



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

PARK COMMISSION TELEVISED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Township Hall Room

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 4:30 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald
ABSENT: None
STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:30 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. All park commissioners present.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner McDonald moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**.
Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Barn of the Year Award – Brad Brogren, President, Friends of Historic Meridian

The Michigan Barn Preservation Network awarded the Friends of Historic Meridian with the 2023 Barn of the Year Award at the Michigan Barn Preservation Network’s Annual Conference on March 4, 2023 in East Lansing. The Barn of the Year Award annually honors barns that support the Michigan Barn Preservation Network’s mission to preserve Michigan’s agricultural heritage. The award serves to recognize barn owners who have made an extra effort to maintain or restore historic barns. The barn was moved from its original location to the historical village in 1991.

B. Green Burial Presentation – Bruce Peffers, The Green Burial Committee

Green burial is a way of caring for the dead that results in minimal environmental impact and aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions and more. There has been a lot of recent interest in the township in green burials. Williamstown Township is currently the only area township that is considering the green burial option. Director Maisner states the township ordinance would have to change to allow human burial without a casket.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 10, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meeting notes from February 14, 2023

B. Letter from Hillbrook Park Pickleball Players

Commissioner Lick **MOVED TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS PRESENTED ON FILE**.
Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

9. ACTION ITEMS

NONE

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Park Projects for 2023

There are a number of projects planned throughout the park system this year and Director Maisner wanted to provide a recap and update for discussion. Commissioners discussed each park project listed.

- Windscreens and trees at Marketplace on the Green
- Exterior Upgrades at Harris Nature Center
- Site Design for the newly acquired parcel on Okemos Road at Nancy Moore Park
- Site engineering for upgrades to the Wonch Park canoe landing
- Okemos Road under-bridge walkway–connections to pathway at Wonch & Ferguson Parks
- Paint the cross-walk on Central Park Drive near Marketplace on the Green
- New park identification signs in all parks
- Renovation of the pavilion in Central Park
- Building repair and maintenance at the Meridian Historical Village

11. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens

12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Playbook monthly digital newsletter – sign up to receive on township website
- 2023 Family Fun Guide – will be delivered to residents mid-April
- Rec Pro – user friendly and positive feedback received from residents and staff
- Michigan Recreation and Park Association Legislative Day. Met with State Rep Julie Brixie. Our three talking points included:
 - opt out vs opt in Passport;
 - expedited legislative approval for trust fund grant awards;
 - Requested a one-time contribution to the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund in the amount of \$475,000,000



- Celebrate Meridian Festival planning underway – June 23 and 24 ‘Ben Daniels Band’, ‘Garage Sale Band’, canned beverages at beer tent, crosswalk painting, food trucks, children’s game area with inflatables, Historical Village and Nokomis, and a fireworks finale.
- Okemos Road Under-bridge walkway – pathway connectors - \$150,000
- The concert schedule is set for the Summer Wednesday Concert Series beginning June-September. The Okemos and Haslett Libraries will be programs and activities every other Wednesday for youth.
- Senior Center/Community Center Task Force
- Artificial Ice Rink coming down on March 20

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brad Brogren, President, Friends of Historic Meridian

The Historical Village is celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2024. The Friends of Historic Meridian (FHM) seeks an artist or graphic designer to develop a logo for the non-profit organization. The FHM was formed in 1974 to present the history of Meridian Township through the preservation of historic buildings within Central Park. This opportunity is open to emerging and professional artists and graphic designers. The application deadline is March 31, 2023.

14. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chair Nardo-Farris reminds there is no April Park Commission Meeting scheduled.

15. CLOSED SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION DISCUSSION

Commissioner Van Antwerp **MOVED TO ENTER IN TO CLOSED SESSION FOR PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE PROPERTY ACQUISITION.** Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

ROLL CALL VOTE.

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Amanda Lick, Ami Van Antwerp, Mary

Nardo-Farris

NAYS: None

Chair Nardo-Farris closed the open session at 6:09 pm.

Commissioner Lick **MOVED TO END CLOSED SESSION AND RE-OPEN MEETING AND TAKE ACTION AS DIRECTED FROM THE CLOSED SESSION.** Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

ROLL CALL VOTE.

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Amanda Lick, Ami Van Antwerp, Mary

Nardo-Farris

NAYS: None

Chair Nardo-Farris ended the closed session at 6:45 pm.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **May 9, 2023** at ~~the Meridian Service Center~~, 4:30 pm.
Due to renovations at the Meridian Senior Center, the May Park Commission meeting place was amended to take place **May 9, 2023**, Harris Nature Center, 4:30 pm.