

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

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

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Roll Call

Chair Wilson called roll and the following members were present: Teri Banas, Marilyn Aronoff, Melanie Jaramillo, Mark Stephens, Todd Wilson

3. Approval of Agenda

Director Maisner asked to remove item #11 – New Business, #b – Support – HNC Foundation Play Area Grant because additional information is needed to complete the grant application.

4. Wonch Park Pavilion – Grant Request MNRTF

At the February 4 Special Meeting, the Park Commissioners discussed and evaluated possible projects for grant consideration. By consensus, they agreed to continue with implementation of the Wonch Park Master Plan by requesting funding assistance for a new pavilion. Staff will prepare the application that is due April 1, 2014. Director Maisner suggested that the Park Commission hold the public hearing to obtain feedback from residents during the March 11, 2014 meeting. The Commission will also have the opportunity to pass a resolution of support for grant submission during that same meeting. If approved, the Township Board will take action on the resolution at their March 18 regular meeting. A motion to schedule a public hearing on March 11, 2014 has been drafted for consideration during the regular meeting.

5. 2013 Park Volunteer List

The Commissioners reviewed the draft 2013 Park Volunteer List. Haslett Lego Club was changed to the Haslett Robotics Club. After careful review and discussion of deserving volunteers, it was the consensus of the Commission to choose Kelly Colflesh as the 2013 Park Friend of the Year. This selection will be formally announced during the Friends of the Parks Volunteer Recognition Ceremony in May.

6. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Director Maisner summarized the discussion from the February 4th special meeting and the draft 2014-2019 CIP documents. The Commissioners discussed:

- Top five priorities (it was noted the vote numbers listed in the minutes were inaccurate and were corrected)
- With current funding, the CIP has been more of a wish list than a budgetary planning tool.
- Projects are listed because interest and need has been expressed by residents
- Asked for what the General Fund is responsible. The Township's General Fund is currently responsible for all improvements and maintenance to General Fund Parks (pre-1984). The proposed millage language states that the new park millage will be responsible for development of all parks and maintenance of current Millage Parks. The General Fund will continue to fund maintenance of General Fund Parks.

7. 2014 Park Millage Ballot Proposal

Director Maisner summarized the information on the 2014 proposed millage for park improvements, renovation, maintenance and operations in the meeting packet. Information was gathered from the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Capital Improvements Program and from how the parks system operated under the current millage. The absentee ballots go out in July.

Discussion:

- Express how the proposed millage will make a difference to our parks
- Clarify what to say in presentations service groups and other organizations
- Need to clarify the message
- Absentee ballots are mailed July 1.
- Commissioners may receive a call from Dawn Parker who is working on a story about the Millage for the Towne Courier.

8. Other

None

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.