



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 9, 2020 - 6:30 pm

**REGULAR MEETING – SERVICE CENTER, 2100 GAYLORD C. SMITH COURT, HASLETT – 6:30 PM
OUTSIDE ON PICNIC TABLES ADJACENT TO THE FRONT DOOR OF BUILDING**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. PRESENTATIONS
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - A. Project Updates
8. ACTION ITEMS
 - A. Reschedule Public Hearing—DNR MSU to Lake Lansing Regional Trail Hub Application
9. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Park Amenities Reopening
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS
11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
 - A. Commissioner Comments
 - B. Events Calendar:
 1. Farmers' Market:
 - a. Summer/Fall Market, Saturdays, June-October, 8 am – 2 pm, Meridian Mall parking area adjacent to the Marketplace on the Green
12. CLOSED SESSION
13. ADJOURNMENT
14. Next Park Commission Meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 6:30 pm, Meeting location to be announced

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, outside adjacent to building entrance



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: Commissioners 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: Commissioners 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: Commissioners 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.

Commissioner VanAntwerp moved 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. Supported by Commissioner Farris.

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.

Commissioner Lick moved 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. Supported by Commissioner VanAntwerp.

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.



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

Dear Residents,

We hope you have all stayed safe and healthy during these uncertain and unprecedented times. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate the best decisions that will help us to continue to provide access to outdoor spaces, while protecting the safety of all residents.

Despite some of the closures, we know that many of you have enjoyed visiting our parks for exercise and emotional solace over the last few weeks, and we couldn't be happier. It has been such a joy to see so many individuals and families out together walking and running and enjoying nature. We are very lucky to have a community that has supported our parks and natural areas, which allowed us the opportunity to have access to these areas during this time.

On Monday, June 1, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lifted the stay-home order and moved Michigan to Phase 4 of the MI Safe State Plan. This phase allows outdoor public gatherings of 100 or less (as long as a six-foot distance from others is maintained when) , requires that a face covering is worn when in any enclosed public space and allows for the reopening of recreation amenities, including playgrounds.

Effective Friday, June 4, the following Meridian Township facilities will reopen to the public:

1. Playgrounds.
 - a. We are not able to sanitize hard surfaces between each visit; therefore, it is encouraged that visitors wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds (or bring hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol).
2. Restrooms in Wonch, Central, Towner Road, Nancy Moore and North Meridian Road Parks.
 - a. If using a restroom, you must wear a face covering (unless the individual is unable medically to tolerate a face covering).
3. All park pavilions

Facilities already open:

1. Sports fields
2. Sport courts
3. Farmers Market
4. Small Dog Park

Facilities remaining closed until further notice include:

1. Harris Nature Center
2. Meridian Senior Center
3. Park Bathrooms will open next week. More information to come.

"We are able to move to this next phase because as a community, we came together to do what was best for ourselves and for others. Let's continue with that spirit. It is on all of us to continue to practice proper protection and social distancing when in the community. Our kindness, respect for one another and continued solidarity will prevail." – Amanda Lick, Chair; Park Commission

Proud to Serve You and Your Families - The Meridian Township Park Commission

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		