



**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.