

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:04 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the agenda as submitted.

3. Public Remarks

None

4. CIP 2017 – 2022

Director Maisner stated the Commission reviewed the proposed CIP proposal at the January meeting. It is projected that the Commission will have between \$200,000 and \$300,000 per year for capital projects and this discussion will help determine which projects should be targeted for grants. Official action on the CIP will not be needed until May, but evaluating the plan now will determine grant eligible projects for 2016.

Discussion:

- Hillbrook Park is receiving new play structure this spring year and suggests completing the tennis courts renovation and walkway project even though we did not receive the grant.
- Wonch Park received a paved pathway, repaved parking lot, new pavilion (spring installation) and new outdoor fitness zone (spring installation); Staff will conduct evaluation on the restroom building for possible renovations with cost estimates.
- Marshall Park play structure should be a high priority based on its age and condition. The open grass area is currently used for soccer and flag football practice sessions
- People are excited about the new Central Park Master Plan and suggested a good kick-off would be submitted grant for restroom building, footbridge and promenade pathway.

- MNRTF projects score high when emphasis is on accessibility, trail development, proximity to water.
- Ferguson Park stream bank improvements
- Acquisition of parcel near Ferguson Park
- HNC pavilion and restroom building; Need meeting with HNC Foundation Board to discuss development priorities.
- Staff recommend applying for a restroom building and bridge improvement for Central Park/Historical Village and a second grant for the promenade/pathway from Central Park through Ledebuhr site over to Central Park South creating a fishing/overlook dock.
- Work with Drain Commissioner's Office on water quality improvements in the Central Park South pond.

5. Grant Proposals 2016 Projects

Following discussion, the Commission supported applying for two grants – new restroom building and footbridge in Central Park/Historical Village; and development of promenade/pathway from Central Park through Ledebuhr parcel to Central Park South including a fishing/overlook area with pathway continuing to Central Park Drive.

6. Doggie Playground Proposal

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway stated the Commissioners discussed this proposal at their November and January meetings and staff is recommending the construction of a “doggie playground” in Central Park across from the Meridian Service Center on Gaylord C. Smith Court. This would be a specialty park for both large and small dogs, approximately 2 acres in size with trails and agility equipment. This would be the first off-leash dog facility in our community. This urban playground for dogs and owners would provide an opportunity to foster relationships with our pet owners to determine the next steps in creating other dog-friendly facilities in the community.

Points of Information

- There will be separate areas for small and large dogs
- To avoid muddy trails, stone dust will be used as the trail surface as it meets accessibility guidelines, is pervious, and is gentle on paws.
- Effective management and maintenance are important to the success of dog facilities so its proximity to the Service Center should be beneficial. Also, police and fire personnel regularly drive by accessing fuel pumps.
- Maybe area pet stores may wish to contribute to the facility.
- Will host special events for pets
- Pet waste will be addressed by signage; good dog owners tend to police other dog owners

7. Nancy Moore Park Sand Volleyball Court

Director Maisner explained that the sand volleyball courts in Nancy Moore Park were constructed in 1996 and it is staff's recommendation that the sand is in need of replacing. The estimated cost is \$12,000 and a budget amendment is necessary.

8. Towner Road Park Development Project Funding

In November, the Park Commission discussed the pros and cons of developing Towner Road Park in phases or as one project and utilizing a construction manager vs a general contractor. Chair Wilson, a construction manager at Michigan State University shared that if the park is built in a single phase, there would definitely be cost savings in comparison to a phased approach. It would mean however, borrowing money from future tax revenue to move forward in this manner. The Park Commission has borrowed money multiple times before on previous land acquisitions. Phasing the project adds costs with multiple engineering and bid specifications, construction supervision and mobilizations. There also may be additional repair and restoration costs from work completed in an earlier phase. It also leaves the park looking "under construction" for multiple years.

At that time, the Commission decided that moving forward as one project made the most sense from practical and economic standpoints, and to use a construction manager to receive the best pricing and enhanced project oversight.

Director Maisner stated this item is no the regular meeting agenda for official action.

9. Comments

None

10. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 7:07 pm.