



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 4:30pm  
Service Center

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**REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
August 22, 2023 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
7. ACTION ITEMS
  - A. 2024 Sign Project
  - B. Proposed 2024 Park Commission Meeting Schedule
8. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS
9. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
10. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
11. PUBLIC COMMENTS
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS
13. ADJOURNMENT

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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: Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



A PRIME COMMUNITY  
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## 5. Approval of Minutes

### August 22, 2023



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Central Fire Station  
5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023 4:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mark Stephens  
**ABSENT:** Commissioner, Mike McDonald  
**STAFF:** Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant; Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator; Nick Wing, Sports and Recreation Specialist

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:27 pm**.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. All park commissioners present except Commissioner, Mike McDonald - Excused.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE JULY 11, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Snell Towar Rec Center August Schedule**

Nick Wing has been coordinating monthly events at the rec center starting in July, 2023. The neighborhood residents have been excited about the recent calendar events and Nick welcomes all township residents of all age groups to the rec center for scheduled activities. Average of 15-20 attendants at scheduled drop-in programs... 5-10 attendants on slow days.

Gaga ball pit is on order and is a popular activity with kids and families. The new gaga ball pit will be utilized at Snell Towar Rec Center and other Special Events in the township.

Commissioner Stephens suggested a fly-tying workshop open to the public at Snell Tower in near future. He is willing to volunteer at a scheduled workshop.

- B. Summer Concert Series Line-Up
- C. Calendar of Events
- D. Follow us on Instagram @meridianparksandrec

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Nick Wing left the meeting at 5:15 pm.

## 7. ACTION ITEMS

### A. 2024 Budget Requests-Parks

LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation joined the meeting via telephone at 4:47 pm to participate in discussion of Action Item 2024 Budget Requests – Parks.

**MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LICK, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER STEPHENS TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2024 BUDGET REQUEST FOR PARKS AS PRESENTED.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lick left meeting at 5:20 pm; Director Maisner hung up from telephone call at 5:20 pm.

## 8. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Michigan State University Targeted Anti-Tick Project – Emma Campbell

We are pleased to announce that Michigan State University will be partnering with Meridian Township conducting research on the deer and tick population utilizing the Deer Management Program. The goal of this research project is to potentially develop a deer-targeted oral drug delivery unit to reduce the environmental risk to humans due to tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease. The research with Meridian Township is based solely on gathering information on the deer and tick population and the potential dissemination techniques that could be used for future administration of anti-tick medication. As a result of this collaboration, Meridian Township will benefit from data received, which will provide information on our deer herd numbers as well as the rate of Lyme disease in the Township.

Objectives of the study:

- Quantify questing tick abundance and parasitism of deer.

- Quantify deer and non-target wildlife species use of field sites for potential deployment of oral medication delivery units.
- Quantify consumption rates of a food product designed to deliver medications to white-tailed deer at different times of year.
- Quantify uptake of a placebo biomarker (rhodamine B) by deer to examine theoretical uptake of medication.
- Communicate project goals and results to Township officials and public.

Michigan State researchers will begin the project in August of 2023, conducting field recon prior to the study to ensure study sites are chosen with little to no public activity. There will be six to eight sites of study total across Township lands. The study will remain in effect until May 2026. Township staff place high value on research collaboration with Michigan State University, and the benefits future studies will provide for the local wildlife, natural areas, and residents of Meridian Township.

Commissioners agreed the tick study is a great opportunity for education and are happy to partner with MSU.

#### **9. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens**

No quorum last regular scheduled meeting. Site visit to Red Cedar Glen to discuss signage issues at the preserves.

#### **10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Meridian Historical Village Building Repair Update:
  - New roof on Grettenberger Farm House
  - New roof on Barnes House
  - Updated electrical in Barn

Work scheduled for 2023 completion:

- Exterior painting of Chapel
- Exterior painting of School House
- New roof on the Barn
- Water damage repair on chapel ceiling
- Sidewalk replacement in needed areas
- New Park Signs
- Snell-Towar Programs – Vinyl Club, flower planting, drop-in play, story read-alongs with community volunteers
- Heritage Festival – October 7
- Nokomis – Resignation of John Ostrander
- Wednesday Summer Concert Series
- 2024 Deer Management
- HNC Summer Camps concluded with 492 children = \$40,350

Here is where we stand for the exterior project at HNC:

1. Painting contractor has been selected for painting the brick (majority of the building) a dark gray with blue tones:  
Tony Grants Painting: \$4,375.00
2. Siding contractor has been selected for siding with board and batten vertical siding in lighter gray (flagstone) also with blue tones:  
Palmer: \$11,280.00
3. Masonry contractor has been selected to do the front entrance and under the front windows with stone that matches the restroom building and pavilion:  
5 Star Masonry: \$6,660

This will be roughly \$7,315 over the \$15,000 budget. Nothing is inexpensive anymore unfortunately and our crew does not have time to take this work on. They will be replacing 2 of the windows in house though which will save a little bit.

Can we do a budget amendment OR use money out of another line item? It's possible the paint company won't be able to paint until 2024, but we won't know that until September.

#### **11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

#### **12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Van Antwerp inquired if we can spray the roots at Ted Black Woods. She feels they are dangerous as people run/walk and cause a trip hazard at this park. Emma Campbell states she has had other people request the same. Commissioner Van Antwerp asks if this would be a volunteer task as we are short handed in Parks department and do not have the manpower to accomplish during work hours. She notes that Lake Lansing Parks has the roots marked throughout the trails.

Commissioner Stephens inquired when there is a storm where the debris and fallen trees in the parks and preserves end-up. Is this an opportunity to cut and sell firewood to generate income for township? Could a sawmill be hired for education purposes? Commissioner Van Antwerp states fallen trees create natural habitats for wildlife. Lack of manpower does not make sale of firewood a feasible option. The public is not allowed to enter parks and preserves to cut up trees themselves as this is a liability issue.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Nardo Farris adjourned the meeting at 5:53 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **September 12, 2023**, at Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. MI 48864, 4:30 pm.



## 6. Communications

- A. October Stewardship Calendar**
- B. October Snell Towar Calendar**



# STEWARDSHIP

## STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- October 7th, Lake Lansing North Land Preserve, Salamander Surveying & Native Seed Collection
- October 21st, Location & activity TBD

## WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1 PM - 3 PM

Occurs every other Thursday

- October 12th, SW Uplands Preserve, Native Seed Collection
- October 26th, Central Meridian Wetlands, trash removal (wear your muck boots for this one!!)

## BONUS EVENTS 5 PM - 7 PM

- October 18th, Service Center, Seed Processing Party!
- October 19th, Legg Park, Fantastic Fungi Walk with our very own MCC volunteer & FUNgi Anthony Recca

## TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY 5 PM to 6:30 PM

Join us for a Creepy Cool Critters hike the night before Halloween and learn about misunderstood critters that live under logs & leaves. We may even get to see some bats as the sun sets!

- October 30th, Ted Black Woods, Van Atta Road entrance



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30 - 12 PM
8	9	10	11	12 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	13	14
15	16	17	18 SEED PROCESSING 5 - 7 PM	19 FANTASTIC FUNGI WALK 5 - 6:30 PM	20	21 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
22	23	24	25	26 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	27	28
29	30 TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY 5 - 6:30 PM	31	1 NOV	2	3	4 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM







**\*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF**





# SNELL TOWAR

## OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8	9 	10 <b>Open Center</b>		12 <b>Open Center</b>	13	14 
15	16	17 <b>Open Center</b>	18	19 <b>Open Center</b>	20 	21
22 	23	24 <b>Open Center</b>	25	26 <b>Open Center</b>	27	28
29	30	31 <b>Open Center</b>				

\*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF



## 7. Action Items

**A. 2024 Sign Project**

**B. Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule**



**To: Park Commissioners**

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

**Date: October 5, 2023**

**Re: Park Sign Project Budget Amendment Request**

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**7.A**

The replacement of the “Welcome to Meridian” signs along with phase I of our park identification signs have been a great addition to community and supports our community’s branding program. A total of fifteen new park signs have been ordered with many installed in 2022 and 2023. This project has been done in conjunction with Public Works with efforts lead by Deputy Manager, Dan Opsommer and Special Projects Director, Melissa Massie. They have worked to secure funding and continue to manage this project administratively.

The reason for this request is that costs for these special signs have a good chance of increasing if this project continues through 2025. A total of \$100,000 has been approved in the 2024 budget which will fund half of the remaining signs. With another \$100,000 allocation for 2024 this entire project can be completed at current pricing and with the same vendor by the end of 2024. Because these signs are specially fabricated, if a new vendor was awarded the contract in future years, differ from what has already been installed. For reasons of increased costs and sign continuity, staff is recommending a 2024 budget amendment request in order to fund and complete the project in 2024. If approved, the signs will be ordered now so fabrication can begin with installation planned for next year.

MOTION FOR COMMISSION CONSIDERATION:

**MOVE TO RECOMMEND A 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT FROM THE PARK MILLAGE-PARK DEVELOPMENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 TO COMPLETE THE PARK IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE PROJECT.**

## PARK SIGNAGE REPLACEMENT PLAN

September 19, 2023

### Already ordered or installed – 2022-23

Central Park

Marketplace on the Green

Central Park South

Newton Road Park

Spengler Marsh

Lake Lansing Marsh

Towner Road Park

Hartrick Park

Harris Nature Center

Wonch Park

Ferguson Park

Hillbrook Park

Large Dog Park

Small Dog Park

Tacoma Hill Park

### Large Park Sign - \$18,600 (8 = 148,000 + \$30,000 for Nancy = \$178,800)

North Meridian Road

Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area

Marshall Park

Ted Black Woods (Grand River Entrance)

Eastgate Park

Legg Park

Brattin Woods

Snell-Towar Park

Nancy Moore Park – on Hold

### SMALL PARK SIGN - \$1,800 (8 = \$14,400)

Cedar Bend Heights

Ted Black Woods (Van Atta Woods entrance)

Red Cedar Natural Area

Ottawa Hills Park

Forest Hills Park

Indian Hills Park (maybe 2)

Schriener Park

**Total \$193,200 to fund remaining signs in 2024**

**Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule**

**Park Commission Meeting Dates  
2024 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023, at 4:30 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

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 2024 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 2024 meeting schedule as follows:

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

ADOPTED: YEAS:

NAYS:

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 Park Commission on the 14th day of November, 2023.

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Mary Nardo-Farris, Chair

Park Commission



## 9. Land Preservation Report

**Presented by: Commissioner Stephens**

**Land Stewardship Update from Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator**

- 2023 Deer Management Program started on October 1
- 44 Township Properties and 27 private properties; 67 Hunters
- Current Projects: Fall Stewardship, Invasive Shrub Removal and Seed Collection





## 10. Director's Report