



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 4:30 PM**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald and Commissioner Amanda Lick
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:32 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. All park commissioners present.

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

Chair Farris requested the November 14, 2023 meeting minutes to be amended to #7 – “...directional signs similar to those installed by the road commission be installed by the township to direct to Snell-Towar Recreation Center.”

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. January Stewardship Calendar
- B. January Snell-Towar Calendar

COMMISSIONER LICK MOVED TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS PRESENTED ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Marshall Park Improvements

Commissioner Lick discussed the importance of accessibility. Commissioner Stephens discussed the possibility of leaving the play structure or reusing. Chair Farris added that leaving the structure and adding amenities could be an option and play value is important. Commissioner Van Antwerp suggested involving the community in discussion and possibly developing a “mock-up” of the site plan and present at a meeting.

Commissioners requested the following from Director Wisinski: 1) Internal P&R brainstorming session 2) Develop concept plan 3) Invite community to discussion session.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- LuAnn Maisner continues on for six months as a consultant for the department.
- Deer Management Program Update
- Celebrate Meridian Festival – festival date discussion. Commissioners would like to see more cultural inclusive programming at this year’s festival.
- 50th Anniversary Year of the Meridian Township Farmers’ Market - there will be an anniversary celebration.
- Central Park Pavilion Planning – Demolition versus renovation of existing structure. The commission is leaning towards renovation of the existing structure.
- Snell Towar Rec Center activities Tuesdays and Thursdays. Commissioners are excited to see more programming at the center and would like to see programs on Wednesdays, as well.
- Red Cedar River Clearing Project and Funding for Kayak Launch at Wonch Park – Ingham County Parks grant request in process.

9. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens

None

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Van Antwerp requested a one page project and budget update to be included in each Park Commission packet.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo Farris adjourned the meeting at **6:33 pm**.

The next scheduled meeting is **February 13, 2024**, at the Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840, 4:30 pm.