

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Under item #5, add Adopt a Park by Commissioner Deschaine
Under item #10, remove item #a, Hillbrook Park Drain Improvements, this item
will be presented at the June meeting.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice
vote. Motion passed.

3. Presentations

None

4. Public Comment

None

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

- a. **Adopt a Park** – Commissioner Deschaine stated he would like to identify service groups, organizations and residents to take “ownership” of the Township parks. He would like to pick a date in June and have everyone go to their parks and clean them up or work on a project needed for the park. Last year, the Haslett Kiwanis Club adopted Orlando Park and had a great time cleaning up the park. Last Saturday, a spring cleanup event was held in Central and Nancy Moore Parks. 30 volunteers cleaned park areas, mulch around the trees, planted flowers, etc. He would like to repeat this activity in other parks.
- b. **Salmon in the Classroom** – Commissioner Stephens reported 6th, 7th and 8th graders have raised and will release salmon in Ferguson Park and in Sloan Creek on May 6th, 7th and 8th.

- c. **Haslett Robotics** – Chair Wilson reported the group won in Louisville
- d. **Central Park Pond picture** – Commissioner Stephens stated there are some great pictures on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 10, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. March 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MARCH 10, 2015 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

- 1. From: Lawrence Hennessey; 2013 and 2014
- 2. From members of the Universal Access Advisory Board; RE: Letters of Support for the 2015 Grant Submissions
 - Donna Rose
 - Judy Linn
 - Chris M Wolfe
 - William Cleary

B. Commission Information

- 1. April Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
- 2. Parks and Recreation Department Quarterly Report
- 3. Earth Week Community Clean-Up on April 25
- 4. Towne Courier: **March 1:** 2015 DNR Grant Application Public Hearing Notice; **March 8:** Nature center hosts Chinese exercise classes; Joint Harris Nature Center for skunk cabbage; 2015 DNR Grant Application Public Hearing Notice; **March 15:** Harris Nature Center celebrates vernal equinox; Kids can make Nature Connection this summer; **March 22:** Nature Center hosts hands-on science April 2; Kids can make Nature Connection this summer; **March 29:** Learn how to design, maintain native plants; Nature Center to host nesting boxes seminar; Harris Center offers three-week photo class; Nature Center hosts hands-on science April 2; Kids can make Nature Connection this summer
- 5. 2014/2015 Deer Management Program Year Four Summary

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO RECEIVE AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

8. Director's Report

- **Nancy Moore Park**
 - ✓ Parking lot striped
 - ✓ Safety fence on ball fields completed
 - ✓ Foul poles installed on ball fields
 - ✓ New plaque ordered
 - ✓ New sand volleyball poles installed
 - ✓ New siding on pavilion scheduled for June completion
 - ✓ MSU is donating \$1000 worth of trees to be planted in a Meridian Township Park. This program is facilitated by the Arbor Day Foundation. We have selected eight dwarf flowering crabs to be planted in Nancy Moore Park by MSUFCU employees on May 20.
- **North Meridian Road Park**
 - ✓ Construction of two new Sand Volleyball Courts was completed. Leagues are set to begin May 18
- **Meridian Historical Village**
 - ✓ Maintenance staff has been working with the Meridian Garden Club on garden prep in the Historical Village. Spring planting is scheduled for May 19.
 - ✓ New picket fence was installed in the vegetable garden behind the Farm House by our staff.
 - ✓ This past winter we did not install the bubbler system and experienced some problems with the fishing dock during the spring thaw. The company who installed the dock has been contacted to complete the repairs.
- **Newton Road Park**
 - ✓ Up and running with Haslett Lacrosse Club utilizing it for youth practices.
 - ✓ We may have an opportunity this summer to pave the lot as there is a plan to pave Newton Road in August.
- **Earth Day Park clean-up**
 - ✓ 30 volunteers picked up trash and beautified the park on Saturday, April 23. Central Park, Ferguson Park, and the roadway behind Best Buy.
- **Ingham County Trail Millage**
 - ✓ The Engineering Department submitted over 8 million dollars in potential trail projects in Meridian Township including the Meridian Riverfront Trail Project.
- **Harris Nature Center** – Native Plant sale Saturday, May 2 from 9am-1pm
- **Outdoor Farmers' Market** opens this Saturday, May 2 from 8am-2pm in Central Park. Wednesday market opens July 1 – Lunch time activities include live music and food truck from 11:30am-1:30pm
- **Central Park Master Plan** – The contract has been signed and our kickoff meeting is in the process of being scheduled for the last week of May. I will share more information as it becomes available.
- **Welcome New full-time** parks and grounds maintenance staff member Alex Zegerziewski

9. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

10. Unfinished Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Hillbrook Park Drain Improvements

This item was removed from the agenda.

11. Other Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. Discussion Items

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. Final Comments

Commissioner McDonald stated he appreciated the letters of support for the grants from the Universal Access Advisory Board.

Chair Wilson reported Ken Dawson, an avid hiker and friend, began a fundraiser, Continental Divide Thru-Hike – A Journey for the Kids from Crazy Cook, New Mexico to Waterton, Canada. You can follow his progress and make donations at www.cdtjourneyforthekids.com

Director Maisner reported the Recreation Intern Alex Zegerziewski was recently inducted into his High School Hall of Fame. Alex played in many sports and recently became engaged. He is a great addition to the Department. She also recognized Rob McKenzie for his outstanding leadership and great work he and the crew are doing in the parks.

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2015, Central Park Pavilion, Friend of the Park Ceremony
- b. Spring Cleanup, Saturday, April 25, at 9 am – 12 Noon, in Central Park and Nancy Moore Park – held last week with 30 volunteers attending
- c. Farmers' Market:
 - Winter Market – last one at Meridian Mall on Saturday, April 18 from 10 am – 2 pm
 - Spring Market – Saturdays, May – June 8 am- 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
 - Summer Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays, July-October, 8 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion

- d. Recycling Event at Chippewa Middle School Saturday, April 25, 9 am – 2 pm – was held last week and was a great day for recycling
- e. Harris Nature Center Native Plants Day and Sale, Saturday, May 2, 9 am – 1 pm
- f. Meridian Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, Friday, May 15, 9 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
- g. Celebrate Downtown Okemos, Saturday, June 13, 10 am – 11 pm
- h. Meridian Fishing Derby, Saturday, June 13, 9 am – 12 noon, Central Park Pond
- i. Music in the Village Concert Series starts Wednesday, June 17 at 7 pm, Meridian Historical Village
- j. Lake Lansing Band Shell Concert Series starts Friday, June 6, at 7 pm, Lake Lansing South
- k. Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, Sunday, June 28, 11 am – 4 pm, Central Park Pavilion
- l. 2014 Friend of the Park Ceremony – Tuesday, May 12, 6-8 pm, Central Park Pavilion, everyone is invited

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

None

17. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.