

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners Baker, McDonald, Schaetzel, Stephens

EXCUSED: Commissioner Lick

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Add, #3b, Emerald Ash Borer Presentation

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER BAKER, SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**3. Presentations**

**a. Eagle Scout Final Report – Gage Van Order**

Eagle Scout Candidate Gage Van Order summarized his final report on the construction of the overlook at Ted Black Woods.

**b. Emerald Ash Borer Presentation**

Leah Bauer, PhD, Research Entomologist, US Forest Service, Northern Research Station shared findings of the Emerald Ash Borer study in the Township as follows:

- Management of Emerald Ash Borer Using Classical Biological Control in Forested Ecosystems – the conclusions are:  
(26 page PowerPoint Presentation on file in the minute book)
- Entomological Society of America: Biological and Microbial Control – Establishment and Abundance of *Tetrastichus planipennis* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) in Michigan: Potential for Success in Classical Biocontrol of the Invasive Emerald Ash Borer (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) by Jian J Duan, Leah S Bauer, Kristopher J Abell, Jonathan P Lelito and Roy Van Driesche, (copy of the article on file in the minute book)
- Elsevier/Science Direct: Biological Control/Long-term monitoring of the introduced emerald ash borer (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) egg parasitoid,

Oobius agrili (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae), in Michigan, USA and evaluation of a newly developed monitoring technique by Kristopher J Abell, Leah S Bauer, Jian J Duan, and Roy Van Driesche (copy of the article on file in the minute book)

- Ms. Bauer presented two copies of Biology and Control of Emerald Ash Borer for staff and an online version of the book may be found at: [https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/FHTET-2014-09\\_Biology\\_Control\\_EAB.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/FHTET-2014-09_Biology_Control_EAB.pdf)
- Ms. Bauer offered to assist citizen scientists or volunteers interested in getting involved in EAB biocontrol in our parks.

#### 4. Public Comment

None

#### 5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Stephens recommended not holding the ice fishing derby in February and also recommended the public stay off the ice for safety reasons.

#### 6. Approval of Minutes

- a. December 13, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. December 13, 2016 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL, SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 13, 2016 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

#### 7. Communications

##### A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Lynn Ochberg; RE: Making Meridian a Winter Wonderland
2. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Ice rink, warmth, Copenhagen, garden
3. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Canadian City Winter Plan
4. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Hygge Idea—A light sculpture festival/contest in Jan/Feb
5. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Article on Holland, MI steam sidewalks
6. From: Eric Ederer; RE: 2 Parks with lights for people who work during the day
7. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Steam Heated Park Sidewalks
8. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Danish Winter Urban Park/Planning Design
9. From: Donna Rose; RE: Leadership/Nature for All Launches New Website [www.naturefortheblind.com](http://www.naturefortheblind.com) to Bring Outdoor Experiences to the Blind and Visually Impaired

##### B. Commission Information

1. Joint Meeting Report from the Park Commission
2. Joint Meeting Report from Land Preservation Advisory Board

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER BAKER SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**8. Director's Report**

Director Maisner offered the following report:

- a. Towner Road Park bid opening - Monday, January 30, 2017
- b. Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage Grant
  - ✓ Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector - Not recommended for funding (\$61,225)
  - ✓ MSU to Lake Lansing Phase 1 – Recommended for funding (\$950,000)
- c. Grant Applications receiving funding:
  - ✓ Historical Village Restroom Building and Gateway Footbridge (\$150,000) LWCF (\$300,000 project cost)
  - ✓ Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector – (\$272,500) (\$395,000 project cost)
  - ✓ Ponderosa Land Preserve Acquisition – (\$519,500) (MNRTF)
- d. 2017 Projects
  - ✓ North Meridian Road Park Pavilion
  - ✓ Doggie Playground – Central Park
  - ✓ Development of Towner Road Park
- e. Fireworks New Years' Eve – very successful
- f. Polar Bear 5K Race – 220 participants, numerous dogs and strollers
- g. Trails report: Due to strong winds, many trees down in parks. Maintenance staff has been working to re-open trails
- h. Events:
  - ✓ Winter Wonderland January 28 Harris Nature Center
  - ✓ Farmers Market February 4 & 18
  - ✓ Chinese New Year Event – February 11, 1-4:30 Meridian Mall
- i. Communications:
  - ✓ New Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide/brochure
- j. Plant It Pink garden
  - ✓ Plant it pink garden – bricks – we should invite the Meridian Garden Club to a meeting to make a public announcement?

Commissioner Baker moved, Commissioner Stephens seconded, to formally thank Leah Bauer for including Central Park and Legg Park in her extended studies of the Emerald Ash Borer and for her generous gift of two books of research information. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**9. New Business**

**a. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition**

Director Maisner stated the Township is very fortunate to have a very giving community and people who volunteer regularly, as well as single-project support. Each year, the Park Commission hosts a Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony to honor and thank our volunteers. Staff is recommending that the event occur during the March 14, 2017 regular Park Commission Meeting beginning at 6 pm.

COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL MOVED, COMMISSIONER BAKER SECONDED, TO SCHEDULE THE 2016 FRIEND OF THE PARK VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017 AT 6 PM AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL. Voice vote. Motion passed

**b. 2017 Potential Grant Projects**

Staff is recommending the following projects for the 2017 grant cycle:

1. **The Harris Nature Center** hosts hundreds of school children each year as well as numerous outdoor special events. The Center is also along the Meridian Riverfront trail that extends from Eastgate Park to Legg Park and through the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve to Dobie Road. Harris Nature Center staff have requested an outdoor restroom for a number of years to accommodate the large number of visitors. Park restrooms are also identified and supported in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The project has an estimated cost of \$80,000.
2. Construction of **Towner Road Park** will take place in 2017 and will not be ready for active play until 2019. In order to best afford the park's development, staff is recommending that a grant be pursued for construction of six pickleball courts, native plantings for storm water management, a playground and the western parking lot. The project has an estimated cost of \$350,000.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER BAKER SECONDED TO COMPLETE GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AN OUTDOOR RESTROOM AT THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER; AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SIX PICKLEBALL COURTS AND PARKING LOT FOR TOWNER ROAD PARK. Voice vote. Motion passed

**10. Other Business**

None

**11. Discussion Items**

None

**12. Final Comments**

None

**13. Announcements**

- a. Park Commission Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 14, 2017
  - Public Hearing on 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan at 7 pm
- b. Chinese New Year Celebration – Saturday, February 11, 1-4:30 pm at Meridian Mall (new location)
- c. Farmers' Market – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm, JC Penny corridor
- d. Winter Family Weekend Activities:
  - ✓ Saturday, January 28
    - Winter Wonderland, 10 am–3 pm, at HNC
    - Moonlight Sledding, 6-8:30 pm, at North Meridian Road Park, weather dependent
  - ✓ Saturday, February 4
    - Learn to Cross Country Ski, 9:30-11:30 am at HNC
    - Learn to Snowshoe, 1-3 pm at HNC
    - Farmers Market, 10am-2pm, inside the Meridian Mall
  - ✓ Friday & Saturday, February 10 & 11
    - Friday: Howl at the Moon, at 7 pm, at HNC
    - Saturday: Chinese New Year Celebration, 1-4:30 pm, inside Meridian Mall
    - Owl Prowl Campfire, at 7 pm, at HNC
  - ✓ Saturday, February 18
    - Farmers Market, 10am-2pm, inside the Meridian Mall
    - Moonlight Ski and Shoe, 6-9 pm, at HNC, weather dependent
    - Meridian Ice Fishing Derby, 9am-12 noon, location TBA

**14. Public Comment**

**15. Closed Session**

None

**16. Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm.