



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY APRIL 12, 2016
TOWN HALL ROOM



WORK SESSION 6 PM
(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Towner Road Park Development**
4. **Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony- Planning**
5. **Barnes House Addition – Friends of Historic Meridian**
6. **Comments**
7. **Adjournment**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. March 8, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - b. March 8, 2016 Regular Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)
8. **Director's Report**
9. **New Business** (pink)

PUBLIC COMMENT

 - a. Barnes House Addition-Friends of Historic Meridian
 - b. CIP 2017-2022
 - c. Friends of the Parks Volunteer Recognition Ceremony – Set Date

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Park Commission by writing or calling the following: Township Manager Frank Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-853-4250) - Ten days notice required.

10. Other Business (cherry)

PUBLIC COMMENT

a.

11. Discussion Items (lilac)

PUBLIC COMMENT

a.

12. Final Comments

13. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2016, Town Hall Room
- b. Winter Farmers' Market – J C Penney Corridor, Meridian Mall, April 16, 10am-2pm
- c. Love a Park Day – Saturday, April 23, 9 am – 12 Noon
- d. Outdoor Spring Farmers' Market Opening Day! – Saturday, May 7, 8am-2pm
- e. Meridian Garden Club Annual Plant Sale - Friday, May 20, 9am – 2pm, Central Park Pavilion
- f. Harris Nature Center Native Plants Day and Sale – Saturday, May 7, 9 am – 1 pm
- g. Celebrate Meridian – Saturday, June 11

14. Public Remarks

15. Closed Session

16. Adjournment

2015 PARKS AND LAND PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS

The support and engagement from residents and organizations in parks and recreation programs is just one more element contributing to the greatness of our community. The giving of time, money, and knowledge continue to strengthen the ties between residents, businesses and government.

Layne Cameron	Provided stewardship activities Red Cedar Natural Area and Meridian Riverfront Park
Haslett Beautification Association	Planted and maintained the Marshall Park and Welcome to Meridian Township signs
Meridian Garden Club	Planted and maintained gardens in the Historical Village, the gardens in front of the Municipal Building and Claire Twohy Memorial Garden in Central Park; donated and planted an Arbor Day tree in Village near the pond with a plaque
Martha Hentz/Chris Buck Family	Hartrick Park (Martha Hentz, Chris, Evan, & Phillip Buck) – donated and planted flowers at Hartrick Park around flagpole and sign, trash pick-up
Eckhart Dersch	Provided reports on Ferguson, Wonch, North Meridian Road Parks to identify needed maintenance
Eagle Scout Steve Harrelson	Constructed split-rail fence in Historical Village
Eagle Scout Grant Porter	Constructed Aldo Leopold benches in Central Park
Eagle Scout Jacob Conklin	Constructed gaga ball court at Nancy Moore Park
Boy Scout Troop #164 (Ellen Passage); Girl Scout Troop (Angie Wilson); Forsberg Co. (Gina); Robert Morrison; Jim Patterson; Jane Bobay	Earth Day Clean Up, April 25
50 volunteers	Love A Park Day, June 20 North Meridian Road Park – Haslett Scouts #30045 and #265 Hillbrook Park – Meridian Democrats and HBA Orlando Park – Haslett Kiwanis Ferguson Park – Okemos Girl Scouts #30009 Meridian Riverfront Park – Haslett Okemos Rotary Hartrick Park – Martha Hentz and Chris Buck Hillbrook Park – Bobby Dubyne Sander Farm – Larry Hennessy
Ellen Passage	Maintained Paul Peterson memorial at Nancy Moore Park

Larry Hennessey	Cleaned and monitored the bluebird boxes in Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area and Tacoma Hills Natural Area.
Cecelia Kramer, Quenda Story, Neil Hodges, and Marianne Stehr	Cleaned Forest Hills Natural Area
MSUFCU	Donated and planted \$1,000 worth of trees as part of their Grow Green program
MSU Sustainability Class	Designed signage for future Red Cedar Water Trail
Faith Lutheran Church	Planted mums and bulbs at North Meridian Road Park
Haslett Robotics Club	Planted flowers and spread mulch at Meridian Service Center
Capital Area Geocache Club	Cleaned Wonch and Ferguson Parks
Lansing Oar and Paddle	Made improvements to canoe landing at the Harris Nature Center and conducted their annual river clearing event on the Red Cedar River from Grand River to Ferguson Park. (Jay Hanks, Rich Bailey, George Stockman, Don Potter, John Flaherty, and Tony Kuhlman)
Maria Ibarra	Planted mums and spread mulch at Ferguson Park and Okemos Library
Haslett Elementary School Zsa Mahon's students Grand Learning Network Land Preservation Advisory Board Mark Stephens, Vern Stephens	Design and installation of the Mary M G Helmbrecht Shoreline Pollinator Garden at the Historical Village Pond
Dave Caszatt Donald Dickman Sand Davis, David Dietz, Dave Wearsch, Margo Smith, Frank Hatfield, Phil Deschaine, Rick Loftus, Tom Tederington, Tom Vogal, Judy Kindel, Adrianna Flores, Mary Flores, Mary Zaleta, Nick Sanchez, Cub Scout Troop 265 (Haslett) Boy Scout Troop 109 (Okemos)	Towar Woods Preserve: Cleared invasive plants and planting trees, conducted activities to reduce deer damage to trees
Jim Hewitt and Katherine Neils	Davis/Foster Land Preserve: treated invasive black locust
Steve Thomas and family	Stewardship in Sower Woods Preserve

Bennett Woods Elementary Schools (Mrs. Allis; Mrs. Schmidt; Ms. Hendrix classes)	Planted milkweed and butterfly weed at Hartrick Park
Julie Taliber & Dave Reicosky	Maintained butterfly habitat areas in Hartrick Park
Deer Management Program	Aaron Rustad, Andrew Taylor, Ben Cummings, Billy Haskins, Brian Watts, Cam Haskins, Casey Carnahan, Chad Houck, Charles Otlewski, Christopher Wilcox, Conlan Adams, Dan Smith, Glenn Thomas, James Hurst Jr., Jay Graham, Jeffrey Speer, Jeremy Kapalla, Jonathon Mayes, Justin Cook, Kenneth Plaga, Kent Bainbridge, Kim Emery Larry Harb, Lee Colony, Margaret DeLong, Martin Schoenmaker, Matthew DeLong, Matthew Prinz, Matthew Solit, Matthew Wesener, Michael Ellis, Michael Meade, Michael Pemble, Mike Kingsley, Nicholas Hallenbeck, Ray Nachreiner, Robbie Pairolero, Robert Alexander, Robert Fortino, Ryan Brzak, Ryan Holem, Scott Davis, Scott Goldammer, Scott Vercruysse, Stephen Moore, Thomas Forton, Thomas Porter, Thomas Taylor, Tom Cannon, Trever Arnold, Zachary Archibald
Leslie Kuhn & Laurie Kaufman	Treated invasive species in Ted Black Woods; garlic mustard, phragmites and knotweed. Mapping/permitting/owner contacts and treatment
Gene Wasserman	Maintenance, monitoring and reporting of Bluebird boxes in Meridian Riverfront Park and Hartrick Park
Patrick & Michelle Allen	Geocache liaisons for the parks – monitoring caches that have been placed in the parks
Georganne Withey MSU Educating Student Athletic Trainers In Medicine (ESTIM)	Fitness Over-50 Program Coordinator at the Meridian Mall Meridian Township Family Winter Sports Weekend Polar Bear 5K Race on January 26, 2014 (8 volunteers)
Kiwanis Club of Okemos	Managed youth fishing activity during the Meridian Heritage Festival, summer and winter fishing derbies; worked on the construction of the natural exploration area at the Harris Nature Center; donated \$1,000 to the HNC Foundation (Larry Bacon, Jim Decker, Al Wood, Dick Witter, Arnie Johnson, Paul Marttila)
Kelly Colflesh	Assisted with maintenance around the Central Park pond to improve fishing access and provided assistance with annual fishing events
Brian Van Order Michigan Demolition and Excavation, Inc.	Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many park projects

Joe Pennoni Rapid Tree Removal	Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many park projects
Harris Nature Center Foundation	Fund-raising efforts for the Harris Nature Center (Tony Bauer/resigned in June; Jim Buscetta; June Hicks/started in September; Barb Kissling; Mike Lenkowski, resigned in June; Julie Moore; Patty Robbins; Roxanne Truhn Witcher)
Friends of Historic Meridian	Outstanding efforts toward growth and sustainability of the Meridian Historical Village and for providing meaningful and educational programs and community events for youth and families; (Jane Rose, Executive Director; George Grettenberger, Acting President)
Meridian Senior Center	Provide input, direction and volunteer Advisory Board program support for the Senior Center. (Peggy Frisch/President; Jack Whitmyer/Vice President; Ron Czachowski; Richard Fox; Arnie Johnson; Greg Wade; John Wills; Darla Jackson; LuAnn Maisner; Cherie Wisdom)
Michigan State University	Two students from MSU spread mulch on Mary Helmbrecht buffer garden
TC3	2015 Towar Teens and Summer Playground Program (\$5,000) Capital Region Community Foundation
Edgewood Village	2015 Towar Summer Playground Program (\$1,000)
Fireworks Celebration Contributors	Meijer - \$2,000 (Terry Cole, Cindy Nunn, Chris Wilson/Okemos Store) Douglas J Spa and Salons - \$2,000 (Weaver family) Meridian Plumbing - \$1,000 (Craig Phillipich) The Harkness Law Firm PLLC - \$1,000 (Cullen Harkness) WLNS TV 6 – in-kind advertising (Barbara Bruce) Culvers Butterburgers & Frozen Custard - \$700 (Cory Chavala) Eastside Tax and Accounting, LLC – \$250 (Thomas Johnson) Okemos Animal Hospital - \$250 (Nydia Alfonso) Ingham County Medical Care Facility and Rehabilitation Center - \$250 (Karen Webster)
Youth Scholarship Program	Kiwanis Club of Okemos (\$400); Brian Beauchine (\$304)
Monarch Watch	Received grant of two flats of butterfly plants (swamp milkweed and butterfly weed)
Okemos Kiwanis	Constructed and installed four benches along the new Wonch Park pathway

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, McDonald, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioner Jaramillo, Stephens

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:07 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Under item #4, number Towner Road Park Development item #a and add
Review of Grant Applications as new item #b.

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the work session agenda as
amended.

3. Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Master Plan Recommendations

Director Maisner reported at the next Township Board meeting, Director of Public
Works/Assistant Township Manager Perry will review the Pedestrian/Bicycle
Pathway Master Plan for additions, deletions and amendments. A copy of the
proposed Master Plan was included in the meeting packet. Staff's
recommendations as follows:

- Currently, a paved shoulder is indicated on the master plan for the stretch of
Towner Road between Marsh Road and Saginaw Highway. Staff is
recommending that the designation be changed to an Off-Road Pathway on
the south side of Towner Road. This change would better serve to protect
pedestrians and cyclists who are trying to access Towner Road Park.
Additional commercial development planning has begun in the area to
providing safe access to the park is a priority.
- Create a cross-country trail connection from Newton Road Park to Towner
Road Park through Sierra Ridge Subdivision. This addition would assist
residents in traversing between the two park areas.
- Add a connector trail from Tacoma Hills Natural Area, through the western
edge of Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area into MSU's Dobie Reserve.

4. a. Towner Road Park Development

Director Maisner reported that the Commission discussed and approved constructing Towner Road Park together as one project vs a phased approach during their meetings in November, 2015 and February, 2016. The Commission would borrow funds to accomplish this as a single project. The costs are similar by either paying interest on a loan or paying the costs of multiple bid document preparation, bidding, awarding, mobilizing and monitoring. Phasing would also leave the park half-finished and "under construction" for multiple years. It is not uncommon for the Park Commission to borrow money as long as loans are paid while the millage is still active

However, the most recent cost estimates provided by the project consultant, Viridis Design Firm, have approached approximately \$3,000,000. Staff is recommending that the Commission review the scope items in an effort to reduce overall costs to the project. The plan as a whole is in the process of being reviewed by the Development Review Committee and Planning Department. They have identified variances needed and additional requirements from the Fire Department that will also increase costs.

The Site Plan Review meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2016 at 3:00pm. Following the results of that meeting, staff will work with Chair Wilson on a recommended course of action to move this project forward. A total of \$1,500,000 is available for the project in 2016 with another \$300,000 in 2017 and \$300,000 in 2018.

b. Review Proposed Grant Applications

Due to the time, this item was not discussed.

5. Comments

None

6. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 6:59 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, McDonald, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

EXCUSED: Commissioners Jaramillo, Stephens

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSION MCDONALD
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote.
Motion passed.

3. Public Hearings

**a. Footbridge and Restroom Facility, Meridian Historical Village – Grant
Application**

- Chair Wilson declared the public hearing open at 7:10 pm.
- Staff presents project overview

Project Description

The Gateway Bridge and Accessible Restroom Building project proposes to develop an accessible restroom building and replace the footbridge bridge within Central Park-Historical Village, a popular community park in Meridian Township.

Justification

- When surveyed, restrooms and paved pathways received the highest priority by our residents.
- New restroom location will better serve visitors to the Historical Village and Central Park. The existing restrooms attached to the farmers' market pavilion are forty-two years old and have outlived their useful life.
- New Gateway Bridge will replace a wooden 6' wide Eagle Scout bridge that was built numerous years ago and has outlived its useful life.
- New bridge will open up the views and become the "Gateway" to the Historical Village and improve its identity and visibility.

Project Design

- The restroom will have two handicapped accessible unisex stalls with baby changing stations making them family friendly.

- The restroom building will be located in the Historical Village area of Central Park adjacent to the Chapel and Plank Road Toll House.
- Building will be designed in a style to complement the historical character of the Village.
- Bridge will be 14' wide with decorative railings
- New accessible drinking fountain with bottle filler

Project Cost:

Estimated project cost: \$300,000

Required local match: 50% (\$150,000) Park Millage Funds

LWCF Grant amount: 50% (\$150,000)

- Staff acknowledge received items of communications
 - ✓ Legal notice was placed in the Towne Courier on February 28, 2016 and March 6, 2016
 - ✓ Residents within 500 feet were sent a notification of the public hearing
 - ✓ From: Judy Linn, Re: communication of support
 - ✓ From: Park Commissioner Mark Stephens, RE: communication of support
- Public comment
None
- Commissioners comment
 - ✓ Appreciate the character of the restroom building that will fit with the rest of the historical building in the Historical Village
 - ✓ The bridge and restroom building are great additions and primary to implementation of the Central Park Master Plan.
- Chair Wilson declared the public hearing closed at 7:19 pm.

b. Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector, Central Park – Grant Application

- Chair Wilson declared the public hearing open at 7:20 pm.
- Staff presents project overview

Project Description

The Central Meridian Regional Trail Connection Project proposes to develop a 2,500 lf 12' wide accessible pathway with an accessible fishing platform in Central Park, a 279-acre community park located in the heart of Meridian Township. A trail head at the parking area in Central Park will provide a bicycle air pump/fix-it station; charging station for electric wheelchairs; and signage.

Justification

- ✓ Trail will provide a vital east-west accessible connection that is part of a regional trail plan that will connect Michigan State University to Lake Lansing

- ✓ Recreation survey revealed paved pathways and restrooms as the top desires of the community
- ✓ The Central Park Master Plan was developed in 2016 and trails are the backbone of the plan
- ✓ Grants allow us to better leverage our millage funds
- ✓ Paved trails meet our desires to design park amenities for the aging population and for persons with disabilities. Currently wheelchair users are not able to access this beautiful route through the park as it is seasonally wet and does not meet ADA standards.

Project Design

- ✓ This 12' wide pathway will be comprised of paved surface and boardwalk.
- ✓ A trail head at the parking area in Central Park will provide a bicycle air pump/fix-it station; charging station for electric wheelchairs; and signage.

Natural Resource Access

- ✓ Trail will provide opportunities for bird watching; fishing; and the enjoyment of many other park amenities.
- ✓ Accessible Fishing Platform will be located on the east side of the Central Park Pond. The fishing area will be fully accessible and will include lowered railings for wheelchair access, rod holders, and benches with room for companion seating. We plan to stock the pond to ensure a successful fishing experience.

Project Cost

Estimated project cost: \$395,000, Park Commission approved local match: 31% (\$122,450) Park Millage Funds; grant request (\$272,550)

Director Maisner stated this trail will connect Central Park from the Meridian Mall to Lake Lansing to MSU. This will be a wide open, safe, universal, hardscape for access for fishing off a deck. This is a warm water fishing area with bass, pike, perch walleye, blue gills, etc. A future feature is trail will access is the amphitheater. Staff has met with representatives from the Ingham County Drain Commissioners Office (ICDC) on improving the water quality and installation of hardscapes and baffle boxes to assist with water filtration. This is the potential of a joint water quality grant with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and a letter of support from the ICDC Office is forthcoming.

- Staff acknowledge received items of communications
 - ✓ Legal notice was placed in the Towne Courier on February 28, 2016 and March 6, 2016
 - ✓ Residents within 500 feet were sent a notification of the public hearing
 - ✓ From: Park Commissioner Mark Stephens, RE: communication of support
- Public comment

Chris Worst, Okemos, Michigan, an MSU Student support in support of the project and looks forward to using the trail connector.

- Commissioners comment
 - ✓ Support the project and look forward to working with the Drain Commissioner's Office on improving the water quality of the pond.
- Chair Wilson declared the public hearing closed at 7:40 pm.

4. Presentations

None

5. Public Comment

None

6. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Deschaine reported the Love a Park Day is scheduled for April 23 and volunteered to write the letter inviting the volunteer groups to participate.

7. Approval of Minutes

- a. February 9, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. February 9, 2016 Regular Minutes

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 9, 2016 MINTUES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

8. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: mParks 2016 Conference Committee; To: LuAnn Maisner; Re: Thank you for speaking at conference

B. Commission Information

1. Towne Courier: **Feb 7:** Nature center to host Valentine's Day program; 'The Birds of the Winter' at Harris Nature Center; **Feb 14:** "The Birds of the Winter" program at Harris Nature Center; Night ski or snowshoe Feb 20; **Feb 21:** Native plants available through April 29; "The Birds of the Winter" program at Harris Nature Center; "Brilliant Bats" at Harris Nature Center; **Feb 28:** Qigong classes at Harris Nature Center; Nature program and walk March 13; "Brilliant Bats" at Harris Nature Center; Native plants available for sale through April 29

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

D. Distributed at Meeting

1. March/April Calendar of Event

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAINED SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

9. Director's Report

- ✓ Hartrick Park: vandalism during the recent snow storm, approximately \$1,200 damage, a police report was filed.
- ✓ Ingham County Trails Millage Meetings: At the last Task Force meeting, the board adopted the report that was developed by Mannik and Smith and Associates and will be moving forward with implementation.

10. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Grant Application - Footbridge and Restroom Facility, Meridian Historical Village

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Chair Wilson:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the development and acquisition of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 50% of the total project cost funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested in leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Land and Water Conservation fund for \$300,000 of improvements to Central Park consisting of a universally accessible restroom facility and gateway footbridge to improve and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities and ages; and

WHEREAS, this project is identified and supported in the Central Park Master Plan and in the 2011-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2016-2021 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park development and improvements are supported by Township Board Policy and the 2016 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 9, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for construction of a universally accessible restroom building and gateway footbridge in Central Park-Meridian Historical Village with a total project cost of \$300,000. The fifty percent local match of \$150,000 will be funded by the Park Millage, with the remaining fifty percent (\$150,000) funded by the grant.

Roll Call:

AYES: Todd Wilson, Mike McDonald, Philip Deschaine, Mark Stephens
(emailed correspondence of support)

NAYES: None

The resolution passed.

b. **Grant Application - Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector, Central Park**

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Deschaine and supported by Commissioner McDonald:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the development and acquisition of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 25% of the total project cost funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested in leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund for \$400,000 of improvements to Central Park consisting of a Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector to improve and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities and ages; and

WHEREAS, this project is identified and supported in the Central Park Master Plan and in the 2011-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the

Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2016-2021 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park development and improvements are supported by Township Board Policy and the 2016 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 9, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for development of the universally accessible Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector and accessible fishing deck in Central Park with a total project cost of \$400,000. The twenty-five percent local match of \$100,000 will be funded by the Park Millage, with the remaining seventy-five percent (\$300,000) funded by the grant.

Discussion:

- Staff is recommending changing the total project costs from \$400,000 to \$395,000 and increasing the local match from 25% to 31% (\$122,400)

CHAIR WILSON OFFERED THE FOLLOWING FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

The total project costs will be amended to \$395,000 and the local match reduced to 31% for a total of \$122,400.

The Friendly Amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the Motion.

Roll Call:

AYES: Philip Deschaine, Mike McDonald, Todd Wilson, Mark Stephens
(emailed correspondence of support)

NAYES: None

The resolution passed.

c. Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Master Plan

The Meridian Township Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan is scheduled for review by the Township Board and the Park Commission has been asked to provide comments on the existing plan and make recommendations for

additions and/or deletions. A copy of the plan is included on your packet for review and discussion.

Staff has reviewed the plan with the following suggestions:

- Currently, a paved shoulder is indicated on the master plan for the stretch of Towner between Marsh Road and Saginaw Highway. Staff is recommending that the designation be changed to "Off-road pathway" on the south side of the road. This would better protect pedestrians and cyclists who are trying to access the park.
- Create a cross-country trail connection from Newton Road Park to Towner Road Park through Sierra Ridge subdivision.
- Add a connector trail from Tacoma Hills Natural Area, through the western edge of Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area, into MSU's Dobie Reserve.

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSION DESCHAINED, TO FORWARD THE FOLLOWING PATHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR INCLUSION ON THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLE MASTER PLAN:

- ADD AN OFF-ROAD PATHWAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TOWNER ROAD BETWEEN MARSH RD AND SAGANAW HIGHWAY;
- ADD CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL CONNECTION BETWEEN NEWTON ROAD PARK AND TOWNER ROAD PARK THROUGH SEIRRA RIDGE SUBDIVISION;
- ADD A CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL THROUGH THE WESTERN PORTION OF SANDER FARM PRESERVED NATURAL AREA TO MSU DOBIE RESERVE.

Roll Call:

AYES: Philip Deschaine, Mike McDonald, Todd Wilson

NAYES: None

The motion passed.

11. Other Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None

12. Discussion Items

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None

13. Final Comments

None

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016, Town Hall Room
- b. Winter Farmers' Market – J C Penney Corridor, Meridian Mall, first and third Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm through April

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

None

17. Adjournment

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.