

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks & Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks & Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the special meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion
passed.

3. Public Comment

None

4. CIP 2015-2020

The Commissioners discussed the CIP and how each park project has been divided into individual elements over the next six years. This “phased” approach was due mainly to the lack of funds available for park improvements or development. The Park Commission is requesting a new park millage on the August 2014 ballot to assist with accomplishing many of the projects identified in the CIP. Since the timing of the CIP review and update precedes the August election, it was decided to focus on 2015 and 2016 until the election outcome is determined. The Commissioners made the following recommendations for change to the plan:

<u>2015</u>	<u>Gen. Fund</u>	<u>Park Millage</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Donation</u>
Wonch Park Pavilion	\$62,500		\$187,500	
Orlando Park Shade Structure	\$ 30,000			
Orlando Park Play Equip & slide*	\$ 30,000			
Hillbrook Accessible Playground	\$ 35,000		\$35,000	
Hillbrook Restroom**	\$ 75,000		\$75,000	
Land Acquisition		\$40,000		

Legg Dog Park**		\$15,000		\$40,000
Legg Expanded Parking**		\$45,000	\$45,000	
Total 2015	\$232,500	\$100,000	\$342,500	\$40,000

*moved from 2014, added slide
**items moved from 2016 to 2015

2016	Gen. Fund	Park Millage	Grant	Donation
Ottawa Hills Playground*	\$50,000			
Marshall Park Playground*	\$40,000		\$ 40,000	
Marshall Park Loop Trail	\$50,000			
Marshall Parking Improvements	\$ 8,000			
Marshall Park Landscaping	\$ 7,000			
Land Acquisition		\$ 40,000		
North Meridian Rd. Park Pavilion*		\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	
Nancy Moore Accessible Playground*		\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
Meridian Riverfront Restroom		\$125,000	\$125,000	
Towner Road Park Phase I		\$440,000	\$300,000	\$100,000
Newton Road Park Playground		\$ 40,000		\$ 10,000
Newton Road Park Loop Trail		\$ 30,000		
Total 2016	\$155,000	\$795,000	\$585,000	\$110,000

*items moved from 2015 to 2016
**Snell-Towar Building roof was delete and added to maintenance list

Commissioner comments:

- playground improvements, shade, restrooms, and water should be a general mission for the parks
- concern was expressed on the entrance to Wonch Park and questioned the status of the Douglas J development
- would like to move forward with fundraising for the dog park such as selling pavers or linear fencing
- move forward with the master plan for Central Park;

5. Park Millage Project Priorities

Each of the Commissioners offered their top project priorities:

- Towner Road Park development (master plan has been designed)- 5 votes
- Central Park redevelopment (needs a master plan) – 5 votes
- Legg Park development (master plan has been designed) – 3.5 votes
- Marshall Park skate park development (needs a plan) – 4 votes
- Playground improvements for all parks – 3 votes
- Wonch Park development (master plan has been designed) – 2.5 votes
- Meridian Riverfront trail system improvements (needs a plan) - 2 votes

Commissioner Banas reviewed the communication materials developed by the Park Millage Workgroup.

6. 2014 Goals

Director Maisner summarized the budgeted park projects for 2014 including new projects, carryover projects and other park projects such as a complete GPS of all existing trails in the parks to access through an app and on the Township website.

7. 2014 Grant Applications

Parks & Land Management Coordinator Greenway summarized the grants workshop she recently attended. The DNR encouraged the development of trail projects in urban areas and water trail improvements. The Township is currently working with Williamstown Township and other communities along the Red Cedar River to create a "water trail master plan". The maximum project amount is \$300,000 but they do have small grant project amounts of \$50,000 for wildlife and green corridor improvements. A submission for athletic facilities or playgrounds was not encouraged. This area of Michigan has a new grant coordinator, Jules Stafford. Coordinator Greenway suggested applying for a grant to construct a pavilion in Wonch Park. She believe it will receive a favorable review since the DNR approved a grant last year for the paved loop trail for this park and the Township is making improvements to the pedestrian bridge on Okemos Road. Coordinator Greenway reported that this year all grants need to be submitted electronically and a master plan with drawings need to be included.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to move forward in preparing a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a new pavilion in Wonch Park. Staff will provide a report at the February 11, 2014 regular meeting and as well as a public hearing date for Commission action. Applications are due to the DNR by April 1, 2014.

8. Other

Commissioner Stephens shared his discussions with a representative from "Floating Island International" about techniques for pond water quality improvement. He suggested this as a viable application to improving water quality in the Central Park South pond. Staff will research this opportunity and discuss with the ICDC.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjourn

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF
SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.