



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
Meridian Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022 4:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Mark Stephens – 4:30 pm and Commissioner, Mike McDonald – 4:40 pm  
**ABSENT:** Commissioner, Amanda Lick  
**STAFF:** LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant

**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.  
Commissioner Lick excused absent.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

None

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 REGULAR MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Stephens **MOVED TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEM PRESENTED ON FILE**. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. 2023 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

Following discussion regarding the changing the televised meeting date to be September 12 and the August 8 meeting to be non-televised and held at the Service Center, the proposed Park Commission meeting schedule for 2023 was approved as amended:

**Park Commission Meeting Dates  
2023 Meeting Schedule**

**RESOLUTION**

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022, at 4:30 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Mark Stephens

ABSENT: Commissioner Amanda Lick and Commissioner Mike McDonald

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Van Antwerp and supported by Commissioner Stephens.

WHEREAS, the Park Commission desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission deems the 2022 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board’s Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board’s Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that the Park Commission adopts its regular 2023 meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 10	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
February 14	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
March 14	Town Hall	4:30 pm televised regular meeting
April 11	NO MEETING	NO MEETING
May 9	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
June 13	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
July 11	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
August 8	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
September 12	Service Center	4:30 pm televised regular meeting
October 10	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
November 14	Town Hall	4:30 pm televised regular meeting
December 12	NO MEETING	NO MEETING

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ADOPTED: YEAS: Ami Van Antwerp, Mark Stephens and Mary Nardo-Farris

NAYS: None

Resolution declared adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)  
  )ss.  
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chair of the Park Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 15th of November, 2022.

*Mary Nardo-Farris*

Mary Nardo-Farris, Chair  
Park Commission

**B. Spark Grant Opportunities**

Discussion regarding which park to designate as a project for the Federal Spark Grant Program. After consideration, the commission agreed to apply for funds for Nancy Moore Park playground replacement and paved loop trail leading from the parking lot and around the soccer fields to provide accessibility. Round one applications are due December 19, 2022 and will be awarded January, 2023.

**COMMISSION VAN ANTWERP MOVED TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL SPARK GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR NANCY MOORE PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND ACCESSIBLE LOOP TRAIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,000.** Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. General Health Policy – Township Board**

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Informational only, the Township Board has already finalized and implemented this policy. Free toiletry items are now available to the public in all park restrooms. If vandalism occurs, the Park Commission will address it then.

**10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT**

Commissioner Stephens reviewed recent items of discussion at the Land Preservation Advisory Board meetings. He praised Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator, as he is impressed with her professionalism and creativity. The commissioners agreed and discussed *Planting a Native Meridian*, that is now available free to the public. Emma Campbell and intern, Rebecca Fisher, recently completed the native plant guide.

**11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Cornerstone Architects – Condition Assessment of Historical Village structures - \$15,000
- B. MOU with Friends of Historic Meridian – review and revise
- C. Able Eyes Virtual Tour of HNC Link to view the tour on Able Eyes: <https://www.ableeyes.org/virtual-tours/harris-nature-center-okemos-mi/>
- D. Meridian Heritage Festival –October 1 – extremely successful for both Nokomis and the Village
- E. Spooktacular Adventures at Marketplace Halloween event - October 26
- F. Native Plant Guide – Emma Campbell and intern Rebecca Fischer created
- G. Paper products in parks – DEI Feminine products in park restrooms (already discussed in General Health Policy – Township Board
- H. ARPA Funds Request to Township Board– wind screens \$88,000, and Historical Village building repair \$130,000
- I. New Parks and Recreation Specialist, Nick Wing will start on November 28.
- J. Upcoming Topic – Snell Towar Recreation Center – do we start scheduling events there, or would the space be better utilized if demolished and a new pavilion and grills be built there? Due to staffing issues, the center has become more of a liability in recent years.
- K. Upcoming Topic – Pickleball vs Tennis – need to discuss at a future meeting the pros and cons of keeping current tennis court at Hillbrook Park and/or making additional pickleball courts.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Claudia Kerbawy, 1398 Hickory Island Drive, Haslett  
Susan Andrews, 6088 Columbia Street, Haslett

Residents are following up from May, 2022 meeting. Lake Lansing was established as a Wild Life Sanctuary in 1925. At one time, there were signs posted noting the Sanctuary Lake status, but signs have since been removed. Township police and the Michigan DNR said they cannot enforce without signs being posted to alert hunters that there is No Hunting. Residents have asked the DNR to re-post Sanctuary Lake/No Hunting signs. Lu updated the residents that identification signs, i.e. Spengler Marsh and Lake Lansing Marsh, will be

installed by the township soon. However, the Township police will not enforce the No Hunting. That will be the responsibility of the DNR.

**13. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Stephens explained the Great Lakes Fisheries applications are due in January, 2023. He would like the commissioners to brainstorm which applications would best benefit our community. Please send all ideas to Mark, as he will be applying soon. Commissioner McDonald asked if Commissioner Stephens could share some concepts before application.

Discussion on re-stocking of the ponds at Central Park. Commissioner Stephens said he anticipates ponds to be re-stocked in the spring.

Commissioner Van Antwerp asked if Dan Opsommer could attend a future meeting and discuss the MSU trail. She would like an update on the progress of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail. The Okemos Road bridge project would impact the work in the future at community parks. Director Maisner said she would get the latest update from the Engineering Department and forward to the commissioners.

Director Maisner distributed MRPA Conference information for March 7-10, 2023. The commissioners are invited to attend the conference and should RSVP to Bridget by January 10, 2023.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 5:35 pm.