



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 - 5:30 pm

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**REGULAR MEETING – MARKETPLACE ON THE GREEN– 5:30 PM**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. PRESENTATIONS  
Staff Report –Conservation Corp and Deer Management- Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
7. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
  - A. Update on Projects
8. ACTION ITEMS
  - A. Eagle Scout Final Report Andrew Yomans-Stephenson Eagle Scout Project – Hillbrook Park Boardwalk
  - B. Eagle Scout Candidate Porter – Dog Park Agility Equipment
9. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - A. Commissioner Videos in Parks – Chair Lick
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 mid-December
12. CLOSED SESSION – NONE
13. ADJOURNMENT
14. Next Park Commission Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 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: 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos, MI 48864



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Location: ZOOM

**DATE:** September 8, 2020

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

**EXCUSED:** Ami Van Antwerp

**STAFF:** LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Lick called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Maisner requested to delete item 3A. Presentation by Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator. She will attend the next regular meeting; and add 9C. Skate Park Response. Commissioner Farris moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Seconded by Commission Chair Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

~~A. Staff Report – Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator~~

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Farris moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Seconded by Commission Chair Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Items to/from the Public  
Star Gazing Letter, Pickle ball COVID Guidance, Card from Erica Dalzell
- B. Commission Information
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response

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

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Moved to 9A in conjunction with park project ribbon cutting events.

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Andrew Yomans-Stephenson Eagle Scout Project – Hillbrook Park Boardwalk**

Commissioner McDonald moved TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT BY ANDREW YOMANS-STEPHENSON TO CONSTRUCT A BOARDWALK IN HILLBROOK PARK. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Zachary Sieloff – Eagle Scout Project – Bike Fix –it Station**

Eagle Scout Candidate Sieloff was unable to attend. This item was moved to the next Park Commission meeting.

**C. Resolution of Support for MNRFT Ballot Initiative**

Commissioner McDonald moved TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 MNRTF BALLOT INITIATIVE. Seconded by Commissioner Farris.

Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Star-Gazing Park Designation**

Chair Lick shared a letter from a resident who is asking for one of our parks to be designated as a stargazing park. The Commissioners and staff discussed the pros and cons of this request. Staff will bring a recommendation to the next Park Commission for consideration.

**E. Meeting Schedule for remainder of 2020**

Commissioner McDonald moved TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2020 PARK COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS: OCTOBER 13, 2020, 5:30 PM, OUTSIDE UNDER PAVILION TBA; NOVEMBER 10, 2020, 5:30 PM, TRY OUTDOORS OR ZOOM; AND DECEMBER 8, 2020, 5:30 PM, ZOOM. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Project Ribbon cuttings for 2020 Park Projects**

Director Maisner provided a project update for each of the projects.

1. Marketplace on the Green – nearly completed. Looking at October 7 for the ribbon-cutting event.
2. Large Dog Park- Scheduled for completion by the end of September. Ribbon Cutting event on Oct 7 maybe

3. Gateway Connector and Restroom in Meridian Historical Village-will also be done at the end of September. Let's do a mid-October ribbon cutting.
4. Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector – Late start for contractor and now having difficulty obtaining treated lumber. I am unclear of possible completion date.
5. HNC Pavilion and Restroom Building- This project is moving along nicely and is scheduled for completion in mid-November.

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/Zoom events acknowledging completion of projects and will plan larger, more formal events once public gatherings are permitted.

**B. Commissioner Videos in Parks**

This item was moved to next Park Commission Meeting Agenda.

**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 7:20pm.

**14. NEXT MEETING**

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13 at 5:30 pm; Outdoors under a Pavilion TBA.

**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: Commissioners Lick, McDonald, Farris, and Stephens

ABSENT: Commission Van Antwerp

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Nardo-Farris.

**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.

