

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Banas, Wilson

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

By consensus, Commissioner Jaramillo served as Acting Chair. Hearing no objections, Acting Chair Jaramillo called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The following changes were made to the meeting agenda:

- Under Item #9, New Business, delete Item #a, Eagle Scout Project Final Report – Ryan Nusdorfer
- Under Item #9, New Business, add Item #d, Park property transfer from Ingham County Parks
- Under Item #12, add Item #a, Newton Road Park Naming

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

**3. Presentations**

None

**4. Public Comment**

Bill McConnell, 4376 Manitou, Okemos, stated the Environmental Commission would like to be more informed of the activities in the Township and he volunteered to attend Park Commission meetings.

**5. Commissioner Reports and Comments**

Commissioner McDonald spoke about the upcoming vote on the proposed new Ingham County Park Millage; that this proposed millage is very different from the Township's recently passed Park Millage and that if it passes, the Township should request funding to support trail connections in the community.

Commissioner Stephens reported on the October 24 he will be leading a project to create the new Mary M. G. Helmbrecht Butterfly Garden around the Central Park pond with 130 youths from Murphy Elementary and Haslett Middle School. The students will plant 1,500 square feet with seeds and plugs; conduct tree mapping; fish and play games. In the spring, additional plantings will expand the garden area. The fall planting was funded with the donations to the Land Preservation Fund in the memory of former Township Clerk, Mary Helmbrecht; and the spring planting will be funded by the Grand Learning Network. The garden will enhance the pond's edge, create a butterfly garden and provide a vegetation strip to deter geese and ducks from entering the Village from the pond. Commissioner Stephens also spoke about the upcoming Salmon Run Race fundraiser he is hosting in November.

Commissioner Jaramillo shared pictures of plays areas, farmers markets and skate parks she visited.

## 6. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. August 12, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. August 12, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. September 23, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 12, 2014 AND SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

## 7. **Communications**

### A. **Items to/from the Public**

1. From: Bobbi DuByne; RE: request to revamp Hillbrook Park
2. From: Tom Wiserman; Re: Ottawa Hills Park request for repairs
3. From: Carrie Seroka; RE: thank you for ride toys in parks
4. From: DL Scapes; RE: zoning in our parks and land preserves
5. From: DNR; RE DNR Announces 2015 Wildlife Habitat Grant recipients
6. From: Tom Wiserman; RE: Ottawa Hills tree trimming request
7. From: Pat Harrington; RE: Lansing Oar and Paddle Club cleaning Red Cedar River on Saturday, October 4
8. From: Steve DeBrander, DNR Grants Manager; RE: WHGP Application 15-604, Legg Park Wildlife Enhancement Project
9. From: Eckhart Dersch; Re: game piece boxes for Central Park game table

### B. **Commission Information**

1. October Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Parks & Recreation Department September Report
3. Twitter Post: Garlic Mustard removal April-June 2014; 7 Tons
4. Lansing State Journal: **Sept 14:** Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's history
5. Towne Courier: **Aug 17:** Art class offered at HNC Aug 26; **Aug 24:** Nature center hosts exploration of water for kids; Live bats to be at nature

center; **Aug 31:** Nature center hosts exploration of water for kids; Toddlers can discover nature; River exploration program at HNC; **Sept 7:** Harris Nature Center hosts 'Turtle Toast' Fundraiser Sept 11; Live bats come to nature center; Toddlers can discover nature; Chipmunk Story Time at HNC; **Sept 14:** Annual Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's rich history; Meridian announces another deer harvest; Qigong classes offered at HNC; Preschool Science Exploration at HNC Oct 2; Build a bird feeder at HNC Sept 28; Chipmunk Story Time on Sept 18; **Sept 21:** Benefit coed softball tourney set for Oct 4; **Sept 28:** Benefit coed softball tourney set for Oct 4; Legg Park much more than just weeds; **Oct 5:** Nature Center offers Halloween event, Qigong classes offered at HNC; you can build a fairy house on Oct 16

6. Harris Nature Center Foundation Minutes: August 11, 2014
7. Faith Family News October 2014 edition: thank you from Meridian Township

### **C. Staff Inquiries/Response**

1. To: Assistant Planner Wyatt; Re: Comments on Aldi Development

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

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO MOVE ITEM #9 NEW BUSINESS, #B ICE RINK PROPOSAL HILLBROOK PARK FORWARD ON THE AGENDA. Voice vote. Motion passed.

### **9b. Ice Rink Proposal – Hillbrook Park**

Tim Clark, 1755 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett, asked the Commission to install a temporary ice rink from his backyard into Hillbrook Park. Although he was granted permission last year, he was unable to install it. He asked to start the project in November with staking and preparing the area.

Director Maisner stated a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between Mr. Clark and the Township was included in the meeting packet and is similar to the one executed last year.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MR. TIM CLARK GRANTING HIM PERMISSION TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A TEMPORARY ICE RINK IN HILLBROOK PARK FROM NOVEMBER, 2014-MARCH 2015. Voice vote. Motion passed.

Commissioner Stephens suggested Mr. Clark keep the Commissioners updated on the project with postings to the Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

## 8. Director's Report

- Wildlife Habitat Grant – not funded; the Township can reapply next year
- 2014 Deer Management – as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 55 deer have been harvested and this is without the early antlerless period
- **Park Projects Report Update**
  - Newton Road Park – the parking lot and fencing have been installed; seven (7) shade trees are scheduled to be installed
  - Legg Park – the entry is completed and will be striped in the spring
  - Wonch Park – the paved pathway has been completed and the grant funding report will be submitted by the end of the year
  - North Meridian Road Park – the sand volleyball court bid was awarded to Michigan Demolition and Excavation with construction scheduled for this fall/winter. Staff is researching containment borders for the courts before the sand is installed.
  - Nancy Moore Park – the front garden area was cleaned up with new plans developed to make it more manageable to maintain for completion in 2015.
- Paul Peterson Memorial Dedication – project included a concrete pad, bench, tree, rock and plaque located in Nancy Moore Park. The dedication was held in October
- Nancy Moore Park - path improvements for safety and maintenance were made in the area near the new Paul Peterson Memorial area.
- Christmas Tree Drop Off – the only site to be used in 2014/2015 is Nancy Moore Park parking lot; there will be no tree drop off at Wonch Park
- Disc Golf Course – staff has met with representatives from Lansing Renegades and looked at developing a course in North Meridian Road Park; the recommendation is for 18 holes in order to hold tournaments; they explained their experiences with development projects in other areas in Lansing; they did express excitement with Central Park but told them we were in the process of developing a renovation plan for the park; the Renegades are looking at other sites in the Township and will come back to the Commission when they have a plan; there are great courses in Grand Rapids and Boyne
- Meridian Garden Club cleaned up gardens in Historical Village and Clare Twohy gardens this week
- Parks will be winterized this week
- Butterfly Garden will be planted around the Village Pond this Friday, October 24 by students from Haslett Schools under the supervised of Commissioner Stephens; a level of maintenance will be needed at the beginning, a little more in the spring but not after that time; in the future, seeds will be harvested and grown by students for future plantings in parks and land preserves
- Lansing Oar and Paddle Club cleared branches from the Red Cedar River from Grand River Ave to the Harris Nature Center on October 5; removing all but one major log jam
- Ted Black Woods – as part of the deer management program, it was reported that a cow has been walking the trails in the evening

- Attended the annual National Recreation and Park Association Conference in North Carolina; enjoyed visiting the exhibit hall and meeting with many vendors; attended sessions on: comprehensive master planning; outdoor fitness parks; apps for trails in the parks which would include downloads showing topography, amenities, etc.; dog parks and programming including fencing, fobs, big versus small dogs; staying in tune with aging population; and natural playgrounds
- Celebrated two anniversaries in the Department – 25 years for Administrative Assistant II Faust and 15 years for Director Maisner

**9. New Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

**a. Eagle Scout Project Final Report – Ryan Nusdorfer**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**b. Ice Rink Proposal – Hillbrook Park**

This item was moved forward in the agenda and discussion prior to Item #8, Director's Report.

**c. November Park Commission Regular Meeting**

Director Maisner reported the regular meeting date for November 4 is election day and November 11 is Veteran's Day (holiday).

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO CANCEL THE NOVEMBER PARK COMMISSION MEETING. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**d. Park property transfer from Ingham County Parks**

Director Maisner reported that the two outstanding parcels owned by Ingham County located in Ferguson and Wonch Parks have been approved by the Ingham County Park Board and Board of Commissioners for transfer to Meridian Township. Resolutions authorizing the transfer of ownership to the Township by Ingham County were provided to the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO RECOMMEND THE TOWNSHIP BOARD ACCEPT PARCEL # 33-02-02-21-451-002 AND PARCEL #33-02-02-21-453-005 FROM INGHAM COUNTY FOR ONE DOLLAR. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**10. Unfinished Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

**a. Commission Review #14083 (Planning Commission) Revised Goals and Objectives, 2005 Master Plan – Public Hearing October 27**

Director Maisner reported the Planning Commission accepted the Park Commission's recommended changes. The Planning Commission is holding a public hearing on the revised goals and objectives for the 2005 Master Plan Update and are inviting all Township boards and commissions to participate.

**b. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications**

Director Maisner reported staff will proceed as discussed during the work session.

**c. 2015 Grant Project Submissions**

Possible grant projects for 2015:

- Meridian Riverfront Park Trail Pavilion - \$250,000 (electricity, water, tree removal / landscaping / rain garden, concrete pad and pathway)
- Meridian Riverfront Park Restroom - \$200,000 (electricity, water, concrete pad, pathway, tree removal / landscaping)
- Wonch Park Renovation - \$250,000 (restroom building improvements)
- Hillbrook Park Tennis Courts and Pickleball Courts - \$100,000

Discussion:

- The pavilion and outdoor restroom will make the HNC a major destination site in the Township
- Pavilions and restrooms along the river will have the ability to get more points added to the grant application
- The Meridian Riverfront additions would be a link to the developing nature play area at the Harris Nature Center
- Some area along the Red Cedar River would allow for handicap access if the water level supported it
- Suggest applying for the Meridian Riverfront Pavilion first and following with the restroom building

**11. Other Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**12. Discussion Items**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**13. Final Comments**

None

**14. Announcements**

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2014, Service Center - canceled
- b. Farmers' Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays; 8 am - 2 pm; Central Park
- c. Township Offices are closed November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day (Park Commission meeting moved up to November 4)
- d. Meridian Township Celebrates Halloween on Saturday, October 25 with Halloween Adventures at Harris Nature Center and open houses at the Meridian Township Fire Stations, Public Safety Building, HOMTV and Historical Village

**15. Public Remarks**

None

**16. Closed Session**

None

**17. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.