



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION [INFORMAL] MEETING NOTES
Meridian Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 4:30 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris and Commissioner, Mark Stephens
ABSENT: Vice-Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mike McDonald
STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation and Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:31 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Due to Park Commissioners Amanda Lick, Mike McDonald and Ami Van Antwerp being absent, no quorum was reached. Meeting declared an informal meeting of discussion only with commissioners and staff present.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDING REVIEW

In 2022, we contracted with Lindhout Architects to conduct a formal assessment of each building in the historical village and provide a priority list and cost estimates of necessary repairs. Cost estimates were provided by O'Neal Construction. Commissioners reviewed the summary of findings. Discussion of possible volunteer groups that might be able to tackle some of the smaller projects, possibly Oldsmobile Outdoor Club (GM Club), Habitat for Humanity, the Friends of Historic Meridian applying to grant with 100 Women Who Care trying to get some funding for these projects.

B. 2023 GRANT DISCUSSION

In 2022, the Park Commission applied for a grant to the Federal SPARK program for accessibility improvements in Nancy Moore Park. We learned recently that this project was not selected for funding. There are two more funding cycles remaining in 2023. The Engineering Department would like to apply for a Grand River Avenue to Haslett Road trail project in the next funding round. Plans are to resubmit the request for Nancy Moore in the third round. Commissioner Stephens pointed out that while only \$15 million in grant monies are available from the State of Michigan, there were over \$280 million in requests with the first round of applicants.

C. NEW PARK SIGNAGE

As noted in the memo from Director Maisner, some new signs ordered in 2022 are scheduled for installation on March 1, including signs at Central Park/Meridian Township Campus, Marketplace on the Green, Central Park South, Newton Road Park and Towner Road Park. Funding is in place to continue with other park sites in 2023. The new signs will have to

follow current and updated sign ordinances, setback requirements. Chair Farris shared her experience with signage when working for the DNR and offered to participate in the identifying locations.

4. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens reported that the Land Preservation Advisory Board is reviewing a new parcel for acquisition.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Monthly Parks and Recreation Newsletter is in the works utilizing Constant Contact.
- Family Fun Guide – out by the end of March, will be mailed to all residents and businesses in the township.
- Celebrate Meridian Festival– June 23, 2023 – Celebrate Teen Night at Marketplace on the Green, band “dogsneeze” will perform from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm.
June 24, 2023 – Central Park Drive closed 11:00 am – 11:00 pm. Activities scheduled at Marketplace on the Green, food trucks on Central Park Drive and Children’s activities and historical village tours at Central Park. New this year, is the Celebrate Meridian Business Week from June 17-24, \$150 sponsorship and a selfie station at participating businesses.
- Annual report
- Farmers’ Market indoors at Meridian Mall is a success!
- RecPro registration program went live January 3, 2023. Moving to all online registration for sports, paid recreation activities, dog park memberships and pavilion rentals.
- Nick Wing, Parks and Recreation Specialist working with Mike Devlin, focusing on youth sports and special events.
- Summer Concert Series – Wednesdays June through September, live musical acts at Marketplace on the Green are booked for the season.

6. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chair Nardo-Farris would like Park Commissioners pictures taken and put on township website under Boards and Commissions, Park Commission.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:06 pm.