve as essential spaces for fostering connections within communities.

The new facility will be located on the north side of the Meridian Mall within the existing parking lot and adjacent to the unused green space. It will consist of a large pavilion with a market office, restrooms, play structure, small performance stage, plaza area and year-round ice for ice skating opportunities.

To donate to the Marketplace on the Green Relocation Project visit: patronicity.com/meridian.

For more information about Marketplace on the Green Fundraiser with Culver's call the Parks and Recreation Department at 517.853.4600 or visit the Meridian Township website at meridian.mi.us.

###

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DONATE WHILE YOU DINE

Visit Culver's of Okemos on
Monday, January 28th 5-10 PM
and we will donate a percentage of sales to the
Meridian Township Parks & Recreation
(The Marketplace on the Green)
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Culver's of Okemos
5140 Times Square Dr.
(517) 853-8714
culvers.com





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 2019

CONTACT: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation
517.853.4610 | maisner@meridian.mi.us

Meridian Celebrates New Park Pavilion
Township to Host Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Meridian Township, MI – Join Meridian Township for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the dedication of a new park pavilion at North Meridian Road Park.

- What:** North Meridian Road Park Pavilion Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- When:** February 2nd, 6:00 pm
- Where:** North Meridian Road Park, 5191 North Meridian Road, Okemos, MI
- Who:** Open to public and media
- Why:** North Meridian Road Park is a year-round destination that is home to the only sledding hill within the Township Park System and also hosts hundreds of visitors for spring and fall soccer, cross-country skiing, hiking, and bird watching.

This \$100,000 project was made possible through a \$50,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. This fund consists of royalties paid by oil and gas development companies that buy and lease state-owned mineral rights. The funds are used exclusively to purchase and improve land for public recreation and protection of natural features.

“The passage of the Park Millage in August, 2014 has afforded the Park Commission the opportunity to apply for additional grants that require a local financial match. We have been able to address numerous much needed improvements in the park system.” said LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation. “If any of our residents have spent a Saturday watching soccer at North Meridian Road Park, they know how desperately we needed a shade structure.”

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony will be Meridian Moonlight Sledding, a free family-friendly event until 9:00 pm.

For more information about the North Meridian Road Park pavilion or Meridian Moonlight Sledding call the Parks & Recreation Department at 517.853.4600 or visit the Meridian Township website meridian.mi.us.

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PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

PNC Bank
Meridian Township
Confucius Institute at MSU
MSU Chinese School
MSU Chinese Undergraduate Student Association
MSU Chinese Students and Scholars Association
MSU China Fusion
Indian Orange Naada Band
Okemos Tai Chi Team
Lansing Chinese Christian Youth Orchestra
Jasmine Flower Dance Team

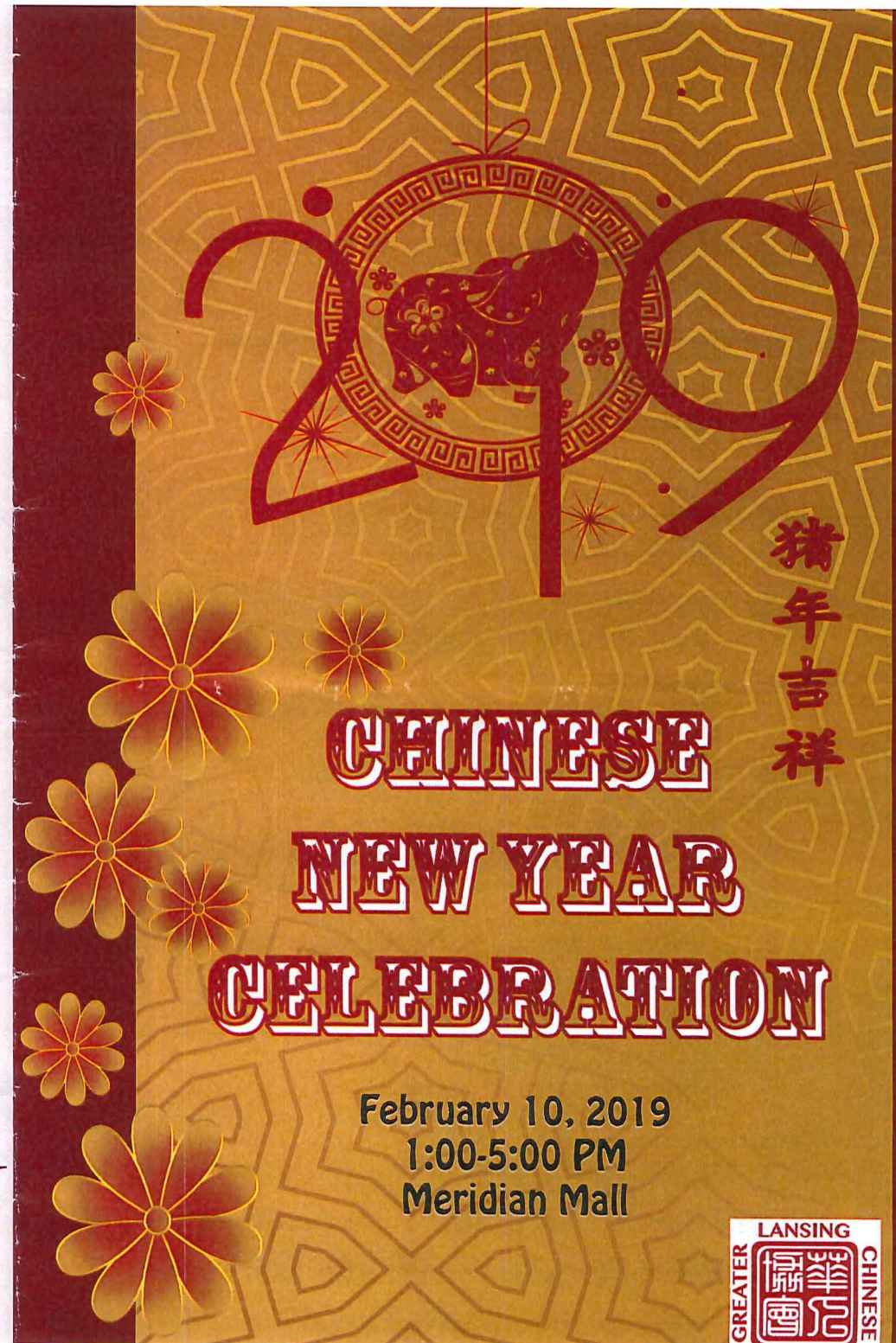
Greater Lansing Chinese Association



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



A Prime Community



CHINESE

NEW YEAR

CELEBRATION

猪年吉祥

February 10, 2019

1:00-5:00 PM

Meridian Mall



Program (节目表)

1) Parade/Honey Badger Band

游行/乐队演奏

2) Dragon Dance ----- Cornell Elementary School & MSU Chinese School

舞龙-----康奈尔小学, MSU中文学校联合舞龙队

3) Fashion Show----- MSU China Fusion

旗袍秀-----MSU 中国留学生

4) Children Dance-----MSU Chinese School

少儿歌舞《最炫中国风》----- MSU 中文学校

5) 《The Voice》-----MSU Chinese Undergraduate Student Association

《好声音》-----MSU 中国本科生学生会

1. Bang Bang 2. Rose (玫瑰) 3. Mermaid (美人鱼)

4. Mercury (水星记) 5. My dream (我的梦)

6) String Orchestra--- Lansing Chinese Christian Youth Orchestra

Conductor: Huaizhi Chen

弦乐合奏-----兰辛华人基督教会青少年乐队 指挥: 陈怀志

1. String Orchestra 《Jasmine》

弦乐合奏《茉莉花》

2. Violin Solo 《Happy New Year》----- Clara Liao

小提琴独奏《新春乐》----- 廖予祺

3. String Orchestra 《Four Season Tune》

弦乐合奏《四季调》

7) Tai Chi----- Okemos Tai Chi Team

太极拳----- Okemos 太极队

8) Male Solo 《The Sound of Fallen Snow》-----Xing Ding Wang (MSU China Fusion)

男声独唱《雪落下的声音》(电视剧《延禧攻略》插曲)---王星鼎

9) Chinese Classical Dance 《Kite Romance》---- Jasmine Flower Dance Team

古典舞《风筝误》-----华协茉莉花舞团

10) Female Solo 《Big Fish》---- Olivia OuYang (MSU Chinese School Teacher)

女声独唱《大鱼》-----欧阳鲍蕤(中文学校老师)

11) Dance 《DDU-DU-DDU-DU》-----MSU BlackPink (Linguistics Students)

街舞《嘟嘟嘟嘟》----- MSU 语言系学生

12) Chinese Folk Music 《Koi》----- MSU China Fusion

民乐演奏《锦鲤抄》-----MSU 中国留学生

13) Chinese Classical Dance 《The Zen of Half Teapot》-- Jasmine Flower Dance Team

古典舞《半壶纱》-----华协茉莉花舞团

14) Cucurbit Flute Solo 《Bamboo under the Moon Light》---Yan Xi Zhang

葫芦丝独奏《月光下的凤尾竹》-----张言曦

15) Indian Bollywood Song -----Indian Orange Naada Band

印度电影插曲

1. 《Yuhi Chala》 from movie 《Swades》

2. 《Robaroo》 from movie 《Rang de Basanti》

16) Chinese Classical Dance 《Falling Flowers》----- Jasmine Flower Dance Team

古典舞《落花》-----华协茉莉花舞团

17) Male Solo 《Chinese》-----Fu Lin Li (Visiting International Student)

男声独唱《中国人》----- 李扶林 (MSU访问学者)

18) Zumba----- Court One Zumba Team

健美操



Great! Teamwork.....

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 9, 2019, at 8:48 AM, Michael McDonald <macmeridian@comcast.net> wrote:

Oh yeah!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 9, 2019, at 7:29 AM, LuAnn Maisner <maisner@meridian.mi.us> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: info@patronicity.com
Date: February 8, 2019 at 5:08:29 PM EST
To: maisner@meridian.mi.us
Subject: Patronicity | Mission Success: Project Funded!

Dear LuAnn Maisner,

Thanks to you and all the other supporters, [The Marketplace on the Green](#) has hit its goal! Isn't that amazing?!

Make sure to stay in touch by becoming a [Patronicity Facebook fan](#), and whenever you're ready to do your own project we're here to help!

Lets build vibrant communities,
The Patronicity Team



Patronicity.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2019

CONTACT: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation
517.853.4610 | maisner@meridian.mi.us

\$67,145 is Raised for the Marketplace on the Green Project!
Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign Exceeds Fundraising Goal

Meridian Township, MI – The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department began a \$50,000 Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign in December 2018 for the Marketplace on the Green Project.

The proposed new project will transform the Farmers' Market into a social and economic centerpiece in Meridian Township, providing community space for the Farmers' Market, craft fairs, Township-wide events, adult and youth sports, live music and more.

Funding for the Marketplace on the Green Project needed to reach \$50,000 by February 8th to receive a matching grant through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Public Spaces Community Places Program.

"We want to thank everyone who contributed to smashing our goal of \$50,000 for the Marketplace on the Green Project," said LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation. "We could not have done it without the over 156 patrons who donated and helped us reach the finish line."

By February 8, 2019 \$67,145 was raised for the Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign. Donations received above the \$500 level:

\$500 + Donors: DeAndra Beck, Culver's of Okemos, Dave and Rashi Gupta, John Hamelink, Chris Nugent (Horizon Bank)
\$1000: Advanced Rheumatology, PC; Chris Buck and Martha Hentz, The Therapy Institute
\$2000: Greater Lansing Association of Realtors, Carl Wesolek and Polar Bear 5K participants
\$4,194: Meridian Area Business Association (MABA)
\$10,000: Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Haslett/Okemos Rotary Foundation
\$25,000: Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis

An additional list of donors who previously gave to the project and were not engaged in our Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign include:

Meridian EDC: \$50,000
Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club: \$35,000
Capital Region Community Foundation: \$75,000
Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis Club: Pledge of \$50,000 over the next two years.
Liaison for Intergovernmental and Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC): \$3,000

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