

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Baker, Lick, McDonald, Schaetzi, Stephens

ABSENT: None

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

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Acting Chair McDonald called the regular meeting to order at 7:52 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

COMMISSIONER LICK MOVED, COMMISSIONER BAKER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**3. Presentations**

None

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Commissioner Reports and Comments**

Acting Chair McDonald referenced the press release from Governor Snyder's office applauding the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Boards grant recommendations.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

- a. October 11, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. October 11, 2016 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
- c. November 1, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, ACTING CHAIR MCDONALD SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 11, 2016 AND NOVEMBER 1, 2016 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

## 7. **Communications**

### A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Eastgate Park observations and recommendations

### B. Commission Information

1. Gov. Rick Snyder applauds Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board recommendations
2. Calendar of Events for December
3. Mark Stephens Award Presentation
4. Meridian Garden Club Newsletter – Plant It Pink Garden in the Historical Village and Blue Star Memorial Rededication
5. Emerald Ash Borer Presentation scheduled for January Park Commission Meeting

### C. Staff Inquiries/Response - None

Commissioners congratulated Commissioner Stephens on receiving the Board and/or Commissioner Member of the Year Award from the Township Board.

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

## 8. **New Business**

### a. 2017 Meeting Calendar

COMMISSIONER BAKER MOVED, BOARD MEMBER LICK SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE AS OUTLINED IN THE DECEMBER 8, 2016 STAFF MEMORANDUM AND ATTACHED RESOLUTION WITH COPIES FORWARDED TO THE APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS FOR POSTING.

Roll Call:

AYES: Richard Baker, Amanda Lick, Annika Schaeztl, Mark Stephens, Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion/Resolution passed.

### b. Election of Officers for 2017

Acting Chair McDonald opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED TO NOMINATE MICHAEL MCDONALD AS CHAIR. Seconded by Commissioner Baker.

Michael McDonald accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Acting Chair McDonald closed the floor for nominations for Chair.

Roll Call:

AYES: Richard Baker, Amanda Lick, Annika Schaeztl, Mark Stephens,  
Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

Chair McDonald opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

COMMISSIONER BAKER MOVED TONOMINATE MARK STEPHENS AS VICE CHAIR. Seconded by Commissioner Schaeztl

Mark Stephens accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair McDonald closed the floor for nominations for Chair.

Roll Call:

AYES: Richard Baker, Amanda Lick, Annika Schaeztl, Mark Stephens,  
Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

**c. Appointment to Land Preservation Advisory Board**

Chair McDonald asked Commissioner Stephens to continue representing the Park Commission on the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Commissioner Stephens accepted.

**d. Set Public Hearing Date – 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Director Maisner stated the draft 2017-2021 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be ready and open for public review at the end of December. Based on the plan submittal deadline of March 1, 2017 and remaining meeting schedules for the Park Commission and Township Board, it is recommended that the mandatory public hearing be conducted on February 14 together with plan adoption then to the Township Board on February 21. A hard copy of the report will be available at the Parks and Recreation Office and the Clerk's Office and for viewing on-line on the Township's website.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL SECONDED, TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021 FOR TUESDAY,

FEBRUARY 14, 2017 AT 7 PM IN THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL,  
MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS. Voice  
vote. Motion passed.

**9. Director's Report**

Director Maisner reported the following:

- a. Grant Success! MNRTF, CRCF and LWCF
  - Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector \$272,500 (local match \$122,500)
  - Land Acquisition Land Preservation – Ponderosa Land Preserve \$514,900
  - LWCF – Gateway footbridge and restroom building in Historical Village – will be announced next week \$150,000/\$150,000.
  - Capital Region Community Foundation - \$6,500 award for a tool trailer for volunteer projects in parks.
- b. Projects for 2017
  - Bidding for Towner Road Park – out to bid later this week. Bids due January 30.
  - Doggie Playground Development
  - New Pavilion –North Meridian Road Park (MNRTF Grant \$50,000/\$50,000)
  - Beaver Lodge – Harris Nature Center
  - New directional signage on trails
  - New trail maps
  - New Web application for parks and trails
  - New Maintenance Worker still one short
  - Fireworks on Dec 31
  - Footbridge and trail improvements – Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage

**10. Other Business**

None

**11. Discussion Items**

None

**12. Final Comments**

None

**13. Announcements**

- a. Farmers' Market – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm, JC Penny corridor
- b. New Year's Eve Fireworks – December 31 at 6:45 pm
- c. 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick Off Celebration at Studio C, December 31, 4-8 pm

**14. Public Comment**

None

**15. Closed Session**

None

**16. Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.