

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners McDonald, Schaetzl, Stephens, Wisinski

EXCUSED: Commissioner Lick

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair McDonald called the regular meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Addition of new agenda item #9E. Joint meeting with Land Preservation Advisory Board

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

3. Public Comment

None

4. Presentations

None

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

The Commissioners spoke in support of the Celebrate Meridian event on July 1 and the Fun in the Sun event at Lake Lansing South Park in June.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. June 13, 2017 Work Session Minutes
- b. June 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. June 15, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JUNE 13, 2017 WORK SESSION, JUNE 13, 2017 REGULAR MEETING, AND JUNE 15, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

None

8. Director's Report

a. Project Updates

- **Towner Road Park** – construction underway. Rain has delayed the project by at least three weeks. Progress meetings are held every other Thursday.
- **North Meridian Road Park Pavilion** – Reviewing bids currently and obtaining additional information.
- **Parks and Grounds Maintenance Staff** – have been very hard at work this summer.
- **Upcoming projects:**
 - ✓ Install Disco Fish in Wonch Park
 - ✓ Install tennis backboard at Hillbrook Park
 - ✓ Install new trailhead signs and directional signs in Ted Black Woods Park
- **Dog Park at Central Park South** – small dog area and all dog area
- **Farmers' Market Relocation Project** – work continues on site plan and formal agreement with CBL Properties.
- **Celebrate Meridian Event on July 1** – Very successful. Estimated attendance 35,000

9. New Business

a. **Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector Grant Agreement**

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER WISINSKI SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$272,500 (69%) WITH A LOCAL MATCH OF \$122,500 (31%) TO BE PAID BY THE PARK MILLAGE FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL PARK MERIDIAN REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTOR PROJECT IN CENTRAL PARK PENDING TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY APPROVAL.

Roll Call:

AYES: Annika Schaetzl, Mark Stephens, Courtney Wisinski, Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

b. **2018-2023 CIP for Parks**

The Capital Improvement Program is a plan that is visited and revised every year and is used to plan and budget for improvements in the Township. The draft proposed plan was reviewed and discussed.

It is the recommendation of staff that the following work be planned and budgeted in 2018:

- Design, engineer and bid the Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector Project in Central Park. \$40,000 (construction in 2019)

- Design, engineer and bid the footbridge and restroom building in the Historical Village. \$30,000 (construction in 2019)
 - New park signs with the new Township Brand to replace worn out or absent signage. \$25,000
 - Pave Eastgate Park parking lot – \$40,000
 - Expand parking lot at North Meridian Road Park – \$50,000
 - Repave north parking lot at Hillbrook Park - \$7,500
 - Farmers' Market Relocation Project - \$75,000
- Total for 2018 - \$267,500 for projects

COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO SUPPORT THE ATTACHED CIP FOR 2018-2023 FOR PARKS. Voice vote. Motion passed.

c. 2018 Budget Request

COMMISSIONER WISINSKI MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS AND NEW STAFF FOR 2018 FROM THE PARK MILLAGE BUDGET: CENTRAL PARK MERIDIAN REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTOR - \$40,000; FOOTBRIDGE AND RESTROOM IN HISTORICAL VILLAGE - \$30,000; NEW SIGNS FOR PARKS - \$25,000; EASTGATE PARK PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS - \$40,000; NORTH MERIDIAN ROAD PARK PARKING LOT EXPANSION - \$50,000; REPAVE HILLBROOK PARK PARKING LOT - \$7,500; FARMERS MARKET RELOCATION PROJECT - \$75,000; AND ONE NEW FULL-TIME UTILITY WORKER - \$60,000

Roll Call:

AYES: Annika Schaetzel, Mark Stephens, Courtney Wisinski, Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

d. Alert Siren in Wonch Park

Fire Chief, Fred Cowper has recommended that a warning siren be located in Wonch Park to properly alert neighbors in that area of severe weather activity.

COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL MOVED, COMMISSIONER WISINSKI SECONDED, TO SUPPORT LOCATING A WARNING SIREN IN WONCH PARK AT THE REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRE CHIEF, FRED COWPER, TO PROVIDE AN AUDIO ALERT SYSTEM FOR SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE COMMUNITY. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL WORK WITH THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION ON THE EXACT PLACEMENT OF THE SIREN. Voice vote. Motion passed.

e. Joint meeting with Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB)

Director Maisner reported Commissioner Stephens is the Commission's liaison to the LPAB and the two boards have met in the past to discuss mutual items. Although the missions for each board are slightly different, the properties all need to be managed.

Topic suggestions for upcoming meeting:

- Review recently purchased properties and/or do a site visit
- Review parcels to see if any are better suit to be a park rather than a land preserve or to be a land preserve rather than a park
- Benefits of stewardship activities for both parks and land preserves
- Utilize volunteers for projects
- Invite Pat Witte for discussion on Lake Lansing North
- Work with youths at Lake Lansing North and Mary Helmbrecht planting, how best to continue and/or expand this type of activity in parks and land preserves
- Need to showcase stewardship activities
- Trail maintenance on existing trails in parks and land preserves
- Determine Possible joint meeting date in September or October

Director Maisner will speak with Chair Mayes and Chair McDonald to discuss possible dates.

10. Other Business

None

11. Discussion Items

None

12. Final Comments

None

13. Announcements

a. Park Commission Meetings:

- Tuesday, August 8 meeting has been canceled due to the election
- Tuesday, September 12, 2017 next scheduled meeting

b. July Parks and Recreation Month – Rec on the MOVE

- Wednesday, July 26; Hillbrook Park, 10-12 pm; activities for all ages
- Friday, July 28; Central Park, 6:30-9 pm; family Olympics and BBQ

c. Farmers' Market, Wednesdays and Saturdays: July – October, 8 am-2 pm; Central Park

d. 175th Activities and Events (www.meridiancelebrates175.com):

- Rock the Block at Carriage Hills Shopping Center, Saturday, August 12 at 1 pm; Main stage performances by Spartan Dance Company and Spartan Fit Center and Starfarm Band; 1-5 pm family activities; 7-11 pm Starfarm Band, food and beer tent
- Rock the Block in Downtown Okemos, Saturday, August 26, 50th Anniversary Celebration at Douglas J Salon and Spa; 4-7 pm; five decades of hair how-to demonstrations; massages, music, hors d'oeuvres
- Senior Brunch Tribute, Tuesday, August 22, at the Willows of Okemos; 1:30-3 pm; free to seniors; table sponsors needed

e. Meridian Arts and Crafts Market, Sunday, August 27, 11 am – 4 pm, Central Park Pavilion

14. Public Comment

None

15. Closed Session

None

16. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.