



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, September 8, 2020 - 5:30 pm

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**REGULAR MEETING – ZOOM – 5:30 PM**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. PRESENTATIONS  
Staff Report – Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  - A. Update on Projects
8. ACTION ITEMS
  - A. Andrew Yeomans-Stephenson Eagle Scout Project – Hillbrook Park Boardwalk
  - B. Zachary Sieloff- Eagle Scout Project – Bike Fix-it Station
  - C. Resolution of Support for MNRTF Ballot Initiative
  - D. Star-Gazing Park Designation
  - E. Meeting Schedule for remainder of 2020
9. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - A. PROJECT RIBBON CUTTINGS for 2020 Park Projects
    1. Marketplace on the Green
    2. Large Dog Park
    3. Gateway Connector and Restroom in Meridian Historical Village
    4. Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector
    5. HNC Pavilion and Restroom Building
  - B. Commissioner Videos in Parks
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS
11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
  - A. Commissioner Comments
  - B. Events Calendar:
    1. Farmers' Market:
      - a. Saturdays 8am-2pm; Wednesdays 3pm-7pm through October
12. CLOSED SESSION – NONE
13. ADJOURNMENT
14. Next Park Commission Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 5:30 pm. TBA

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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: Zoom



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Location: Central Park, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI

**DATE:** August 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

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Lick called the meeting to order at 5:36pm

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner McDonald moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Emilee Nussdofer Girl Scout Gold Star Project – Ms. Nussdofer presented her proposed project of building and installing a Free Little Library at Harris Nature Center. She has been in contact with staff and is ready to move forward pending Park Commission approval. Motion by Commissioner Van Antwerp to approve the proposed Gold Star project of installing a Free Little Library at Harris Nature Center near the trailhead area. Motion supported by Commissioner Farris. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Approximately twenty players who regularly utilize the pickleball courts at Hillbrook Park and Towner Road Park expressed support for keeping the nets up for play.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. June 29, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. June 30, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND JUNE 30, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

Seconded by Commissioner Stephens

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Items to/from the Public

1. Letters of support for acquisition grant from State Rep. Julie Brixie; Ingham County Parks Director, Tim Morgan; Christoffer Heggelund, avid trail user; Evan Goodman, trail user; Meridian Garden Club; Layne Cameron, trail user; Audubon Society; Harris Nature Center.

B. Commission Information

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. Response to Kelly Jones, Ingham Co Road Dept regarding Okemos Road Bridge Replacement

2. Tic Study by Jaen Kryda and Jean Tsao

3. Blog “Along the Inter Urban Trail

4. Letter from Ingham Co Parks Director – Removal of Volleyball nets

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

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Maisner shared the status of the ongoing projects including, Marketplace on the Green, Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector, Gateway Footbridge and restroom building in Historical Village, and pavilion and restroom project at Harris Nature Center.

## 8. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Alert Siren Request – Marshall Park

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER VAN ANTWERP, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER FARRIS TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST FROM THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PLACE AN ALERT SIREN IN MARSHALL PARK NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE PARKING LOT. Motion carried unanimously

### B. 2021 Park Millage Budget Request

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MCDONALD, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER STEPHENS TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2021 PARK MILLAGE BUDGET REQUEST AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously

### C. 2021-2026 CIP

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FARRIS, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER MCDONALD TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED FOR 2021-2016. Motion carried unanimously

### D. 2020 Deer Management Properties

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER STEPHENS, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER, MCDONALD TO ADD BRATTIN WOODS AND HILLBROOK PARK TO THE LIST OF APPROVED PARKS INCLUDED IN THE 2021 DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. Motion carried unanimously

### E. Executive Order 2020-160 Park Amenity Impact

Linda Vail, Ingham County Health Officer alerted communities and businesses in the county take down sand volleyball nets as interpreted from Executive Order 2020-160. Staff shared that the nets were removed in township parks. The Commission discussed the possible need to close down other park amenities. Following a lengthy discussion, the Commissioners took no further action.

## 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Grand Openings for 2020 Projects

1. **Marketplace on the Green**
2. **Large Dog Park**
3. **Gateway Connector and Restroom in Meridian Historical Village**
4. **Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector**
5. **HNC Pavilion and Restroom Building**

Even though there is excitement for hosting large ribbon-cutting events for completed projects, the current Executive Order prohibits gatherings over 100 persons. Therefore, staff will work to plan Facebook Live events acknowledging completion of projects and will plan larger, more formal events once public gathering is permitted.

- B. **Commissioner Videos in Parks** – Chair Lick lead a discussion asking Commissioners to take videos while using their favorite parks. videos can then be edited for loading to Facebook and other social media sites.

## **10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE**

## **11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

- A. Commissioner Comments
- B. Events Calendar:
  1. Farmers' Market:
    - a. Summer/Fall Market, Saturday, June-October 8 am – 2 pm, Meridian Mall parking area adjacent to the Marketplace on the Green

## **12. CLOSED SESSION**

None

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lick adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

## **14. NEXT MEETING**

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 pm. Location TBA



**To: Park Commissioners**  
**From: LuAnn Maisner CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation**  
**Date: September 3, 2020**  
**Re: MNRTF Ballot Support**

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Over the years, Meridian Township has benefited from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program for nearly \$3,000,000 in assistance for acquisition and development projects.

**Proposal 20-1**

A proposed constitutional amendment to allow money from oil and gas mining on state owned lands to continue to be collected in state funds for land protection and creation and maintenance of parks, nature areas, and public recreation facilities; and to describe how money in those state funds can be spent.

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Allow the State Parks Endowment Fund to continue receiving money from sales of oil and gas from state- owned lands to improve, maintain and purchase land for State parks, and for Fund administration, until its balance reaches \$800,000,000.
- Require subsequent oil and gas revenue from state- owned lands to go into the Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Require at least 20% of Endowment Fund annual spending go toward State park improvement.
- Require at least 25% of Trust Fund annual spending go toward parks and public recreation areas and at least 25% toward land conservation.

Motion for Park Commission consideration:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 MNRTF BALLOT INITIATIVE.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BALLOT PROPOSAL TO  
AMEND THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND**

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, hosted online amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_.

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has funded public land acquisition and recreation projects with royalties from oil, gas and minerals from public lands in all eighty-three counties in the state since its founding in 1976; and

**WHEREAS**, projects supported by the MNRTF help Michigan communities protect the state's lakes, streams, lands and wildlife habitats and build recreational facilities for the enjoyment of Michigan residents and visitors, with economic, quality-of-life and public health benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, every Michigan resident is within a one-hour drive of a state park or recreation area, which are critical contributors to Michigan's \$25.7 billion tourism industry that supports 237,733 direct jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Meridian Township has received nearly \$3,000,000 of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants for acquisition of Eastgate Park, Harris Nature Center, Nancy Moore Park, Legg Park and the Ponderosa Land Preserve, and also assisted in developing the Harris Nature Center, Hartrick Park, pavilions in North Meridian Road Park, Wonch Park, and Harris Nature Center as well as the fishing dock in the Historical Village and paved trails in Wonch Park and Central Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Legislature unanimously voted to remove the accumulated principal limit on the MNRTF once the State Park Endowment Fund reaches its accumulated principal limit of \$800 million, add "renovation and redevelopment" alongside "development" as an allowable use for MNRTF dollars, and change the percentage of funds made available for these projects from a maximum of 25% to a minimum of 25% to match the percentage available for land acquisition projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan voters will now have the opportunity to approve these changes in the 2020 general election, thus amending Article IX, Section 35 and 35a of the Michigan Constitution; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN** supports the ballot question placed before voters in the 2020 general election to update and expand the MNRFT, guaranteeing investment in conservation and

outdoor recreation for generations to come, protecting our natural resources and invigorating our local economies.

YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution declared adopted.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN )**

**) ss.**

**COUNTY OF INGHAM )**

I, the undersigned, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of proceedings taken by the Meridian Township Park Commission at a regular meeting held virtually online on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_

Amanda Lick, Meridian Township Park Commission Chair



**To: Park Commissioners**  
**From: LuAnn Maisner CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation**  
**Date: September 3, 2020**  
**Re: 2020 Remaining Meeting Schedule**

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This has been an unusual year for sure with many changes for all of us. Chair Lick requested to review and discuss the remaining meeting schedule for 2020. As of now, the regular meetings of the Park Commission are as follows:

September 8, 5:30pm, ZOOM

November 10, 5:30pm ZOOM

December 8, 5:30pm, ZOOM

Outstanding items for consideration includes:

- CIP 2022-2027
- Goals and Objectives for 2021
- Fee Structure for Marketplace on the Green rentals
- COVID-Related items for Parks
- Neighborhood meetings
- Site Visits
- Possible additions to Deer Management Program
- Promotion ideas for Parks
- Security Cameras in some Parks
- Parks and Recreation Masterplan update in 2022
- Park Ordinance Review
- Other



# **Formal Grand Openings and Ribbon Cutting for Park Projects - 2020**

## **Large Dog Park Grand Opening – Thursday, September 10; 5:30pm**

- Formal dedication and recognition
- Invite list – elected officials, board and commission members, staff, friends of the Dog Park, Mural person Kelly, former Park Commissioners, media, snacks, regional recreation directors
- Snacks and photos
- Ribbon and scissors

## **Gateway Footbridge and Restroom in the Historical Village – Tuesday, September 8, 4pm**

- Formal dedication and recognition
- Invite list, DNR, Elected and appointed officials, staff, FHM, contractors, former Park Commissioners, media, regional recreation directors
- Ribbon and scissors
- Snacks and photos

## **Marketplace on the Green – Wednesday, September 16 @ 5pm**

- Formal dedication
- Program booklet
- Lunch bag with goodies
- Tree dedication
- Live music
- Invite list- donors, elected and appointed officials, media, vendors, contractors, engineer, staff, media, Meridian Mall reps, former park commissioners, people wearing veggie costumes

## **Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector- Oct/Nov**

## **HNC Restroom and Pavilion – Oct/Nov**