



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 4:30pm
Service Center Room

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. March 12, 2024 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. April 16, 2024 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. April Stewardship Calendar
 - B. April Snell Towar Calendar
 - C. May Stewardship Calendar
 - D. May Snell Towar Calendar
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. 5280 Okemos Road Parcel Planning
 - B. Cricket Program
8. ACTION ITEMS
9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Updates on: Events, Pavilion Remodel, and Marshall Park Playground Project
10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
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: Meridian Township Service Center Room, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Hall Room
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 4:30 PM**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald; Commissioner, Amanda Lick
ABSENT: Commissioner, Ami Van Antwerp - excused
STAFF: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation and Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:30 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Commissioner Van Antwerp excused absent.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Wisinski requested to add Renovations to Central Park Pavilion to the Director's Report. Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED**.
Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McDonald moved **TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 13, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. March Stewardship Calendar

Two interns starting this spring under Emma Campbell, possibly adding a third intern depending on budget.

B. March Snell-Towar Calendar

8-10 regular attendants at rec center programs, neon Open sign ordered to hang in window when center is open, new park sign installed in front of Snell Towar Rec Center and Towar

Park, expecting more attendance at programs as exposure increases and with regular programming.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS PRESENTED ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Joint Commissions Meeting – March 26, 2024

Commissioner Lick states that due to school spring break, she will not be in attendance at the Joint Commissions Meeting.

Marshall Park Playground Update

Sinclair awarded bid for play structure and it will also include components required to be a National Demonstration Site (NDS). Structure will be installed mid-May with turf added around the structure approximately 2-3 weeks after structure installation. Chair Farris expresses appreciation that all bid items were available for public viewing at Parks office leading up to award.

Kati Adams, Parks and Land Superintendent, arrived at Park Commission meeting at 4:50 pm.

Renovations to Central Park Pavilion

Contractor awarded bid February 29. Contractor is available to start work as soon as architectural drawings come back. The renovation project is anticipated to be complete by the Celebrate Meridian Festival, June 28-29, 2024. Money already allocated in the budget for the renovation project.

Harris Nature Center Spring, 2024 Update

Kati Adams, Parks and Land Superintendent

Kati updated the Park Commission of some upcoming spring programming at Harris Nature Center. There are events for both children and adults. The HNC Camp online registrations opened March 1. There will be a fundraiser to benefit the HNC Foundation on May 6 at Culver's of Okemos North.

Commissioner Stephens excited to partner with Harris Nature Center and release salmon this spring at Legg Park.

8. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens

Commissioner Stephens states the Land Preservation Advisory Board has been discussing a small preserve, Pike Crossing Preserve, and the best land stewardship plan moving forward. Commissioner Lick suggests a site visit, if needed.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

10. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lick commends Director Wisinski on new position and the projects that Director Wisinski has been working through. Commissioner Stephens will know April 1 if there are enough fish to fulfill order and stock the ponds within the township. There is already money allocated for this spring project. Commissioner McDonald notes new rules signage installed at the park preserves.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo Farris adjourned the meeting at **5:30 pm.**

The next scheduled meeting is **April 16, 2024**, at the Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840, 4:30 pm.



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Service Center Meeting Room
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024 4:30 PM**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner Ami Van Antwerp
ABSENT: Commissioner, Mark Stephens – absent/excused; Commissioner Mike McDonald- absent
STAFF: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:40 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Commissioner, Mark Stephens – excused/absent; Commissioner Mike McDonald- absent.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lick requested to postpone #5 approval of March 12, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED**. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of March 12, 2024 minutes will be included in May 14, 2024 meeting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. March Stewardship Calendar - discussed

Stewardship activities continue Wednesdays and every other Saturday. Three seasonal staff were hired to assist with spring/summer activities.

B. March Snell-Towar Calendar - discussed

Tuesday and Thursday drop-in days are increasing participants weekly.

COMMISSIONER LICK REQUESTED TO SEND COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS VIA EMAIL TO CHAIR AND ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MOVED TO PLACE THE ITMES ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

North Meridian Road Park Hours

Director Wisinski shared some recent reports of vandalism at the park during night hours. The current protocol is to leave the park open until 11 pm each night for Night Sky Viewing. There was discussion about surveying the community and possibly limiting hours and/or dates to weekends only.

MSU Deer Fawn Study

Director Wisinski discussed the request for MSU Deer Targeted Anti-Tick Project to continue fawn tick research for 2024. Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department and MSU have a long-standing relationship partnering on this project. The request is an extension of the current project. Commissioner Lick supported the well-thought-out plan. Commissioner Van Antwerp added that the research data will help with future deer management activities. Chair Farris concurred.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Celebrate Meridian planning is going well. There will be celebrations for the 50th anniversaries of the Farmer's Market and historical Village, music, fireworks, children's play area, food trucks, Marketplace on the Green and Central Park Pavilion beer tents, Nokomis educational activities and Indian, Chinese and Irish dancers are planned.

Renovations to Central Park Pavilion

The roof and bathroom tile begin this week and the soffit, fascia, gutter, ceilings, and lights to be completed next week. We are waiting for approval of engineering plans for the wall and sliding barn doors. The renovation project is anticipated to be completed by the Celebrate Meridian Festival, June 28-29, 2024. The pavilion is closed for the month of May except for the Garden Club Sale.

Red Cedar Waterway Project

Ingham County Parks and Trails Commission and the Board of Commissioners approved Round 8 of grants which allows for Meridian Township to borrow against the match funds allocated with the grant budget.

Community Center

Update on the site selection and proposed programming for the community center, including secluded senior space.

Cricket

Director Wisinski is working with representatives from the Cricket community to identify a location to install a cricket field. There is difficulty in finding a park large enough to accommodate the field. Director Wisinski will reach out to Delta Township and Lansing Parks and Recreation to discuss a regional approach. Commissioners shared interest in continuing to find space within Meridian.

Marshal Park play structure will begin excavation Monday April 22, 2024, the structure will be installed the following week, and the turf will be installed 2-3 weeks after structure installation.

Okemos Rd./Gaylord C. Smith Court parcel. Commissioner Van Antwerp requested an update on plans for the parcel and expressed her interest in pursuing a trailhead at the site. Director Wisinski will work with the Department of Engineering to develop a plan for the parcel.

9. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens excused/absent

No report

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo Farris adjourned the meeting at **5:40 pm.**

The next scheduled meeting is **May 14, 2024**, at the Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840, 4:30 pm.

APRIL

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STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- April 6th, Hartrick Park, Invasive mustard pull
- April 20th, Pull-Pizza-Plant @ Harris Nature Center



- 9:30 am - 12 pm Invasive mustard pull
- 1 pm - 3 pm Native Tree Planting



PIZZA FOR LUNCH

WETLAND WALK | 7:30 PM - 9 PM | Davis Foster Preserve

- This special hike at dusk will focus on the American Woodcock, a shorebird that lives in young forests & shrubby old fields. We will watch for its dusk courtship display, called a sky dance. ***Limited to 15 participants.**

WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1 - 3 PM | BI-WEEKLY

- April 11th, MCC Vernal Pool monitoring at Nancy Moore Park (1960 Gaylord C. Smith Court)
- April 25th, Trash pickup along Tihart Rd. (Meet at the intersection of Whitetail Court & Tihart Rd)

TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | Spring Ephemeral Hike | Hartrick Park

- Join us at 3658 Hulett Rd, Okemos for a walk to talk about spring wildflowers & their important ecology. We will be able to see species such as trillium, cut-leaved toothwort and trout lily among others.



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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4 WETLAND WALK 7:30 - 9 PM	5	6 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
7	8	9	10	11 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 EARTHDAY PULL-PIZZA-PLANT!
21	22	23	24	25 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	26	27
28	29	30 TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY 5:30 - 7 PM				

PLEASE CONTACT EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.853.4614

SNELL TOWAR

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 OPEN CENTER	10	11 OPEN CENTER	12	13
14	15	16 OPEN CENTER	17 JIGSAW COMPETITION	18 OPEN CENTER	19	20
21	22	23 OPEN CENTER	24	25 OPEN CENTER	26	27
28	29	30 OPEN CENTER				



***ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF
CENTER HOURS OPEN FROM 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

MAY



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CONSERVE



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- May 4th, Ted Black Woods (4714 Van Atta Road), Invasive mustard pull
- May 18th, Legg Park (3900 Van Atta Rd), Invasive mustard pull

WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1-3 PM | BI-WEEKLY

- May 23rd, Sower Woods Preserve (2351 Sower Blvd), Invasive mustard pull

TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | Spring Wetland Hike | Foster Crouse Preserve

- Meet on Buttercup Lane in Okemos for a walk & talk about native wetland plants. We will see what is blooming, budding, and already flowered!



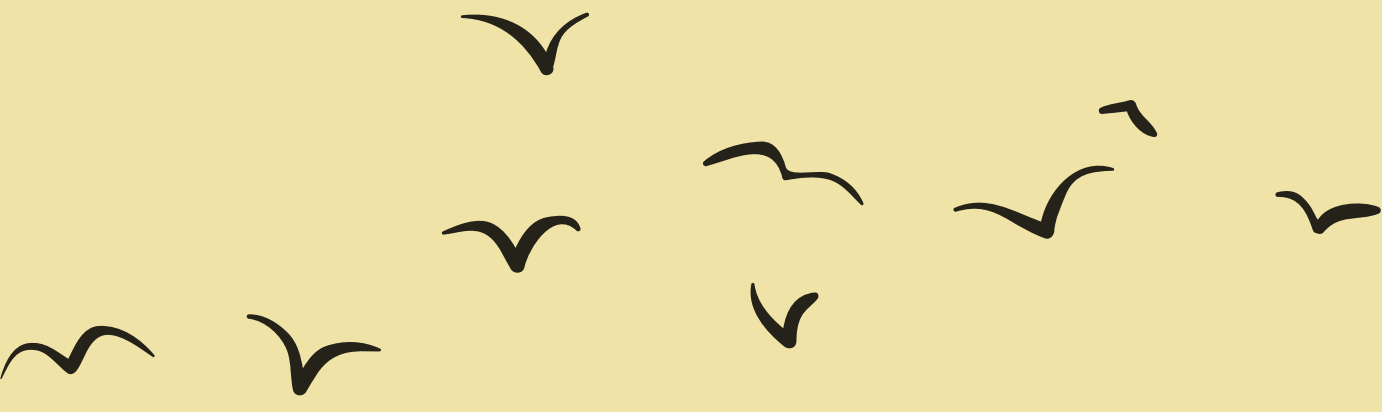
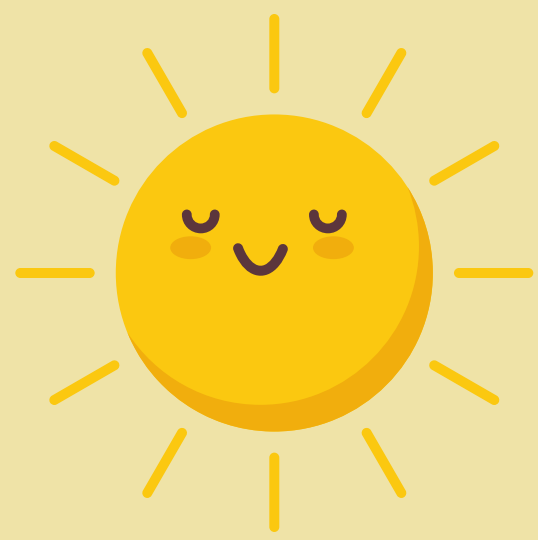
Garlic mustard?
Bag it up!!

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

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

PLEASE CONTACT EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.853.4614

SNELL TOWAR



May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 OPEN CENTER	8	9 OPEN CENTER	10	11
12	13	14 OPEN CENTER	15	16 OPEN CENTER	17	18
19	20	21 OPEN CENTER	22	23 OPEN CENTER	24	25
26	27	28 OPEN CENTER	29	30 OPEN CENTER	31	

***ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF CENTER HOURS OPEN FROM 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**



7.A.

To: Park Commission
From: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: May 9, 2024
Re: Updates on 5280 Okemos Road Parcel Planning

In accordance with our 2024 Parks and Recreation Goals, the Park Commission is planning for amenities located at 5280 Okemos Road. The Parks Department staff have visited the parcel and is requesting input from the Park Commission on what development would be most beneficial for the residents. With input from the Park Commission and residents the Parks Department staff recommend the development of a trailhead at the site. The 80 mile pathway system connects to the parcel. The parcel amenities could include:

- Restrooms
- Shaded seating
- Water station
- Bike rack
- Parking lot

Staff is recommending proceeding with securing a landscape architect to assess the site for development.



7.B.

To: Park Commission
From: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: May 9, 2024
Re: Meridian Cricket Field Discussion

The Parks and Recreation Department Director was approached by residents that are involved with cricket leagues in Michigan and historically have been playing on the east and west side of the state. Until the installation of a cricket field in Delta Township in 2023, the league has not had a field in mid-Michigan.

Cricket has been expanding significantly over the past several years and many of our Meridian residents are Cricket players. Given the increasing interest in Cricket for Meridian residents, developing a local Cricket field is essential and would serve our residents with the resources to play the sport.

Currently, Department staff is researching a park location to install a cricket field. The field requires a large area to install. The Parks and Recreation Department Director has reached out to Delta Township and the City of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department Directors, as well as Okemos Public Schools to approach a potential regional coordination for both practice and games.

Staff is recommending proceeding with pursuing a permanent Cricket field in Meridian Township.