



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION TELEVISED
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 11, 2023 4:30pm
Central Fire Station

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
May 9, 2023 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
7. ACTION ITEMS
8. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. 2024 Budget Request
 - B. Chief David Hall Recognition
9. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
10. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
11. PUBLIC COMMENTS
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS
13. ADJOURNMENT

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Parks & Recreation Director, LuAnn Maisner:
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: Harris Nature Center, 39998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI 48864

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Harris Nature Center
3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI 48864
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023 4:30 PM**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald
ABSENT: Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp Excused
STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:45 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. All park commissioners present, except for Vice-Chair Ami Van Antwerp.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PRESENTATIONS

NONE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Mary Nardo Farris Letter of Support Meridian Township Senior & Community Center
- B. LuAnn Maisner Letter of Support Meridian Township Senior & Community Center

Commissioner McDonald **MOVED TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS PRESENTED ON FILE**. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. **Resolution of Support for River Clearing Grant**

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Commissioner Lick **MOVED TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RED CEDAR RIVER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CLEARING PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE INGHAM COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS MILLAGE PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTON, WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP AND MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP OFFERING NO LOCAL MATCH.**
Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
INGHAM COUNTY PARKS GRANT APPLICATION
RED CEDAR RIVER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CLEARING PROGRAM**

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Harris Nature Center on the 9th day of May, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald

ABSENT: Vice-Chair, Ami Van Antwerp

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Lick and supported by Commissioner McDonald.

WHEREAS, Ingham County collects a .5 millage to repair, rehabilitate, enhance and create trails within the County,

WHEREAS, the Red Cedar River is identified in the Red Cedar River Corridor Trail Plan prepared for the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and addresses the Red Cedar River as a blueway trail, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Charter Township of Meridian have expressed their desire to improve and enhance the experience for users of the Red Cedar River,

WHEREAS, the local rotary clubs continue to monitor the river and volunteer labor to help keep the river clear for users as well as dedicate funds for informational kiosk along the river; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared an application requesting \$500,000 to address eighteen miles of river from McCormick Park in Williamston to Hagedorn Road in East Lansing to monitor and clear log jams and debris for a period of up to three years with no local matching funds,

WHEREAS, the Meridian Charter Township Board, Williamstown Township Board and the Williamston City Council have committed to continue their support of the regional efforts of the Red Cedar River as a blueway trail to increase the recreational use of the river,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian along with the Charter Township of Meridian Township Board, Williamstown Township and the City of Williamston, in the County of Ingham, State of Michigan be authorized to submit an application to Ingham County Parks and Board of Commissioners for grant funds in the amount of \$500,000 to be used towards the clean out of log jams in the Red Cedar River over the next three years to maintain clear access for the continued recreational use of the Red Cedar River.

ADOPTED: YEAS: 4

NAYS: 0

B. Spark Grant Re-Submittal for Nancy Moore Park Accessibility Improvements

Commissioner Stephens **MOVED TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL SPARK GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, FOR PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF ACCESSIBLE PAVED LOOP TRAIL IN NANCY MOORE PARK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$700,000. THERE IS NO LOCAL MATCH REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM.** Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A GRANT APPLICATION FOR ACCESSIBILITY
IMPROVEMENTS IN NANCY MOORE PARK
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES FEDERAL SPARK GRANT PROGRAM**

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Harris Nature Center, in said Township on the 9th day of May, 2023 at 4:30 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald

ABSENT: Vice-Chair, Ami Van Antwerp

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Stephens and supported by Commissioner Lick.

WHEREAS, the Park Commission and Township Board are interested in the continued improvement of Meridian Township's Park system; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Moore Park located at 2100 Gaylord Smith Court in Haslett consists of two ball diamonds, two soccer and lacrosse fields, two sand volleyball courts, one basketball court, a dog park, natural trails, pavilion and restrooms and serves as Meridian Township's most highly visited and utilized park for organized sports; and

WHEREAS this park has not received any accessibility upgrades since its construction in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Moore Park is located in the centermost portion of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Meridian is interested in applying to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for Federal SPARK Grant assistance for accessibility improvements consisting of a paved, accessible loop walkway to access the soccer and lacrosse fields; and to replace an obsolete play structure in Nancy Moore Park located at 2100 Gaylord Smith Court,

WHEREAS, this project is outlined and justified in the 2022-2026 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 Park Commission unanimously supported this application request of \$700,000 for accessibility improvements in Nancy Moore Park consisting of an internal paved walkway to and around the soccer/lacrosse fields; and replacement of an obsolete

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Central Park Pavilion Replacement

10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Love a Park Day April 19 -There were 46 volunteers working across 7 different parks (Nancy Moore, Marketplace on the Green, Hillbrook Park, Harris Nature Center and Central Park). The Forest Hills Neighborhood Assoc volunteers conducted a clean-up at Forest Hills Park on April 15; and the Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis conducted a clean-up activity at Orlando Park on Saturday, April 29.

Family Fun Guide distributed and digital Look-book available on the Township Website

May Playbook digital newsletter was sent out on Wednesday, May 3

- **Soccer 840 children; and baseball 400**
- **Farmers Market** – Annual Vendor Meeting in April with 90 vendors attending; spring season starts May 6 every Saturday 8-2pm
- **Earth Day Events**
- **MCC Events**
- **Dog Park Improvements** – divided large dog park into two sections.
- **MSU-LL Park** – Pathway completed on new Okemos Road parcel.
- **River Clearing Grant** - \$500,000 Williamston, Williamstown Twp, Meridian Twp
- **Spark Grant Resubmittal**
- **Will Goodale sign placement** – between pavilion and pickleball courts adjacent to future playground
- **AED machines are installed at Towner Rd Park and Hillbrook Park.** Training will be scheduled in the spring.
- **Celebrate Meridian Festival and Fireworks – June 24**
- **Meridian Pride Event** at Marketplace on the Green – August 26
- **Property Report**
- **Senior/Community Center Task Force**
- **Hillbrook resurfacing** – Same with the addition of pickleball lines added to the Tennis court for dual use.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

13. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **June 13, 2023** at ~~the Meridian Service Center~~, 4:30 pm.
Due to renovations at the Meridian Service Center, the May Park Commission meeting place was amended to take place **June 13, 2023**, Meridian Township Central Fire Station Community Room, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, 4:30 pm.



8.A.

To: Park Commissioners
From: LuAnn Maisner CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: July 6, 2023
Re: 2024 Budget Discussions – Parks

As part of the annual budget process, the Park Commission determines projects and activities for the upcoming year based on available funding. Funding projections are as follows:

Revenue

Park Millage Revenue	\$1,350,000
HNC, Dog Park, Pavilion Rentals	<u>\$ 80,000</u>

Total Anticipated Park Millage Rev \$1,430,000

Expense Budgets include:

Parks and Recreation Administration
Harris Nature Center
Park Maintenance
Park Development

Salaries, benefits, motor pool, equipment, utilities, solid waste disposal are fixed expenses that total approximately \$1,000,000 annually. This provides the opportunity to allocate approximately \$400,000 toward renovation, maintenance, and development projects for 2024.

Projects that began in 2023 include:

Central Park Pavilion Replacement Project
Accessible kayak/canoe landing – Design and Engineering
Park Signage Replacement Project Phase II
Design services for MSU-LL Park Trail Hub/Nancy Moore Park

I look forward to discussing further each of these projects as well as others at the meeting.

2024 Proposed Projects for Consideration:

Central Park Pavilion Replacement

The Park Commission budgeted \$100,000 in 2023 to replace the pavilion in Central Park. Our original plan was to utilize the existing pad, demo the structure and construct a new pavilion over the pad. After further review of the project, there is much more that needs to be done to prepare the site for construction including: demolition of restroom building, replacing pumps in the lift station that serves the Historical Village, grading to improve site drainage, sidewalk replacement, landscaping, electrical and water service, retractable windscreens and pavilion install. I anticipate this project to cost \$400,000-\$500,000. Central Park serves as the front yard of our Township Hall and welcomes many youth sports families utilizing the soccer field, pavilion users, visitors to the Historical Village and trail users as well. This site sets the tone for what residents and visitors can expect with the quality of our park system.

\$400,000

Accessible Canoe and Kayak Launches at Harris Nature Center and Wonch Park

In collaboration with our Okemos/Haslett Rotary Club, Williamston, and Williamstown Township Rotary Clubs, they are funding kiosks along the Red Cedar River with one at HNC and another at Wonch. I met with a representative from E-Z Dock Systems at each site to determine suitability. He estimates the cost installed for each site at \$100,000. I think our Rotary Club will fund half of the cost. I think we should assign funding to move this collaboration forward. **\$50,000 - \$100,000.**

We are also working on applying to become a **recognized Water Trail with the MDNR**. Representative Brixie has said we would also be awarded **\$50,000** for improvements if we receive this designation.

Design of MSU-LL Trail Hub/Nancy Moore Park Entrance Project

In 2022, the Park Commission acquired, with assistance from the MNRTF, a 3.5-acre parcel on Okemos Road adjacent to Nancy Moore Park. The now-vacant land is being maintained by our maintenance staff until designs and plans are created and approved. No work toward this project has been started at this time, therefore, there is no need to allocate funds for this in 2024.

New Park Signs Phase III

A new signage project began in 2022 with new signs at the Township Hall, Central Park South, Marketplace on the Green and Towner Road Park. In 2023, signs have been ordered and will be installed at the following locations: Hartrick Park, Harris Nature Center, Wonch Park, Ferguson Park Hillbrook Park, Brattin Woods Park, Red Cedar Natural Area, Orlando Park. More signs are needed to complete the overall project. **\$100,000**

Remove dirt hill from Marketplace on the Green

During construction, dirt from the pavilion development area was relocated to the west side of the property. Marketplace on the Green has proven to be an amenity for community enjoyment. In the future, I foresee two or three small pavilions, a sidewalk, and a fountain with benches, trees and other landscaping. The fountain can be flat with water spouts for people to engage with on hot days. **\$30,000 ?**



To: Park Commissioners

8.B.

**From: LuAnn Maisner, Director
Parks and Recreation**

Date: July 7, 2023

Re: Former Police Chief Dave Hall Remembrance

Former Chief of Police, Dave Hall passed away on June 18, 2023 at the age of 70. He led our Police Department until his retirement in 2018 and managed his department with heart and honor.

From: [PressDesk](#)
To: [PressDesk](#)
Subject: Meridian Township Mourns Passing of Retired Police Chief Press Release
Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 10:04:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Meridian Township Mourns Passing of Retired Police Chief Press Release.pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2023

CONTACT: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager
517.853.4254 | walsh@meridian.mi.us

Meridian Township Mourns Passing of Retired Police Chief
Remembering Chief Dave Hall's 40 Years of Public Service

Meridian Township, MI – On Sunday, June 18, 2023, retired Meridian Township Police Chief Dave Hall passed away after a battle against cancer. Hall served as the Township's Police Chief from 2004 until his retirement in 2018.

Prior to Hall's dedicated career in community service and policing, he studied criminal justice at Michigan State University. Upon completion of his bachelor's degree, Hall went on to graduate from the Mid-Michigan Police Academy, serving in Bath Township's police department soon after. Hall joined Meridian Township in December 1978, and in 2004, Hall was named Chief of Police, holding that position for 14 years until his retirement.

"Chief Hall was extremely dedicated to his family, the department, and the community he served," said Meridian Township Police Chief Ken Plaga. "His impact and efforts towards community policing will be remembered for years to come."

"To honor Police Chief Hall's legacy, I'm asking that all flags in Meridian Township be lowered to half-mast on Wednesday, June 28, through Thursday, June 29. Chief Hall led our police department with a compassionate heart, and he found the good in everyone. He will always be remembered for his kindness and empathy towards others," stated Township Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson.

Chief Hall's obituary and funeral arrangements can be viewed at www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/williamston-mi/david-hall-11339612.

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