

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

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

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:03 pm.

2. Roll Call

The following Commissioners were present: Marilyn Aronoff, Teri Banas, Melanie Jaramillo, Mark Stephens, Todd Wilson

3. Approval of Agenda

Under item #6, add item #a. Revised Aldi Development Plan and #b, Orlando Park Improvements.

COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE WORK SESSION AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

4. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

Director Maisner distributed and summarized the following information on the Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony scheduled for Monday, May 12 at 6:15 pm in the Central Park Pavilion.

- Invitations will be mailed out the week of April 28
- Will be planting three (3) deciduous trees in Central Park with a plaque honoring the 2013 volunteers, will include a QR code leading to a complete list of volunteers and their projects
- There will be no certificates, but everyone will receive a tree seedling(s) to take home. Jane will research tree prices and also gardening spades.
- The event will be held like an outdoor picnic.
- Activities to include Park Millage discussion with display board; disc golf; soccer nets for target practice; bean bag toss; suggested having something competitive between staff and park volunteers such as a kickball game
- Conclude event with a tour of the fishing area

5. 2014 Park Millage Ballot Proposal Update

Commissioner Banas offered the following:

- Liked the millage pages in the Family Fun Guide
- Did interviews with HOM-TV staff
- Working on the website and it is almost completed; web address is www.yesformeridianparks.com; adding a PayPal button for donations; will have contact information
- Have contacted Okemos and Haslett school principals and booster groups inquiring about presentations to their parent groups
- Obtaining the list of neighborhood organizations and will be breaking up the list between the millage group to ask about speaking to their organizations; have presented to the Haslett Kiwanis, LINC and Meridian Leadership Group; upcoming speaking dates at the St. Luke's senior luncheon; Indian Hills Neighborhood Association; Okemos Kiwanis; could also present at Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt on April 19; Earth Day/Park Cleanup on April 19; Fishing Derby on June 7; Celebrate Downtown Okemos on June 14
- Working on the Facebook page; suggested posting messages weekly; "did you know...; want to see....; history of parks...; etc."
- Currently have 29,600 registered voters, in August 2010, voter turnout reached 9,337; absentee ballots will be mailed out first week of July.
- Working on fundraising letter and looking for email addresses; will be holding fundraising open house parties in May.
- Director Maisner reported the presentation at the Meridian Leadership Group with Commissioner Banas was well received; there were very supportive comments from attendees.

6. Other

a. Revised Aldi Development Plan

Commissioners reviewed the revised development plan. The parking lot has been shifted; the emergency access location has been relocated and appears to be more functional. When asked the tree size, Parks and Landscape Coordinator Greenway replied 2.5" caliper is the minimum required by the Township. Director Maisner reported this item is on the Township Board's next week Tuesday meeting agenda.

b. Orlando Park Improvements including research on costs for a shade structure

The flower beds were trimmed last fall and a plan developed for reducing the garden size on the east and eliminating the garden on the west. If additional play equipment is planned, it would be best to hold off on major turf improvements until a final determination has been made.

Discussion:

- We are aware of neighbors' concerns.
- Treated the area last fall on east side of park and will treat weeds again this spring and then will fill area with grass and necessary mulch

- Staff was asked to provide cost for the swings, slide and shade canopy for the next meeting
- Commissioner Banas suggested planting wild strawberries around the gazebo
- Commissioner Stephens will be working with Vern Stephens and Nick Sanchez on plantings and spraying

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 7:04 pm.