

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Land Stewardship Coordinator Kelsey Dillon; Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Under Presentations, add new item #a, Harris Nature Center Beaver Lodge

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

3. Presentations

a. Harris Nature Center Beaver Lodge

Dave Vanderklok, Studio Intrigue Architects, presented the plans to construct a beaver lodge as part of the Harris Nature Center Nature Exploration Area (drawings contained in the minute book). The lodge will be approximately 450 square feet; constructed of materials harvested and reclaimed at the Center; will include a glass walking surface with lily pads, walkways, ladder system and slide. The project will be constructed with the assistance of volunteers under his supervision. He plans to begin construction this fall adjacent to the turtle, fossil dig and spider web. It was recommended Mr. Vanderklok present the project to the Okemos/Haslett Rotary Club who have adopted the Center.

b. Eagle Scout Project Presentations:

• North Meridian Road Park Trail Construction

Eagle Scout Candidate Clayton Carmichael is requesting to construct an extension of the current boardwalk in the North Meridian Road Park. He is fundraising through local businesses and a can drive and has currently raised \$300. His fellow troop members will be assisting with construction. It was suggest he approach the Kiwanis Clubs of Okemos and Haslett for a donation. He turns 18 in 2018. He has met with Jane Greenway and Dennis Antone to review his plans.

- **Ted Black Woods Overlook Construction**
Eagle Scout Candidate Gage VanOrder is requesting to construct an 8'x10' overlook in the Park. He will have members of his troop assist with construction which will take 2-3 days. He would like to complete the project within the next 2-3 weeks. He will be obtaining the materials from MPC Lumber. He has completed his fundraising efforts by raising the money needed for the project. He is working with staff to receive the necessary approvals for construction and project location. There will be a handicap accessible ramp. It was recommended he include handrails with spindles and benches.
- **Harris Nature Center Trash Receptacle Enclosure Construction**
Eagle Scout Candidate Robert McQuaid is requesting to construct a concrete pad and privacy fence enclosure at Harris Nature Center. This will offer a secure area for recycling and keep animals out of the area. He is raising funds through a go-fund-me account, can drive, and from local businesses and clubs. He would like to start construction at the end of September and complete it within three weeks. In reviewing with staff, a permit is not required but will need approval from staff on location and materials. He will have 10-13 volunteers to assist him and the project.

BOARD MEMBER DESCHAINED MOVED, BOARD MEMBER JARAMILLO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE NORTH MERIDIAN ROAD PARK BOARDWALK PROJECT BY EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE CLAYTON CARMICHAEL; TED BLACK WOODS OVERLOOK CONSTRUCTION BY EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE GAGE VANORDER; AND HARRIS NATURE CENTER TRASH RECEPTACLE ENCLOSURE BY EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE ROBERT MCQUAID. Voice vote. Motion passed.

c. Stewardship Update

Land Stewardship Coordinator Kelsey Dillion gave a power point presentation on the stewardship activities in the parks and land preserves (copy of the presentation in the minute book)

4. Public Comment

None

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Jaramillo reported the Wonch Park ribbon cutting was televised on WILX and WLNS News stations. She thanked the representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and Ingham County Parks for attending.

Commissioner Deschaine reported on discussions with residents on moving ahead with the dog park/playground. He understands that a dog park is part of the discussions by Ingham County Parks as part of the 5-Year Master Plan with a

proposed site of Lake Lansing North Park and heard there was support from their public input efforts.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. June 14, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER DESCHAINE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JUNE 14, 2016 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Director's Report

Director Maisner offered the following:

- a. **2016 Park Project Review** – PowerPoint presentation in the minute book
- b. **Develop Web-based mapping for the townships parks and trail system** – Kati Adams is working with IT Department and has GPS all trails and/or marked them in GIS. We are waiting for a draft version from our IT Department. Once all information is confirmed, the web-based version will be placed on our website. We are planning to complete this project at the end of 2016.
- c. **Ingham Co Parks and Trails Millage**
 - a. Trail repair in Hartrick Park and Nancy Moore Park \$18,500
 - Bridge replacement and repair in Hartrick, Central Park South and Nancy Moore Park - \$400,000
 - New map boxes have been installed at trailheads
- d. **Currently working on:**
 - Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan update
 - Towner Road Park bid documents for Construction Manager almost ready
 - Doggie Playground – finalizing details
- e. **Grant Update:**
 - Participated in the site visit by our grant coordinator on July 15, 2016
 - ✓ Gateway Bridge and Restroom Building in Village at Central Park (Land and Water Conservation Fund) \$300,000 project \$150,000 local match.
 - ✓ Then we walked the route of the Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector that starts in Central Park and runs west toward Central Park South and connects with the existing north-south paved trail. (Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund \$395,000) local match \$122,450 31% grant 69% \$272,550
 - ✓ Land Preservation Acquisition – Ponderosa Estimated cost MNRTF \$1,150,900. Local match \$500,000, donation \$136,000 Rode in the

gators to view property. Many unique features and large stands of trees and a creek.

- ✓ Grant announcements will be made on December 7.
- ✓ Next Trust Fund Board meeting is Wednesday, October 19, 2016; Lansing Community College West Campus; 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing; 9 am; No current grant coordinator
- ✓ Recently notified that our grant coordinator has taken a new job.

8. **Communications**

A. *Items to/from the Public*

1. Director Maisner; RE: Thank you for invitation to annual Friends of the Park Celebration

B. **Commission Information**

1. Capital Area District Libraries Summer Reading 2016 edition; StoryWalk now at Orlando Park in Haslett
2. Meridian Garden Club August 2016 newsletter
3. Harris Nature Center Foundation June 13, 2016 minutes
4. Invitation to Wonch Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on August 23
5. Calendar of Events for September and October

C. **Staff Inquiries/Response**

1. For: Meridian Garden Club; RE: Letter of support for proposed Pink Garden

D. **Distributed at Meeting**

1. 2016 Township Master Plan
2. Lansing State Journal article; August 14, 2016; Meridian Township unveils outdoor fitness center at Wonch Park
3. Lansing State Journal article; Ingham County allocates \$5.7 million for bridge projects
4. Email; July 28, 2016; from: Adam Hussian RE: Fitness Zone SW Lansing
5. Facebook Fox 47 News page, July 26, 2016; Wonch Park Fitness Zone opens in Meridian Township

Hearing no objection, Acting Chair McDonald accepted the items of communication for filing.

9. **New Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. **Eagle Scout Projects**

The three Eagle Scout projects were approved earlier in the meeting.

10. **Other Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None

11. Discussion Items

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None

12. Final Comments

None

13. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2016, Town Hall Room; Agenda item: Township Master Plan
- b. Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace – Sunday, August 28, 11 am – 4 pm
- c. Harris Nature Center Family Special: Life in a Log, Sunday, September 11, 3 pm
- d. Meridian Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 10, 10 am – 3 pm
- e. Farmers' Market –Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm, until end of October

14. Public Comment

None

15. Closed Session

None

16. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.