



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Service Center Meeting Room
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 4:30pm**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Commissioner Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Michael McDonald
ABSENT: Commissioner, Mark Stephens
STAFF: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jennifer Soria, Land Stewardship Assistant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Farris called the meeting to order at **4:35 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Commissioner Ami VanAntwerp, Commissioner Amanda Lick, Commissioner Michael McDonald and Chair Mary Nardo-Farris were present. Commissioner Stephens excused absent.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Introduction of Parks and Recreation – Land Stewardship Assistant temporary staff, Jennifer Soria to Commissioners.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2024**. Seconded by Commissioner VanAntwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. July Stewardship Calendar: Director Wisinski reviewed the Stewardship calendar and Commissioners discussed the Trailside Ecology Saturday events and their interest in hearing more about how the Trailside Ecology events are designed. Commissioner Lick discussed the importance of outreach and education regarding invasive/native species, signage and the community. Director Wisinski updated the Commissioners on the Heron Creek land transfer from developer to Land Preservation. The transfer has been completed and stewardship plans are being developed.
- B. July Snell Towar Calendar: Director Wisinski updated the Commissioners on upcoming events. She stated that the puzzle competitions are very well attended, and participants have a lot of fun.

Commissioners were interested in introducing new games, for example air hockey, and other amenities for the Snell Towar Recreational Center.

Commissioner Lick moved **TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE**. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2025 Budget Priorities

Director Wisinski provided Commissioners with a draft proposed projects, the Capital Improvement Plan project outline and proposed budget for each project and other operational costs (not including salaries or administrative costs). Director Wisinski will update the documents once the Township Manager has reviewed the budget requests. Chair Nardo-Farris requested a combined CIP/proposed project list with years.

The Commissioners would prefer to begin budget discussion in April/May each year to review the CIP and allow for enough time for input from Park Commission. Director Wisinski and Chair Nardo-Farris will ensure 2025 budget discussions begin in April/May moving forward. After the budget has been approved, discussions with Commissioners will continue.

Commissioner Lick would like to consider a community survey and update the CIP respectively.

Commissioner Lick would like to develop a New Board Member Orientation that includes, but not limited to, Project, Communication, and Status.

Commissioner VanAntwerp suggested having a Commissioner serve as a Township Board liaison. Commissioner Lick added that Commissioners could begin attending Board meetings to stay apprised of township activities and advocate for the Park Commission goals. Chair Nardo-Farris suggested prioritizing and assigning a point person from the Park Commission to Boards and Commissioner and requested for a list of Boards and Commissions for the August 13, 2024 regular meeting.

Commissioner Lick suggested that we develop a list of Park Events and provide quarterly updates and Commissioner McDonald supported this idea.

8. ACTION ITEMS

None

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wisinski updated the Commissioners on the Red Cedar Water Trail Project. She shared the most recent Ingham County Parks and Trails (ICPT) Grant status. ICPT has given approval for the three grant entities (Williamston, Williamstown Township and Meridian Township) to borrow against their conditional \$50,000 grant match to continue maintenance on the water trail. Meridian Township has committed \$15,000 annually to increase navigability within the Red Cedar, Williamston and Williamstown Twp have both committed \$2,500 annually. Commissioners requested Red Cedar Waterway photos. Commissioner Lick requested to be the Red Cedar Water Trail Commission liaison.

10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
NONE

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS
NONE

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
None

13. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at **7:00 pm.**

The next scheduled meeting is **August 13, 2024**, at the Service Center Meeting Room, 4:30 pm.

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Parks & Recreation Director, Courtney Wisinski: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett