



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
Meridian Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840  
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022 4:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mike McDonald; Commissioner, Mark Stephens  
**ABSENT:** None  
**STAFF:** LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kati Adams, Parks and Land Preservation Superintendent; Ken Plaga, Chief of Police

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:30 pm.**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission.

All present.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

None

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.**  
Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.** Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

None

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Posting Signs on Lake Lansing Marsh and Spengler’s Marsh** – The Park Commission discussed a request to place “No Hunting” signs in both Lake Lansing Marsh and Spengler’s Marsh properties located at the south end of Lake Lansing on Lake Drive. Neither site provides pedestrian public access. This request was in response to two residents who live on the lake referencing Act 80 of 1925 deeming Lake Lansing and a large portion around it as a Wildlife Sanctuary. If signage is erected at the perimeter of the identified area, it is the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources. The Park Commission will soon be placing new identification signs on each of the wetland areas but there are no plans for any additional signage.

**B. Multi-Use Trail use by Horses** – Staff has received numerous complaints about horse droppings left on multi-use trails in Legg, Eastgate, Harris Nature Center and Van Atta Woods Parks. There also is a person who drives a horse-drawn cart on the trails as well. The current Land Preservation Ordinance prohibits draft animals from entering the preserves. The Parks Ordinance does allow for horses but it appears that additional rules related to manure and cart usage are needed. The Commission asked Director Maisner to schedule an informal meeting with local horse farm owners to discuss and obtain additional information before bringing a recommendation forward for consideration.

**C. HNCF Proposed By-Law Amendment**

The Harris Nature Center Foundation was established in 1997 to assist with fund raising for capital items and new displays for items beyond Park Millage support. The current Foundation members have reviewed the bylaws and recommended “housekeeping” changes that better reflect actual operations. The Commissioners will review the proposed changes and will take action at their next regular meeting.

**10. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- **Celebrate Meridian Festival** – This community festival and fireworks celebration took place on Saturday, June 25 in Central Park and Marketplace on the Green. The day included the farmers market, live entertainment from 11am – 10pm on the Marketplace stage, food vendors, Children’s Fun Zone, business booths, beer and wine garden and fireworks. Many people enjoyed the festivities throughout the day and thanks to our generous sponsors, the event’s expenses were covered through donations (with the exception of staff time). It took the efforts from multiple departments and volunteers to make this event happen.
- **Floating Purification Islands Launched into the Central Park South Pond** – Continuing our efforts to improve the water quality in this pond, five floating islands were anchored in the pond all planted with native wetland plants to absorb and clean the water. These plants were grown from seeds collected in parks and land preserves last year and grown over the winter. Special thanks and recognition to Emma Campbell, Kati Adams, Jane Greenway, the park maintenance staff and the Meridian Township Fire Department who assisted with launching and anchoring the islands.

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- **More Wetland Plantings in the rain garden at Marketplace** – Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell, with assistance from MCC volunteers, planted native wetland plants in the rain garden area to improve filtration and absorption of runoff from the hard surfaces at Marketplace.
- **Summer Programs!**
  - **Camps at HNC** – Every weekday this summer is filled with laughter and learning at summer camp at the Nature Center. All of the camps are running at full capacity!

Allison Goodman and Kati Adams have a special way of making environmental learning fun!

- **Sporties for Shorties** – This Mike Devlin special has been a staple of our department's offerings for 22 years and is as popular today as it was in the beginning. Multiple weeklong classes are offered throughout the year and feature multiple sports for children ages 4-6. These programs are intended to develop gross motor skills, socialization and FUN!
- **July is Parks and Recreation Month! – “Rec on the Move”** is a program created by Recreation Intern, Angela Pontius that includes six different special events at multiple parks throughout the township. Okemos Music Academy signed on to sponsor all six events. The first event was held on Friday, July 8 from 6-8pm that was promoted as a “Field Day” with games such as sack races, parachute play, and free pizza. A total of 200 people attended the free drop-in event! The Pizza was donated by Buddies Pizza. The second event was a Craft Day at Hillbrook Park with free popsicles and ice cream with 150 participants. Upcoming events include events at Hartrick Park, Nancy Moore Park, North Meridian Road Park and Towner Road Park.
- **Meridian Township Farmers Market** – There is not a happier place to be than at Marketplace on the Green on a Saturday or Wednesday! Market Manager, Tom Cary has done a wonderful job of obtaining and managing a wide variety of vendors. The Market on Saturdays has exceeded 3,000 visitors per day and the Wednesday Market has gone from being on life support to a viable, vibrant weekly event with live music and food trucks! Mike Devlin has obtained sponsors to support live entertainment every Wednesday from 6-8:30 pm on the Delta Dental Stage for the **Free Summer Concert Series**, and the attendance has been outstanding! Concerts run from June through September.
- **Youth and Adult Sports** – There are no roots growing under Mike Devlin's feet as he is continually busy with organizing and managing adult leagues for softball, kickball and sand volleyball as well as successful youth baseball, softball and tee-ball programs. The summer youth leagues are engaging over 600 children from

Okemos, Haslett, and Williamston. Registration is taking place now for flag football and youth soccer.

- **Pavilion Reservations** – Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant, has had her hands full with managing pavilion reservations this year as most of our shelters are fully reserved every weekend this summer and also on many weekdays as well.
- **Dog Parks** – There are over 1,200 dogs registered to use our large and small dog park areas. In June, Recreation Intern Angela Pontius conducted a “Yappy Hour” in each of the parks including games, dog treats and music. The events were a huge success as dog parks aren’t only for dogs...they are a place for social interaction between pet parents as well!
- Planning is well underway for the **2022 Meridian Heritage Festival** Scheduled for Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> in Central Park. This program is collaborated with Nokomis and Friends of Historic Meridian.
- **PARK MAINTENANCE TEAM!** – Kati Adams, Larry Bobb, Josh Cannon, Dan Inman, Tom Baker, Troy Goodwin and Traverse Fuller. Now that you have read my monthly report, please realize that the Park Maintenance Team has played a significant role in the preparation, maintenance, clean-up and overall success of all the activities listed above as well as general maintenance and upkeep of all of our parks and pathways! Their hard work and dedication is the foundation of our department’s success.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**

None

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **August 9, 2022** at the Meridian Service Center, 4:30 pm.