



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 4:30pm
Service Center Meeting 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. July 9, 2024 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. August Stewardship Calendar
 - B. August Snell Towar Calendar
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - 2025 Budget Priorities
 - Boards and Commission liaison assignments
 - Red Cedar Water Trail Overview
8. ACTION ITEMS
 - None
9. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
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, Courtney Wisinski: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Service Center Meeting Room
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 4:30pm**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Commissioner Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Michael McDonald
ABSENT: Commissioner, Mark Stephens
STAFF: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jennifer Soria, Land Stewardship Assistant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Farris called the meeting to order at **4:35 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Commissioner Ami VanAntwerp, Commissioner Amanda Lick, Commissioner Michael McDonald and Chair Mary Nardo-Farris were present. Commissioner Stephens excused absent.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Introduction of Parks and Recreation – Land Stewardship Assistant temporary staff, Jennifer Soria to Commissioners.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2024**. Seconded by Commissioner VanAntwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. July Stewardship Calendar: Director Wisinski reviewed the Stewardship calendar and Commissioners discussed the Trailside Ecology Saturday events and their interest in hearing more about how the Trailside Ecology events are designed. Commissioner Lick discussed the importance of outreach and education regarding invasive/native species, signage and the community. Director Wisinski updated the Commissioners on the Heron Creek land transfer from developer to Land Preservation. The transfer has been completed and stewardship plans are being developed.
- B. July Snell Towar Calendar: Director Wisinski updated the Commissioners on upcoming events. She stated that the puzzle competitions are very well attended, and participants have a lot of fun.

Commissioners were interested in introducing new games, for example air hockey, and other amenities for the Snell Towar Recreational Center.

Commissioner Lick moved **TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE**. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2025 Budget Priorities

Director Wisinski provided Commissioners with a draft proposed projects, the Capital Improvement Plan project outline and proposed budget for each project and other operational costs (not including salaries or administrative costs). Director Wisinski will update the documents once the Township Manager has reviewed the budget requests. Chair Nardo-Farris requested a combined CIP/proposed project list with years.

The Commissioners would prefer to begin budget discussion in April/May each year to review the CIP and allow for enough time for input from Park Commission. Director Wisinski and Chair Nardo-Farris will ensure 2025 budget discussions begin in April/May moving forward. After the budget has been approved, discussions with Commissioners will continue.

Commissioner Lick would like to consider a community survey and update the CIP respectively.

Commissioner Lick would like to develop a New Board Member Orientation that includes, but not limited to, Project, Communication, and Status.

Commissioner VanAntwerp suggested having a Commissioner serve as a Township Board liaison. Commissioner Lick added that Commissioners could begin attending Board meetings to stay apprised of township activities and advocate for the Park Commission goals. Chair Nardo-Farris suggested prioritizing and assigning a point person from the Park Commission to Boards and Commissioner and requested for a list of Boards and Commissions for the August 13, 2024 regular meeting.

Commissioner Lick suggested that we develop a list of Park Events and provide quarterly updates and Commissioner McDonald supported this idea.

8. ACTION ITEMS

None

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wisinski updated the Commissioners on the Red Cedar Water Trail Project. She shared the most recent Ingham County Parks and Trails (ICPT) Grant status. ICPT has given approval for the three grant entities (Williamston, Williamstown Township and Meridian Township) to borrow against their conditional \$50,000 grant match to continue maintenance on the water trail. Meridian Township has committed \$15,000 annually to increase navigability within the Red Cedar, Williamston and Williamstown Twp have both committed \$2,500 annually. Commissioners requested Red Cedar Waterway photos. Commissioner Lick requested to be the Red Cedar Water Trail Commission liaison.

10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
NONE

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS
NONE

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
None

13. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at **7:00 pm.**

The next scheduled meeting is **August 13, 2024**, at the Service Center Meeting Room, 4:30 pm.

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

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Meeting Location: Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett

AUGUST

CONNECT
LEARN
CONSERVE



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- August 10th, Davis-Foster Preserve, Native Planting
- August 24th, TBD, Native Planting or Invasive Removal

WEEKDAY WARRIORS: Occurs every other Thursday

- August 1st, Trash pickup along Central Park Drive
- August 15, Planting winterberry at Hillbrook Park wetland buffer area (Intersection of Montebello & Sherbrook Way)
- August 29, TBD Seed collection or litter pickup

TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | Davis Foster Preserve

Learn about our local flora & fauna, get to know our parks & preserves personally!

- Meet at 5120 Van Atta Road to explore to celebrate aster season as we head into the later days of summer. This preserve is full of diversity this time of year, bring your natural curiosity, guides and binoculars will be provided as supplies last!

Land Preservation Board Ribbon Cutting | 6 pm

- Come out to meet our Preservation Advisory Board to talk about our new name & rule signage, as well as how to properly recreate on land preserves
- We will have a wildflower walk after the ribbon cutting








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

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

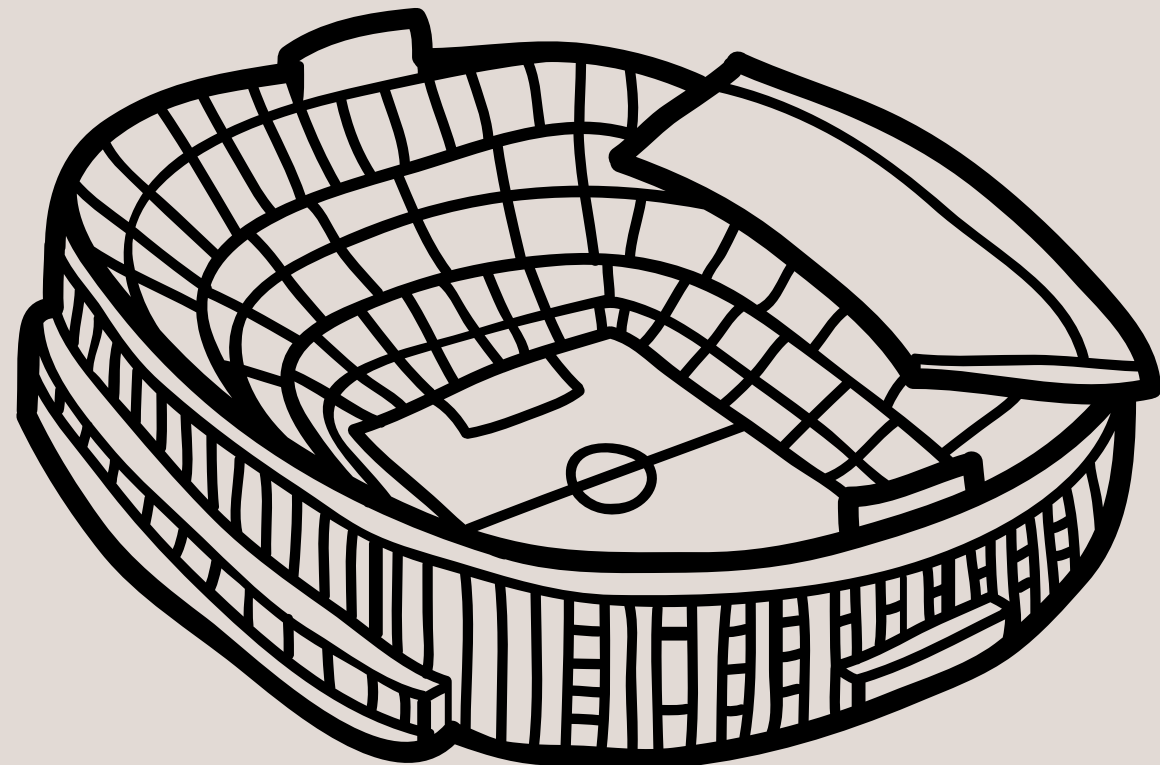
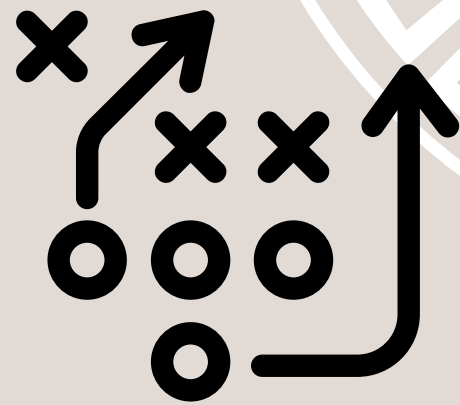
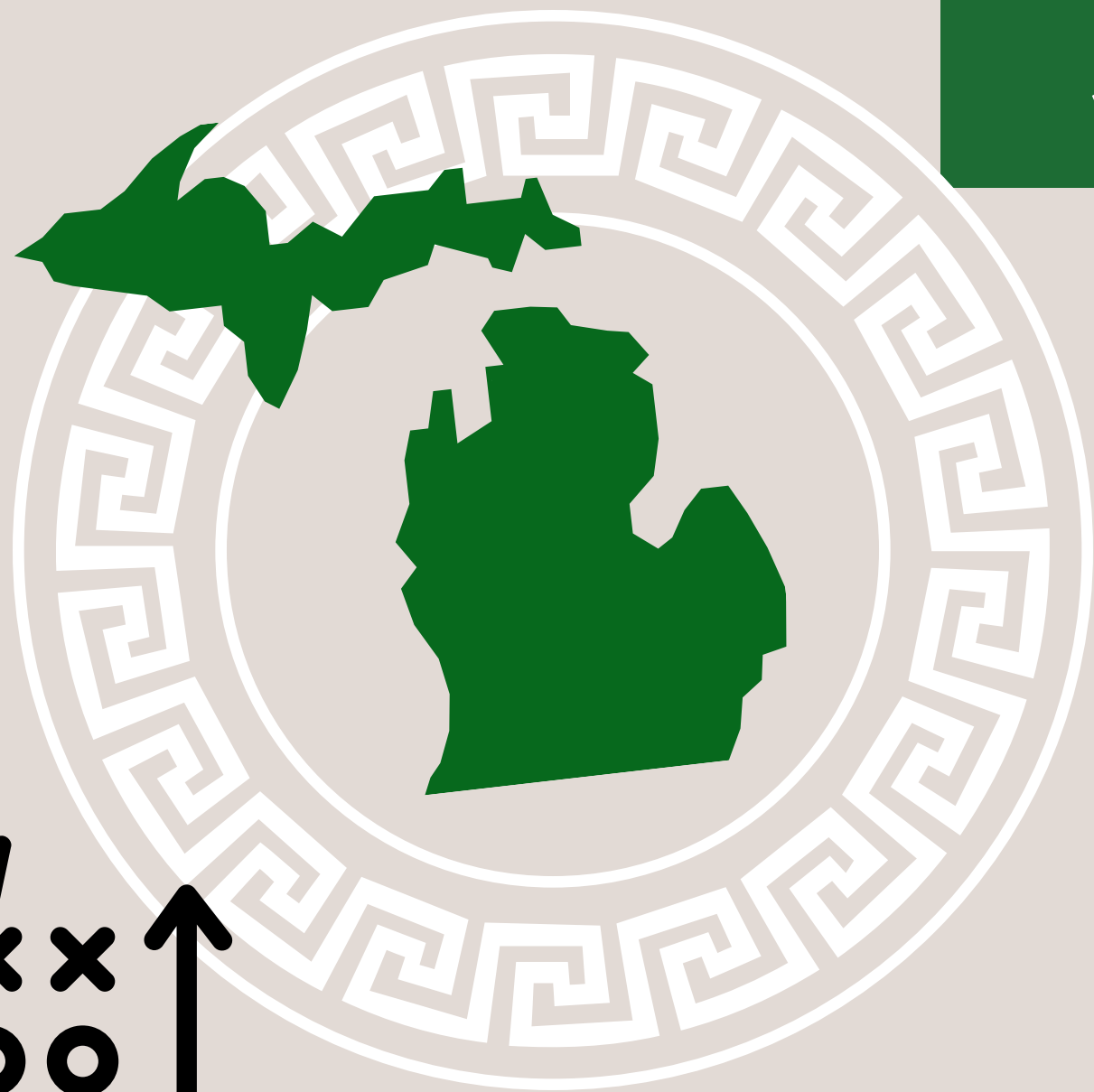


SNELL TOWER

August

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

*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF
CENTER HOURS OPEN FROM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM



Parks and Rec 2025 Proposed Budget

GL Number	Obj Code	Fund	Department	Description	2024 Approved	2024 Encumbered 7.4.2024	2024 Remaining Balance	Exp. Notes	2025 Proposed
General Fund									
101.750.752	728	General Fund	Park Commission	General Costs (no salary/fringe)	\$2,800	NA	NA	NA	\$2,800
Park Millage									
208-750-753	728	Park Millage	P&R Admin	General Costs (no salary/fringe)	\$149,650	NA	NA	NA	\$142,750
208-750-753	821	Park Millage	P&R Admin	Professional Services	\$400,000	\$684	\$399,316	Previous: Engineering Furguson Launch, MSU-LL Trail Hub Design	\$350,000
Park Millage	P&R Admin Subtotal				\$549,650				\$492,750
208.750.758	761	Park Millage	Park Maintenance	General Costs (no salary/fringe)	\$148,893	NA	NA	NA	\$139,393
208.750.758	820	Park Millage	Park Maintenance	Contractual Services	\$113,000	\$67,221	\$45,779	Previous: Mosquito and weed contraol, port-a-johns, tree/stump works, parking lot maintenance	\$195,000
Park Millage	Park Maintenance Subtotal				\$261,893				\$334,393
208.750.759	974	Park Millage	Park Development	Construction/Improve	\$492,500	\$204,543	\$287,957	Previous: Park signs, Central Park pavilion reno, Wonch kayak launch	\$510,000
Park Millage	Park Development Subtotal				\$492,500				\$510,000
208.750.756	728	Park Millage	Harris	General Costs (no salary/fringe)	\$38,850	NA	NA	NA	\$38,850
208.750.756	820	Park Millage	Harris	Contractual Services	\$15,000	\$13,396	\$1,604	Previous: Custodial, annual generator maintenance, tree maint., internet, copy machine, outdoor restroom maintenance, septic, trash ans recycling	\$15,000
208.750.756	974	Park Millage	Harris	Construction and Improvement	\$10,320	\$10,320	\$0	Previous: Exterior siding	\$10,320
Park Millage	Harris Nature Center Subtotal				\$64,170				\$64,170

Updated Project Notes
Operating Supplies, Professional Conferences, Recreation, salaries/fringe
Operating Supplies, professional licenses, conferences/dues, mileage, Harris Nature Center expenses
Ottawa Hills Playground (\$50K) Towner Inclusive Playgorund (\$300K)
Net: -\$6,900
Clothing Allowance, training, utilites, conferences/dues maintenance, waste, dog parks, machinery/equipt., vehicles
PORT-A-JOHNS, MOSQUITO AND WEED TREATMENT, TREE AND STUMP WORK, PARKING LOT MAINTENANCE (\$62K), PARKING LOT EXPANSION AT HARTRICK PARK (\$100K), MILLINGS (\$3K), Towner Road Baseball Fields (\$30K)
Net: \$72,500
OKEMOS RD TRAILHEAD CONSTRUCTION (\$150K), HARRIS LAUNCH (\$100K), NANCY C. MOORE PARK IMPROVEMENTS (\$100K), MARSHALL PARK AMENITIES (\$50K), CRICKET ENGINEERING (\$100K), Red Cedar Waterway (\$10K)
Net: +\$17,500
Operating supplies, professional services, utilites, mileage
Custodial, annual generator maintenance, tree maint., internet, copy machine, outdoor restroom maintenance, septic, trash ans recycling
play structure, amenties and educational needs
Net: \$0

Meridian Township Boards and Commissions

July 30, 2024

1. Board of Review
2. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
3. Building Board of Appeals
4. Communications Commission
5. Community Resources Commission
6. Corridor Improvement Authority
7. Downtown Development Authority
8. Economic Development Authority
9. Fire Board of Appeals
10. Election Commission
11. Environmental Commission
12. Lake Lansing Advisory Committee
13. Land Preservation Advisory Board – Mark Stephens
14. Local Officials Compensation Commission
15. Park Commission
16. Pension Board
17. Planning Commission
18. Township Board
19. Transportation Commission
20. Zoning Board of Appeals

Red Cedar River Water Trail



- Map #
- Launch
- Portage
- Confluence



The Red Cedar River is a tremendous water resource, stretching from Livingston County to the Grand River in Lansing. With a watershed of approximately 472 square miles, it provides many opportunities for recreation, education, nature observation and serves as an important drain way for the communities along the way. Experience the 23 mile - 14 hour Red Cedar River Water Trail from Williamston Township to the Grand River confluence and River Street Park/Sweeney's Landing.

Meridian Township Community Center Summary

In March of 2023, the Township Board faced a dilemma. Due to the passage of the Okemos Public School (OPS) Bond in the summer of 2022, Chippewa Middle School was scheduled to be demolished and rebuilt.

Meridian Senior Center has been housed for many years in a wing of Chippewa Middle School and with this renovation our Meridian Township Seniors would need to relocate the current Center. Meridian Township and OPS are committed to ensuring a quality space for our Senior Center members.

The Board began discussing where we could locate a replacement Senior Center and then broadened the discussion about whether Community Center could be constructed, within which we could have a Senior Center.

In February 2023, the Township Board decided to explore the idea of developing an all-age community center with a senior designated space by forming a Task Force which included representatives from the Township Board, the Parks & Recreation Director, past and present, the Township Manager, and the Coordinator of the Senior Center.

The Task Force met frequently to consider the options: build something new on a Township-owned property or repurpose an existing building. The Task Force visited other community and senior centers in other communities to see what they have done and received ideas of what and how to do our own facility.

There were many criteria to consider:

- How could an accessible center, centrally located in the Township, so both Haslett and Okemos would benefit be developed?
- Would there be adequate parking, including handicapped, available?
- Could it be on a bus line?
- What would be the components within a center?
- Could the seniors have their own quiet space?
- Could Parks and Recreation staff have offices there?

The Task Force looked at six potential properties within the Municipal Complex area where a Center could be located, but most had challenges with wetlands, space, or parking constraints. The Task Force also considered the environmental impact of cutting down trees and using new building materials. The task force explored environmentally sound ideas.

The Task Force also looked at existing, abandoned centrally located properties. Most were too small, but one large building in the Meridian Mall had possibilities. The Task Force reached out to the Meridian Mall landowner and management company and, after negotiations, arrived at a price.

The Task Force conducted a bid process to bring a professional team in to assist with taking the concept forward. In February 2024, ProgressiveAE in Grand Rapids joined the Task Force, understood the project's mission, evaluated the potential sites, and concluded that after review of all seven options, that the best option was to repurpose a building in the Meridian Mall: the abandoned Youngkers building.

On May 14 the Task Force presented the DRAFT concept drawings, elevations, and rationale for repurposing the Younkers building to the Senior Center Members and public at large.

During that meeting there were several questions/concerns that were reported to the architects to incorporate into the design. Updates to the draft concept, based on the public and Senior Center Member input, including:

- Increased designated senior space
- Increase size and stall within senior bathrooms
- Developed staffing and security plan
- Senior focused programming for shared facility space
- Included areas for senior lunches
- Created a separate room for billiards and table tennis
- Increased handicap and senior center designated parking

The Taks Force and architects updated the DRAFT concept plans to include all the above and a second meeting was conducted with the Senior Center Members and public at large on June 11, 2024. There were several additional questions/concerns that were reported to the architects to discuss feasibility of incorporating into the design, including:

- Concerns about the proposed opaque banner on senior center windows. Request to make the entire window opaque. Request to include the Senior Center Manager's office within designated space.
- Suggestion to make lobby area smaller and extend the square footage of the senior designated space.
- Concerns about programming/scheduling conflicts.
- Request for bike racks.
- Request for personal use cubbies.
- Additional storage for jazzercise equipment. There is current storage in the multi-use room and large storage area.
- Suggest solar and geothermal installations.
- Request temperature control in designated areas.
- Request for exterior lighting for safety.
- Request for separate massage room with access to soap and water and a privacy curtain.
- Request for computer in senior designated space.

The Task Force and architects took notes on the amenities requested and will work to incorporate them into the final construction details.

Two public Community Center Proposed Concept Open Houses were conducted by the Taks Force and architects on July 16 and July 24. In general, the public that attended the events were overall in support of the multi-generational facility.

The Task Force recorded all questions/comments/concerns and requested staff to develop a construction and operational budget for the proposed Community Center. The construction costs proposal is approximately \$25 million. Based on the square footage of the building and the staffing needed to

maintain the facility, manage the facility and program the activities, the operating costs will average approximately \$2 million annually.

Meridian Township has received a grant from the State of Michigan for \$5 million for the construction of a community or senior center. The grant requires that Meridian Township own the facility and must be allocated by 2026. Based on the cost of construction and the cost of operating, a millage is required to supplement the total cost. Millage language was developed by the Township Manager to be presented to the Township Board on August 8, 2024 as requested by the Task Force. The ballot language for the Community and Senior Center millage included a millage rate of 1.1996. At the August 8, 2024, Township Board Meeting, the Ballot for the Community and Senior Center Millage was denied with a 5-2 vote.

At this time, the Task Force and Township management have decided to pause and develop a new plan for securing a Community and/or Senior Center within Meridian Township.