



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 17, 2020 - 6:30 pm

REGULAR MEETING – MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER – 6:30 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. PUBLIC HEARING
 - A. DNR Park Acquisition Grant Application
4. PRESENTATIONS
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. COMMUNICATIONS
8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - A. Update on Projects
9. ACTION ITEMS
 - A. DNR Park Acquisition Grant Application
 - B. Resolution to Support a Skate Park
10. DISCUSSION ITEMS
11. PUBLIC COMMENTS
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
 - A. Commissioner Comments
 - B. Events Calendar:
 1. Spring Regional Recycling Event, Saturday, April 25, 9 am – 2 pm, Chippewa Middle School
 2. Farmers' Market:
 - a. Winter Market:
 1. April 4th: Cancelled
 2. April 18th, 10 am – 2 pm, J. C. Penney Corridor, Meridian Mall
 - b. Spring Market, Saturdays, May and June, 8 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
13. CLOSED SESSION
14. ADJOURNMENT
15. Next Park Commission Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 6:30 pm. Meridian Service Center

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: Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

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Park Commission Meeting
March 17, 2020

3. Public Hearing Procedure

Open Public Hearing:

Chair opens public hearing and outlines procedure of public hearing and possible actions of the Commission during the meeting

Summary of Subject Matter:

Director of Parks and Recreation summarizes the project outlining the specifics and project costs

Public Comment

Park Commissioners' Questions and Comments

Public Comment (if desired)

Close Public Hearing

Chair closes the public hearing and states when the Park Commission will take action to recommend approval of action to the Township Board (usually during the later part of the same Park Commission meeting as the public hearing)



To: Park Commission
From: LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: March 13, 2020
Re: DNR Park Acquisition Grant Application –MSU to Lake Lansing Trail
Hub/Nancy Moore Park
5280 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864
1.85 acres
Parcel #33-02-02-16-200-011

The Parks and Recreation Department and Park Commission are interested in acquiring 5280 Okemos Road, a 1.85-acre property adjacent to Nancy Moore Park. Acquiring this property would allow the township to construct a separate and more direct access to Nancy Moore Park as well as create a trail hub along the upcoming MSU to Lake Lansing Trail whose construction will begin this summer.

This acquisition will improve access to our existing 40-acre Nancy Moore Park as well as provide a hub for non-motorized transportation along the 5.5-mile MSU to Lake Lansing Trail. Grant support for this project from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is our preferred method of funding a portion of this acquisition. The Park Commission will conduct a public hearing during the March 17, 2020 regular meeting to accept public comments on the proposed acquisition. Parks and Recreation staff will then submit a grant application for consideration to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund program. The proposed grant will have a total acquisition cost of \$170,000 comprised of a 25% local match from the Township in the amount of \$42,500 and a 75% grant amount of \$127,500 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Acquisition Breakdown:

Acquisition Costs:	\$ 170,000
Grant Amount (75%)	\$ 127,000
Funds from Park Millage Fund (25%)	\$ 42,500

Attachments:

1. Proposed Grant Application
2. Parcel Location Map

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application 2020
Organization: Meridian Charter Township
Section A: Applicant Site and Project Information: 5280 Okemos Road

TF20-0096

*Is the application for site development <u>or</u> land acquisition? Development <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
*Name of Applicant (Government Unit) Meridian Charter Township		*SIGMA VSS CV0048526	*SIGMA Address Code 008
*Name of Authorized Representative LuAnn Maisner		*Title Director of Parks and Recreation	
*Address 5151 Marsh Road		*Telephone (517) 853-4604 Fax(517) 853-4099	
*City Okemos	*State MI	*ZIP 48864	*E-mail maisner@meridian.mi.us
*State House District District 69		*State Senate District District 23	*U.S. Congress District District 8

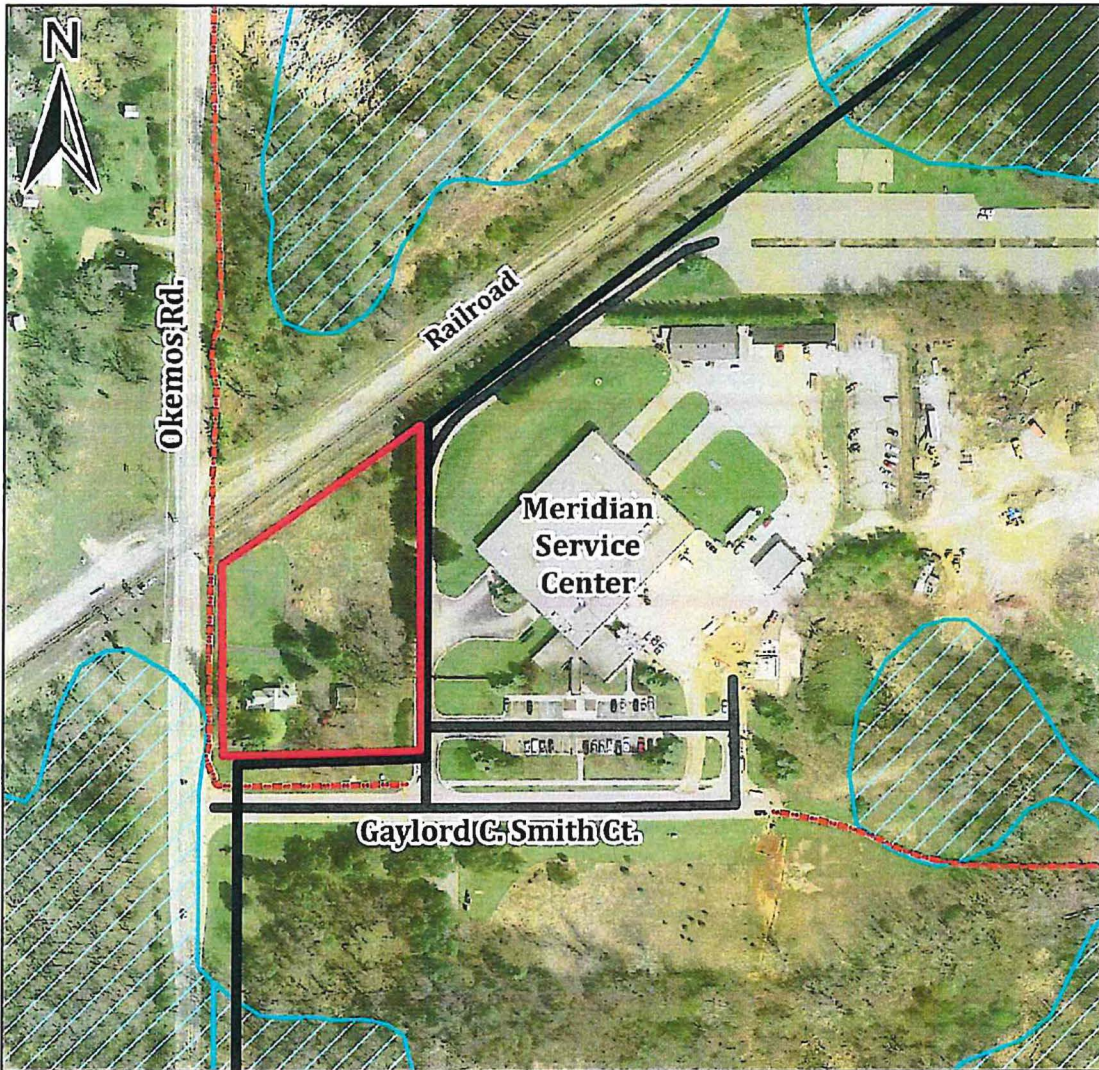
*Proposal Title (Not to exceed 60 characters) MSU to Lake Lansing Regional Trail Hub Acquisition
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***Proposal Description**





The "MSU to Lake Lansing Regional Trail Hub Acquisition" grant request is a proposal for the acquisition of 5280 Okemos Road, a 1.8 ac. property located in Haslett, Michigan (Meridian Township). The property is adjacent to Nancy Moore/Central Park and the acquisition would provide vital land to allow us the opportunity to build a rest and reprieve facility for trail enthusiasts and community members looking to explore and utilize our region. This unique property located centrally to trails will provide necessary facilities to create a safer experience for residents in Meridian Township and beyond as it lies among a regional trail system. Meridian Township will be looking for opportunities to integrate novel ideas into the development of this property that will create a unique experience for trail lovers and novice explorers. Our residents have repeatedly supported trail development and the Township and County have worked together to make trails a top priority.

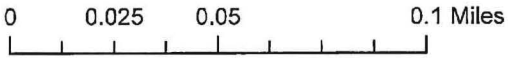
*Address of Site 5280 Okemos Road Haslett MI 48840	*City, Village or Township of Site Meridian Township	*Zip 48840
*County in which Site is located Ingham	*Town, Range and Section Numbers of Site Location <i>Letters must be upper-case:</i> <i>(examples: T02N, R13E, 22)</i> (Town) T01N (Range)R01W (Section)16	*Latitude/Longitude at park entrance 42.734141 -84.427548
*Park Name 5280 Okemos Road		

5280 Okemos Rd.



Legend

-  Nancy Moore Park
-  Driveway
-  Paved Pathway
-  Wetland



Subject property outlined in red
Parcel Number: 33-02-02-16-200-011
Area: 1.86 acres

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application 2020
Organization: Meridian Charter Township
Section B: Project Funding and Explanation of Match Sources

TF20-0096

SOURCES OF MATCHING FUNDS

PROJECT COST AMOUNTS

*Grant amount requested (round to the nearest hundred dollars)	\$127,500
Total Match	\$42,500
Total Project Cost	\$170,000
Percentage of match commitment (Must be at least 25% of total project cost)	25%
a) General Funds or Local Restricted Funds (Applicant's own cash)	\$42,500
b) Force Account Labor/Materials (Applicant's own paid labor or materials)	
c) Federal or State Funds	

You have entered a value for item c). Please provide the information below for each federal or state program from which matching funds will be provided. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) ARE THE ONLY FEDERAL FUNDS THAT CAN BE USED AS MATCH:

*(1) Program Name	*Administering Agency	
*Contact Name for Administering Agency	*Telephone	*Amount

*Type of Funds

Grant funds awarded

Date grant funds approved

Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

Estimated approval date

Appropriated funds

Date appropriated

Other, explain

*Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?

Yes No

*Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?

Yes No

Check to add program information for additional State of Federal funds that will be used as Match.

Park Commission Meeting
March 17, 2020

6. MINUTES

- a. February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Location: Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Haslett, MI 48840

DATE: February 11, 2020

PRESENT: Amanda Lick, Michael McDonald, Mary Nardo Farris, Commissioners Mark Stephens, Ami VanAntwerp

EXCUSED: None

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

OTHERS: Richard Miksicek, Larry McCormick, Austin McCormick, Alexis Ayala, Phil Deschaine, Thomas Porter

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. WELCOME TO NEW PARK COMMISSIONER MARY NARDO FARRIS

Chair McDonald welcomed newly appointed Mary Nardo Farris to the Park Commission.

3. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Chair McDonald noted the amended agenda to include the second presentation of proposed Eagle Scout project.

Commissioner Stephens moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA **AS AMENDED** Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. **MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Project** - Derek Perry, Deputy Township Manager – Derek reviewed the map for phases I,II and III of the project. Phase II will be underway within the next 90 days. This project is funded by the Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage, Meridian Township Pathway Millage and a Federal Transportation Grant. Meridian Township recently received another grant from Ingham County to improve the pathway on Okemos Road from Gaylord Smith Court north to the Inter Urban Trail as well to build a new section of trail in the Towar Gardens area that connects Albert White Park to the East Lansing Aquatic Center. Meridian Township has captured over 3-million dollars of the Ingham County Millage for parks and trails over the last four years.

B. **Proposed Eagle Scout Project -Bat Houses** - Eagle Scout Candidate Austin McCormick has proposed to construct and install five bat houses in parks this summer. He explained the

importance of bats for insect control. The Commissioners applauded his presentation and project. Austin will return to make his final report when his project is completed.

- C. **Introduction of Stewardship Coordinator Emma Campbell** – Emma provided her background education and experience in natural resources management and environmental education and shared her proposal to engage and educate residents in stewardship called the Conservation Corp. She will be working on refining the details and looks forward to launching this program soon to improve habitat in our parks and land preserves. The Commissioners expressed their approval of this program and look forward to

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Lick moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp
VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
None
- B. Commission Information
1. Joint Meeting Park Commission Report
 2. Harris Nature Center Foundation updated Directors List
 3. Press Releases:
 - a. Celebrate Century Old Traditions with Chinese New Year – Chinese Spring Festival Hosted in Meridian Township
 - b. Get an Active Step to 2020 with Annual Winter 5K – Township to Host 13th Annual Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response
None

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

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Packets delivered or your own laptop or ipad
- B. Marketplace on the Green
1. Gordon Construction Services – site work
 2. Mid States Recreation/Coverworx –Pavilion and Stage
 3. Colors – posts light Gray; center roof-Copper; remaining roof-blue
 4. Stage – considering monoslope or curved roof
 5. Footings – will be poured in February
- C. Harris Nature Center Projects
1. Contracts signed

2. Pre-Construction Meeting tomorrow
- D. Central Park Projects – approving contracts today
- E. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021 beginning to update information now. Survey in 2021.
- F. Park Rx update –They are revising the MOU and will resend to us
- G. Skate Park update – meetings continue with Theils. Next steps include site selection, resolution of support, fundraising. Site consideration includes Central Park in from to Nokomis Center. Commissioners requested that staff contact CBL Properties to engage in a public/private partnership for utilizing unused parking. Staff will prepare a resolution for the March Meeting.
- H. Pathway and Trails Map – Staff and volunteer Bob Wilson are working on creating a user-friendly trail and pathway map for the Township.
- I. Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage – signs are located throughout the Township. There has been some confusion that the millage request is coming from the Township.
- J. Smash and Grab yesterday at Nancy Moore Park Parking lot at 2pm Feb. 10.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Proposed Eagle Scout Candidate Project / Bat Houses
Commissioner LICK moved, TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE PROJECT BY AUSTIN MCCORMICK TO CONSTRUCT BAT HOUSES FOR MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS. Supported by Commissioner Farris.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Election of Chair/Vice Chair
 1. Election of Chair:

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER LICK AS CHAIR. COMMISSIONER VAN ANTWERP SECONDED.

Commissioner Lick accepted the nomination.
Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nominations for Chair.

Roll Call Vote:
AYES: McDonald, Stephens, Van Antwerp, Farris, Lick
NAYS: None
Motion passed unanimously.

2. Election of Vice Chair

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER VAN ANTWERP AS VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER LICK SECONDED.

Commissioner Van Antwerp accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nomination for Vice Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: McDonald, Stephens, Van Antwerp, Farris, Lick

NAYS: None

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Appointment to the Land Preservation Advisory Board
Chair McDonald re-appointed Commissioner Stephens to the Land Preservation Advisory Board for 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: McDonald, Stephens, Van Antwerp, Farris, Lick

NAYS: None

Motion passed unanimously

- C. Bid Results – Central Park Projects –for the
 1. Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector Project – Director Maisner reported three bids were received from two contractors with the low bidder being OAK Construction Company with a quote of \$602,800.

MOVE TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE CENTRAL MERIDIAN REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTOR PROJECT TO OAK CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$602,800 WHICH WILL BE FUNDED BY THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK MILLAGE AND MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Lick, Farris, Stephens and Van Antwerp, Chair McDonald

Nays: None

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Gateway Bridge and Restroom Building – Director Maisner reported two bids were received for this project. During the review process, it was determined that items #2 and #4 could be removed and completed at another time. By removing those items, Gordon’s Construction Services was the low bidder with an amount of \$308,343.39.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE BID RECEIVED FROM GORDON’S CONSTRUCTION SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$496,998.39 WITH AN IMMEDIATE CHANGE ORDER OF A REDUCTION OF \$188,655 FOR AN AMENDED CONTRACT PRICE OF \$308,343.39 FOR THE PROJECT FUNDED BY THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK MILLAGE FOR A NEW RESTROOM AND GATEWAY BRIDGE IN CENTRAL PARK

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Lick, Farris, Stephens and Van Antwerp, Chair McDonald

Nays: None

Motion passed unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. CIP Review

Chair McDonald motioned to re-apply for the land acquisition grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the Okemos Road Parcel. The Commissioners agreed by consensus. Grants are due to the DNR April 1. Additional discussion regarding the CIP was moved to the March 10th meeting.

B. Park Videos

Director Maisner suggested that Commissioners consider a program to better promote our facilities by taping short videos for replay on Facebook, etc. We have so many wonderful resources available in our community to talk about. Details will be discussed at the March meeting.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Comments

B. Events Calendar:

1. Meridian Moonlight Sledding, Saturday, February 22, 6-9 pm, North Meridian Road Park
2. Meridian Swims, Sunday, February 23, 6-8:30 pm, Michigan Athletic Club (call to reserve spot 517.364.8888)
3. Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, Saturday, May 7, 8-11 am, 242 Community Church
4. Farmers' Market:
 - a. Winter Market, 1st and 3rd Saturday, December – April, 10 am – 2 pm, J. C. Penney Corridor, Meridian Mall

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm.

13. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2020 (3rd Tuesday of the month) at the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, at 6:30 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

March 17, 2020

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: United States Senator Debbie Stabenow, letter of support of Land and Water Conservation Fund conservation programs
2. From: Graham Thiel, RE: Email supporting a Meridian Township Skate Park
3. From: James Ethan Bagaloff; RE: Email supporting a Meridian Township Skate Park
4. From: Drew Maloney; RE: Email supporting a Meridian Township Skate Park
5. Public Hearing Notification to Park Neighbors on DNR Acquisition Grant

B. Commission Information

1. Harris Nature Center Foundation 2019 Annual Report
2. Press Releases:
 - a. Harris Nature Center Hosts Howl at the Moon – Enjoy the Trails at Night with this Guided Evening Walk with Your Dog
 - b. Preschoolers Have Fun with Fossils – Enjoy Preschool Nature Exploration at the Harris Nature Center
 - c. Preschoolers Discover Nature – Preschool Science Exploration Class Investigates Nocturnal Nature

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. From: Jane Greenway; RE: letter of support, DALMAC Fund Grant

Jane Greenway

From: Senator Debbie Stabenow <senator@stabenow.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 4:10 PM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: Re: Fully Fund LWCF

United States Senate

U. S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
MICHIGAN

Dear Jane,

Thank you for contacting me about the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Like you, I support fully funding this critical conservation program.

I understand how important the LWCF is for Michigan. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act (S.1081), which would provide permanent, dedicated funding for the LWCF. As a senior member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I voted to approve this bill out of committee on November 19, 2019. It is now pending before the full Senate. You can count on my continued support as it moves through the legislative process.

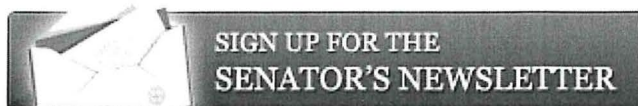
Thank you again for contacting me. Please continue to keep me informed of issues of importance to you and your family.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
The United States Senate • Washington, DC 20510
stabenow.senate.gov



Jane Greenway

From: Graham Thiel <grahamthiel2121@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 7:40 PM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: Meridian skatepark

Hello, this is graham thiel and I am one of the supporters of the meridian skatepark idea. I love skateboarding because when I skate everything that's going on around me, problems and stress, just disappear. Skateboarding is a way to express yourself without the worry of being judged or made fun of. Everyone who skates is just like a huge family. I just want to say that a skatepark in meridian township would bring out a lot more kids outside. Because with all the normal parks it's really just trails and playgrounds which only really suit young kids and older people. A skatepark on the other hands will suit people of all ages.

Jane Greenway

From: Ethan B. <bagaloffj24@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: Fwd: Meridian Skatepark

I personally would love to have a skatepark nearby because I don't have a car yet to be able to drive to Ranney Skatepark on campus and I think that alot of skaters in the okemos area have the same issue. We all both old and young skaters would love to have a nearby park so that our community can come together and skate. Thank you for taking the time to read my email and I hope you can figure out a way to add this attribute to our community.

Sincerely
James Ethan Bagaloff

Jane Greenway

From: Bill Bob <ajmaloney5@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2020 8:09 PM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: Meridian Skate Park

Hi my name is Drew Maloney. I am a huge fan of skateboarding and many other sports. It would be so awesome for there to be a skatepark in Meridian so I don't have to have my parents drive me all the way to Frandor. Thanks for your consideration.



Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

P 517.853.4000
F 517.853.4096

Township Board:

Ronald J. Styka
Township Supervisor

Brett Dreyfus
Township Clerk

Phil Deschaine
Township Treasurer

**Patricia Herring
Jackson**
Township Trustee

Dan Opsommer
Township Trustee

Kathy Ann Sundland
Township Trustee

Courtney Wisinski
Township Trustee

Frank L. Walsh
Township Manager

February 19, 2020

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION
ACQUISITION GRANT APPLICATION**

Dear Meridian Township Resident/Neighbor:

The Meridian Township Park Commission is proposing to submit a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for acquisition of 1.858 acres located at 5280 Okemos Road (parcel #33-02-02-16-200-011). The site, once acquired, will serve as a new entrance into Nancy Moore Park.

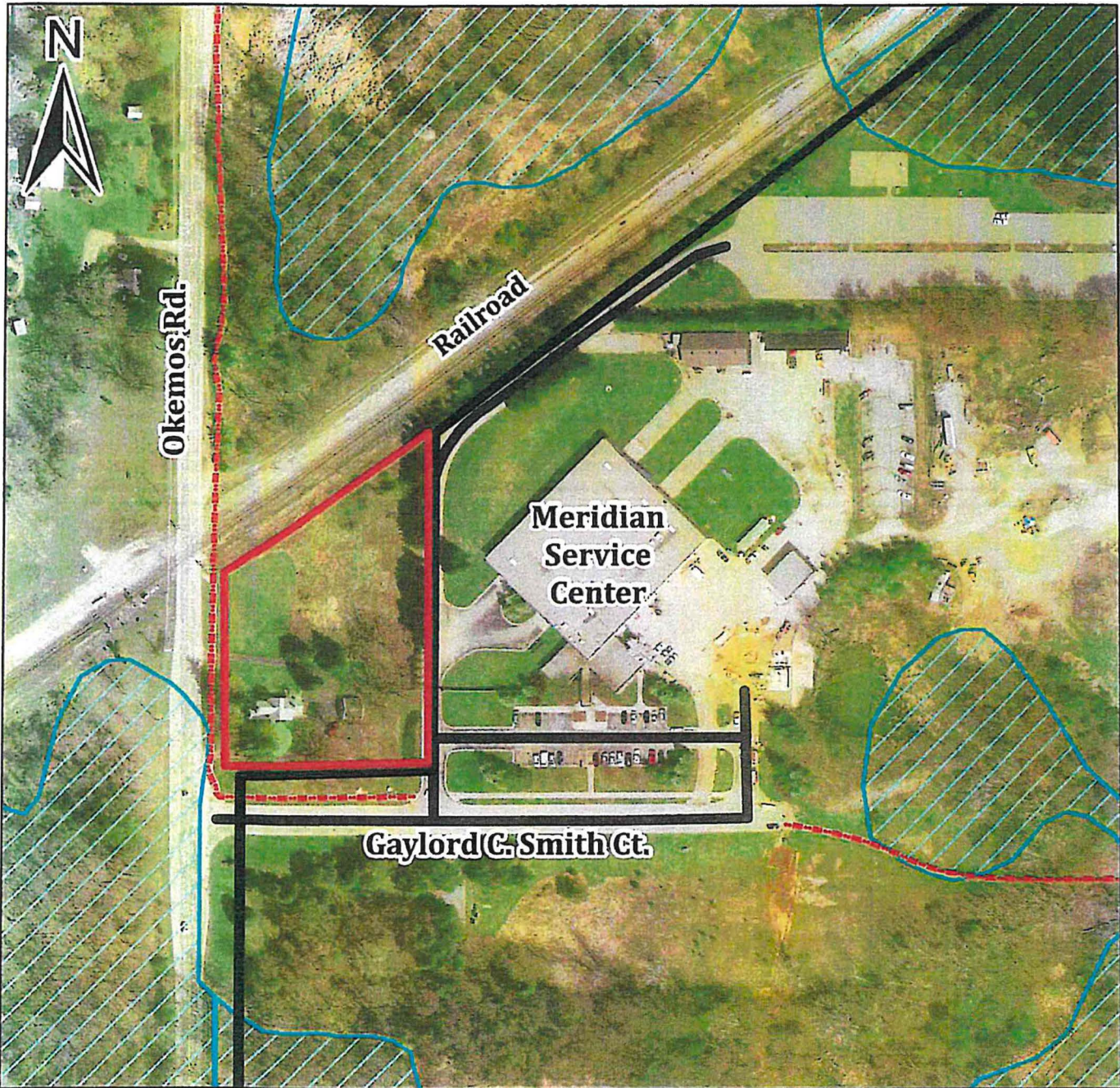
You are invited to offer comments at a public hearing on the proposed acquisition at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 in the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett.

The grant application is available for review at the Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Office located at 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, (in front of Nancy Moore Park on Okemos Road), Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Written comments may be sent to Meridian Township Park Commission, Attn: Jane Greenway, at 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, or by email at greenway@meridian.mi.us. If you have specific questions, contact Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway at 517-853-4610.

Sincerely,

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

5280 Okemos Rd.



Legend

-  Nancy Moore Park
-  Driveway
-  Paved Pathway
-  Wetland

0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles

Subject property outlined in red
Parcel Number: 33-02-02-16-200-011
Area: 1.86 acres

HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 will be a year remembered as a year of significant change and activity for the Harris Nature Center Foundation. Kit Rich, the Director of the Harris Nature Center since its inception in 1997, retired in August this year. Kit was significantly responsible for developing the facilities and programming for the center. As an Ex-officio member of our board she was our liaison to the township. With Kit's encouragement the foundation board decided to add a new concept in 2019. Music in nature was inaugurated in late summer and early fall with 3 free concerts in the woods. This concept provided great music in a casual setting. Guests were encouraged to bring food for picnics and to wander the grounds during the performances. This small venue attracted 200 attendees. The foundation provided remuneration of \$1,650.00 to the participating musicians. Plans are already being developed to expand and improve a concert series next year.

We were also very fortunate to gain two new heads of the Harris Nature Center who have many years experience at the Harris Nature Center. Kati Adams and Allison Goodman are now in charge of the center. They are busy putting their stamp on the facility and encouraging new and exciting programs. Because they are known to the foundation there has been a smooth and exciting transition. It is probable that there will be an expansion of activities both for the center and foundation.

In January 2019 the foundation held an on-line auction for a tour to the top of the Mackinac Bridge for two. The package included the tour to the top as well as a night stay at the Grand Hotel, ferry rides to Mackinac Island, fudge and an historical carriage ride around the island. The actual auction was quite exciting. The package was purchased by a person from Santa Clara, California. The final bid was for \$2,700.

A Winter Wonderland Program was held by the Nature Center in January. The Foundation assisted with volunteers and donations of refreshments. At the same time the Foundation conducted a very successful silent auction consisting primarily of dining gift cards. Proceeds from that auction were \$1,330.00.

The foundation was also busy assisting in the plans for a new pavilion with engraved brick patio, bathrooms and an observation deck. The township is to build the pavilion and bathrooms. The foundation is spearheading the sales of the engraved bricks for the patio. Over \$5000 dollars has been raised for the engraved brick patio in 2019. The sales will continue into the next year based on space availability. The Kiwanis have pledged to help with brick sales to commercial establishments in the area.

Due to the generosity of our donors, the foundation is able to take on the total construction of the observation deck. A \$25,000 grant was secured from the Capitol Region Community Foundation which was matched through two donations, one of \$20,000 and one of \$5,000. Included on the handicapped accessible deck will be a couple of commercial binocular stands. The project will hopefully be completed in March or April 2020.

Another fund raiser was held at Culver's this summer. The Foundation board participated by providing orders to customers inside and providing orders to drive-up window customers. Some board members did so well they were offered jobs. The foundation board received a portion of the evening's proceeds in the amount of \$441 as well as developing some good community relations.

A committee has been established in the board to evaluate and improve our website. Included will be a process to keep the website modern and up-to-date while maintaining connectivity with the Meridian Township website. The committee is receiving assistance from outside professionals.

One of the foundation's priorities every year is to get kids into nature. This year is no exception. Progress is being made in getting kids involved with nature. Participation is increasing every year. The foundation provides scholarships to schools that are unable to send their students to the Nature Center for outdoor lessons. This year the Foundation provided \$1,448.00 in the form of 12 school bus scholarships

There were a record 1475 participants at the Nature Center Halloween Adventures. Foundation board members volunteered time at this event doing such jobs as parking lot attendant, fire builder, Piñata referee, attendance takers and refreshment servers. Board members also donated refreshments to help make this celebration successful.

Besides these efforts by the Harris Nature Center Foundation and the staffing changes at the Center it should be noted that the Harris Nature Center had a record number of 440 children participating in their Summer Camp in 2019. They hosted 7 weeks of Annie's Big Nature Lesson serving 290 students. Finally, the Nature Center hosted 17,073 visitors in 2019. This number includes drop-ins and program participants, but it does not include other casual visitors to the Center.

Due to additional donations and some good investments the Harris Nature Center Foundation Endowment Fund increased \$6,162 to \$23,546.55 in 2019. These funds are being managed by the Capital Region Community Foundation. Overall the Harris Nature Center Foundation finished the year in sound fiscal condition with a

Total Liabilities and Equity of \$113,213.55. This will place the organization in a good position to complete its obligations for the projects started this year that will be completed next year. It will also place the organization in a good position to assist the Nature Center in enhancing their programming. The Board of Directors looks forward to another exciting year.

In order to provide the public with information about the Foundation, the board voted to have our minutes and additional information available on-line. This information will be easily available in a new web-site being developed. And hopefully implemented In 2020.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

December 31, 2019

Assets

Carryover from 2018	\$46,865.84
Net Income	\$54,646.64
Endowment	\$14, 270.75
Total Assets	\$ 115,783.23



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2020

CONTACT: Kati Adams, Harris Nature Center Coordinator
517.349.3866 | kadams@meridian.mi.us

Harris Nature Center
A Meridian Township Park Millage Facility



Harris Nature Center Hosts Howl at the Moon

Enjoy the Trails at Night with this Guided Evening Walk with Your Dog

Meridian Township, MI - On Friday, April 3rd at 8:00 pm, enjoy the full moon while taking a 3 mile guided walk through the woods at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township.

"This is a great time to experience the trails at night," said Nature Center Coordinator, Kati Adams. "It is also an opportunity to meet new people while your dog socializes too!"

There is a \$3/person fee due at the time of the walk and the group meets in the parking lot at the Harris Nature Center. Participants are reminded that dogs must be on non-retractable leashes.

For more information about programs at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us. You can also find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us or follow the Harris Nature Center on social media at www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter.

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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
March 9, 2020

CONTACT: Kati Adams, Harris Nature Center Coordinator
517.349.3866 | kadams@meridian.mi.us



Preschoolers Have Fun with Fossils

Enjoy Preschool Nature Exploration at the Harris Nature Center

Meridian Township, MI- Children will enjoy hands-on nature exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township on Thursday, April 2nd at 1:00 pm. This month's Preschool Nature Exploration theme is Fun with Fossils.

"Preschoolers will learn about fossils through hands-on activities," said Park Naturalist Allison Goodman, "and they will enjoy time exploring in the Michigan Fossil Dig as well."

Goodman also states that this program is designed for 4-5 year old children and participants should dress for outdoor activity.

The fee is \$3/child due at the time of the program. Call 517.349.3866 to register.

For more information about programs at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us. You can also find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us or follow the Harris Nature Center on social media at www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter.

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Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

P 517.853.4000
F 517.853.4096

Township Board:

Ronald J. Styka
Township Supervisor

Brett Dreyfus
Township Clerk

Phil Deschaine
Township Treasurer

**Patricia Herring
Jackson**
Township Trustee

Dan Opsommer
Township Trustee

Kathy Ann Sundland
Township Trustee

Courtney Wisinski
Township Trustee

Frank L. Walsh
Township Manager

February 28, 2020

DALMAC
PO Box 22146
Lansing MI 48909-2146

RE: Letter of Support, DALMAC Fund Grant
Meridian Township, Michigan

Dear DALMAC Grant Fund Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to express our wholehearted support for the grant application to the DALMAC fund for safety backpacks that is being submitted by the Capital Youth Cycling non-profit organization. We are so fortunate to have a group of energetic, dedicated residents who are working hard to establish a local chapter of a youth adventure cycling in our community.

In 2010 we developed a bicycle pump track in Eastgate Park, located in Okemos, Michigan. The pump track had very minimal use until Teresa and other residents stepped up to improve the bicycling area and developed programs to encourage youth cycling. These dedicated volunteers have brought us a very exciting new opportunity in the form of a youth adventure cycling club and have greatly expanded the opportunities for youth recreation. They have been regularly maintaining and improving the pump track which has greatly increased its use. In addition, this group promotes good will toward bicycling in the community by regularly cleaning up trash in our parks.

Although our Parks and Recreation Department regularly programs activities such as soccer, baseball, and flag football, we have fallen short on programming "alternative" youth activities such as adventure mountain biking. We are so grateful that such a dedicated group of volunteers have stepped up to offer such a great form of outdoor recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Greenway, LLA
Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator

PARK COMMISSION
March 17, 2020

9. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. DNR Park Acquisition Grant Application Approval
- B. Resolution to Support a Skate Park



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
Grant Application Submittal
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Acquisition Resolution**

MSU to Lake Lansing Regional Trail Hub Acquisition

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840, in said Township on the 17th day of March 2020 at 6:30 pm, Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the development and acquisition of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 75% of the total project cost funded by the Natural Resources Trust Fund program; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for \$170,000 for the acquisition of 1.858 acres located at 5280 Okemos Road which will serve as the new entrance into the 40-acre Nancy Moore Park on Okemos Road as well as serve as a trail hub along the upcoming 5.5-mile MSU to Lake Lansing Trail; and

WHEREAS, this project is supported in the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, park development and improvements are supported by Township Board Policy and 2019 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 17, 2020; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the acquisition of 1.858 acres located at 5280 Okemos Road with the intention of creating a hub for non-motorized transportation along the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail and to also create a new entrance into the 40-acre Nancy Moore

Park with a total acquisition cost of \$170,000. The twenty-five (25%) percent local match of \$42,500 will be funded by Meridian Township with the remaining seventy-five (75%) percent (\$127,500) funded by the MNRTF grant.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

Resolution _____.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) ss:

COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Vice Chair of the Park Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Commission on the 17th of March, 2020.

Amanda Lick, Vice Chair
Meridian Township Park Commission



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**Resolution to Support
Meridian Township Skate Park**

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840, in said Township on the 17th day of March, 2018 at 6 pm, Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____:

WHEREAS parks and recreation programs and facilities are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Meridian Township; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is committed to planning, building and managing a diverse park system to serve all populations of the community; and

WHEREAS, The Park Commission has received numerous requests from residents to provide a skate park in our community; and

WHEREAS, the skate park has been supported in the community survey for the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021, letters of support signed by middle school students in Haslett, and a direct request from two Meridian Township residents who have volunteered to lead the project; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission fully supports this type of activity in the parks; and

WHEREAS, Mary Theil and Graham Thiel have volunteered to initiate a work group to help fund raise, design and consult for a skate park in Meridian Township;

WHEREAS, The Park Commission will identify the best location, size, and design for such a park feature.

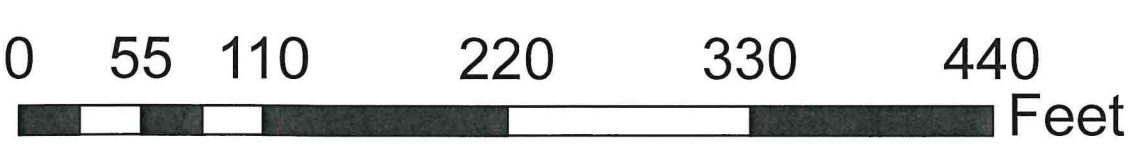
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION, as follows:

That the development of a Skate Park would be a welcomed amenity in our community and that the Park Commission will identify a suitable site; and support will be given by/to the Thiel Family as they lead the effort to raise funds and provide consultation services for design, promotion and management for the first skate park in Meridian Township.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____



Potential Skate Park Location - 20,000 sf