



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY JULY 8, 2014
TOWN HALL ROOM



WORK SESSION 6 PM

(salmon)

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. 2015 Budget
4. Park Millage Update
5. Other
6. Public Comment
7. Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Presentations
 - Eagle Scout Project Final Report – Legg Park reset bridge – Eagle Scout Candidate Thomas Laub
 - Harris Nature Center Nature Exploration Area – Kit Rich
4. Public Comment
5. Commissioner Reports and Comments
6. Approval of Minutes (blue)
 - a. June 28, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - b. June 28, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. Communications (tan)

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Park Commission by writing or calling the following: Township Manager Frank Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-853-4250) - Ten days notice required.

8. **Director's Report** (yellow)
9. **New Business** (pink)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Eagle Scout Business (if needed)
10. **Unfinished Business** (green)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.
11. **Other Business** (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.
12. **Discussion Items** (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Park Millage Ballot Proposal
13. **Final Comments**
14. **Announcements**
 - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 Town Hall
 - b. Farmers' Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays; 8 am - 2 pm; Central Park
 - c. Van Atta Road closed from Grand River south to bridge; access to Harris Nature Center from Jolly Road OPEN
15. **Public Remarks**
16. **Closed Session**
17. **Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting
July 8, 2014

4. PRESENTATIONS

- Harris Nature Center Nature Exploration Area
– Kit Rich



VIRIDIS
Design Group
ILLUSTRATION • CONCEPT DESIGN



HARRIS NATURE CENTER NATURE EXPLORATION AREA

Meridian Township, Michigan

9.26.13

CHARACTER SKETCH

Park Commission Meeting
July 8, 2014

6. MINUTES

- a. June 24, 2014 Work Session Minutes
- b. June 24, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens (6:01 pm), Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Director Maisner summarized the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meeting process where the Wonch Park Pathway will be presented. Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway has worked with Planning Staff to incorporate the ZBA's concerns with the placement of the pathway throughout the Park. Staff believed the original plan was less intrusive and with less impact on existing trees and foliage but the ZBA did not agree. Staff believes the original plan should stand because Wonch Park was in place prior to changes in the current Ordinance and it should be grandfathered in. It was also noted that Development of Environment Quality (DEQ) has approved the original plan and issued a permit for work within the floodway of the Park.

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Under #4, Other, add new #4a, Park Millage discussion, and #4b, ZBA Wonch Park Pathway presentation

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the agenda as amended.

3. Interviews for Open position on Park Commission

Park Commission member Marilyn Aronoff submitted her resignation effective June 1, 2014. A call for interested persons was made in the Towne Courier and on the Township Website. Three persons submitted forms to the Township Clerk's office.

The Commission conducted face to face interviews with each of the three candidates: Shane Goodale, Tassi Miller and Mike MacDonald. Each candidate was asked a prepared list of questions in an effort to learn more about them.

4. Other

a. Park Millage discussion

Due to the lateness in the meeting, this item was tabled to the regular meeting agenda.

b. ZBA Wonch Park Pathway presentation

This item was discussed briefly prior to the commencement of the meeting and due to the lateness in the work session; further discussion on this item was tabled to the regular meeting agenda.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 8 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson (left at 9 pm)
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 8:02 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Remove item #9 New Business, #a, Eagle Scout Project Presentation by
Thomas Laub. This item will be on the next meeting agenda.

Move agenda item #9 New Business, #b, Eagle Scout Project Presentation North
Meridian Road Park proposed boardwalk by Ryan Nussdorfer to item #3

Add new item #10 Unfinished Business, #a Orlando Park improvements

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

3. Presentations/New Business

a. Eagle Scout Project Presentation – North Meridian Road Park proposed
boardwalk

Eagle Scout Candidate Ryan Nussdorfer proposed constructing a 12'x6'
boardwalk in North Meridian Road Park in three (3) sections (see distributed
plan). He has reviewed the plan with Parks and Land Management
Coordinator Greenway, who suggested the project, but has not meet with
Facilities Superintendent Antone yet but will if project is approved. Concerns
expressed by Commissioners: needs to be wide enough for mowing
equipment; may need to look at ramp approach (wooden decking versus use
of gravel and/or rocks for stabilization); use of hot dipped galvanized screws;
having it close to the ground so the water goes over it instead of under it (it
will be like his brother's project in the same area); suggested one or two of
the posts could be higher to add a blue bird box to it; great addition to the
park.

Candidate Nussdorfer stated he will be fundraising for the project costs; he needs to present the project idea to the Scout Council and if approved, would like to begin construction soon with plans to complete the project by the end of July.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Stephens reported the June Fishing Derby was well attended and Intern Brad Arnett did a great job. It was a lot of fun. He is currently working on a planting project along the buffer strip around the Central Park pond. He is incorporating this into a Grand Learning Network training session and will utilize the proposed butterfly garden as part of the project with the instructors. He has talked with three schools who will each be receiving a \$400 grant in the fall for plants. He also spoke with the Land Preservation Advisory Board about their participating with purchase and planting of the plants to create a seed bank for the land preserves (growing and studying them in this area and in the future, harvesting and relocating the plants to land preserves). This will be an educational tool including signage and onsite teaching sessions and learning about the monarch butterflies with Kalamazoo Nature Center. This project can also keep the geese from coming onto the lawn once it comes in. This is a two to three year self-sustaining project with some maintenance monitoring of invasives. The Meridian Garden Club and Okemos Kiwanis have also volunteered to assist. He will bring additional information to the next meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. May 13, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes – page 1, the url address is www.yesformeridianparks.com
- b. May 13, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes – no corrections

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER BANAS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MAY 13, 2014 WORK SESSION MINUTES AS AMENDED AND THE MAY 31, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Larry Harb; Red Cedar National (Natural) Area wish list projects
2. From: Mark Kieselbach; To: Township Board; RE: 2005 Master Plan Goals and Objectives
3. From: James Wessinger; To: Associate Planner Brown; RE: Zoning Board of Appeals #14-05-28-1 (Meridian Township)—concerns with proposed pathway location

4. From: P. David Fisher; To: Associate Planner Brown; RE: Zoning Board of Appeals #14-05-28-1 (Meridian Township)—had questions and comments
5. To: Legg Park Neighbors; From: Jane Greenway; RE: summer park maintenance activities in Legg Park
6. From: Bruce Cohen; RE: Meridian Township Birds
7. Kiwanis Club of Haslett and Student Leadership Programs Day of Caring event on Saturday, June 21 in Orlando Park at 10 am

B. Commission Information

1. June Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Tree Climber play activity
3. Lansing State Journal: **April 20:** Friends of Historic Meridian (nonprofit spotlight)
4. Towne Courier: **March 30:** Fishing guru honored by state assoc; Harris Nature Center offers native plants; You can build song bird box March 30; Stories in the Garden at HNC will occur April 8; Look for wildflowers at HNC April 22; Meridian Twp to host community clean-up; **April 6:** Stories in the Garden at HNC to take place April 22; **April 13:** Preschoolers can explore amphibians at HNC; Stories in the Garden at HNC; Walkers to see wildflowers; Look for wildflowers at HNC April 22; HNC offers badge for Scouts; **April 13:** Community clean-up April 19; Meridian Twp hosts Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt; **April 20:** Celebrate trees at HNC April 26; **April 27:** Stories in the Garden at HNC; **May 4:** Garden Club plant sale May 16; **May 11:** Meridian Garden Club plant sale set for May 16; Forage for frogs at HNC May 31; Preschoolers discover insects at nature center; Enjoy bird watching May 25

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. From: Richard Brown, Meridian Township Associate Planner; RE: ZBA Case No. 14-15-28-1 / Wonch Park – 4555 Okemos Road – proposed pathway variance request denial

When asked how other communities are managing fallen trees in wooded community parks, Director Maisner reported she sent an inquiry out through the National Recreation and Park Association website and Nick Sanchez is also researching the issue as he has a forestry background. It was suggested to speak with Anthony Witherspool, DNR Urban Forestry Program about ash tree lumber removal.

8. **Director's Report**

Director Maisner distributed her Director's report and due to the lateness of the meeting hour summarized the following: Parks and Grounds Division Lead Worker Scot Stillman will be retiring on August 14; Steve Brunner will be working on the bicycle pump track in Eastgate Park; and although the canoe landing will be constructed by the Ingham County Road Department, the handicap accessibly

access improvements will be completed by the Township after its construction by the Road Department.

a. Wonch Park Pathway

1. May 28, 2014: Zoning Board of Appeals

- a. Meeting for variance (variance is needed for work within a 50 foot water features setback from the Red Cedar River and for those areas where the proposed pathway enters the required 25 foot natural vegetation strip that is part of the setback from the river). The ZBA denied the variances. We plan to return to the ZBA on July 9 with a revised plan that will be acceptable to the ZBA.

2. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Permit

- a. Approved

b. Legg Park

1. Entry Drive:

- a. Working with Engineering Department for design plans and specs. Hope to complete work this summer. The entry drive improvements will include the replacement of two culverts, one of which will be replaced by the Ingham Dept of Roads.

2. Erosion – site restoration project (Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve)

- a. Staff and the Ingham Co Drain Comm visited the land preserve and park for a final punch list walk through. The stream that crosses Legg is dry, as it is designed to be. The design is functioning well and we only lost one out of the 52 trees that were planted.

c. Historical Village

1. Meridian Garden Club conducted their garden clean up and planting on May 19. The irrigation is operational and the gardens look gorgeous. There are always visitors in the Village and on the fishing dock. A fishing derby was held on June 7 and 55 people attended. Largest fish was 9-1/2" and the most caught were 30 fish
2. Monarch Garden: On hold until 2015

d. Newton Road Park

1. Ready to bid work for gravel driveway, landscaping and fencing.

e. Orlando Park Maintenance

1. June 21, Haslett Kiwanis Club and Student Leadership Programs "Day of Caring" at the park from 10 am – noon. The volunteers weeded, spread mulch, planted flowers, and clear the trail to Mud Lake (on park property). Hot dogs and snacks were provided.

- f. **Salmon-in-the-classroom:** Salmon releases were held at Ferguson Park and at Legg Park. Hundreds of salmon were released and almost 200 kids participated, over the course of three days.

- g. **Snell Towar Recreation Center – Break ins – working with Police Department**
- h. **Brush Pick-up – is finally complete**
- i. **Eastgate Park**
 - 1. Bicycle pump track – working with Ingham Co Dept of Roads to move excess soil from the Davis/Foster Preserve to Eastgate Park, for the purpose of enhancing the pump track
 - 2. **Church Volunteer Groups:** met with pastors from New Hope, St Lukes, and Faith Lutheran. Planning a church group volunteer park makeover project for Sept 6. Different churches can work on different parks. Park Pick-up Palooza
- j. **Harris Nature Center**
 - 1. **Memorial Tree:** Planted a beautiful, large, sugar maple in memory of a former Okemos resident, Yousun Lee, who loved the center. The tree and plaque were paid for by Michael Moore and the Nancy Moore Park Beautification fund. Yousun's family from Korea attended a beautiful memorial. HNC foundation members provided refreshments.
 - 2. **Natural Exploration Area:**
 - 3. Volunteers mulched under turtle and are beginning plans for gravel pathway that will lead to individual natural play elements. Received \$5000 grant from Jackson National Life.
 - 4. **Canoe Landing –** I have been working with Ingham County Road Department and the contractor on the design of the canoe landing. It will be 20'x8' in size. Once constructed, we will need to construct an accessible pathway to the dock.
- k. **UPCOMING EVENTS**
 - 1. July 4 – Fireworks in Central Park – no pre-events
 - 2. June 18 and 25 – Music in the Park in Historical Village
 - 3. July 2 – Farmers Market summer Market begins Saturdays and Wednesdays, 8am-2pm

9. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. **Eagle Scout Project Final Report** – Legg Park reset bridge – Eagle Scout Candidate Thomas Laub

This item was removed from the agenda.

- b. **Eagle Scout Project Presentation** – North Meridian Road Park proposed boardwalk – Eagle Scout Candidate Ryan Nussdorfer

COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED PLAN TO CONSTRUCT A BOARDWALK IN NORTH MERIDIAN ROAD PARK AFTER HE HAS DISCUSSED CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS WITH FACILITIES SUPERINTENDENT DENNIS ANTONE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

- c. **Park Commissioner Recommendation**

Commissioners discussed the results of the interviews conducted during the work session.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER BANAS SECONDED, TO RECOMMEND MIKE MCDONALD TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE PARK COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM OF OFFICE HELD BY FORMER COMMISSIONER ARONOFF.

Roll Call:

AYES: Mark Stephens, Melanie Jaramillo, Teri Banas, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

10. Unfinished Business (green)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. **Orlando Park Improvements**

Commissioner Banas stated the cleanup last weekend was attended by nine people and expressed her appreciation for Nick Sanchez coming out to cook hotdogs and also assisting with the cleanup.

Discussion:

- Weeded the right side of the sidewalk, leave the area natural and plant more butterfly weed
- Remove the black plastic
- Need to shrink the flower bed on the right side
- Need to spray the thistle

- Appreciate the hydro-seeding but it may have been too late in the season and need to do again; want the area to be like a lawn
- Kiwanis Club volunteers will go out again in the fall and asked staff to send out a press release, send out a email asking for volunteers
- Director Maisner asked to have communications forwarded to Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway for coordination

11. Other Business (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. Discussion Items (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Park Millage Ballot Proposal

Commissioner Banas distributed an information sheet outlining projects that need to be completed. Commissioners discussed the projects and assignments were made.

13. Final Comments

None

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2014 Town Hall
- b. Farmers' Market – Saturdays 8am-2 pm Central Park
- c. Van Atta Road closed from Grand River south to bridge; access to Harris Nature Center from Jolly Road

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

None

17. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair Banas adjourned the regular meeting at 9:45 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

July 8, 2014

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Barb Scott; RE: thank you for attending group meeting
2. To: Eckhart Dersch; From: Nick Sanchez; RE: Red Cedar Preserve
3. To: Cheryl Loudon, Troop Leader, Junior Girl Scout Troop 30219; RE: Thank you for landscaping Snell Towar Recreation Center
4. To: Helen Tanner; RE: landscape plan in the Historical Village
5. From: Norval Burgett; RE: thank you to staff for Celebrate Downtown Okemos event

B. Commission Information

1. July Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Lansing State Journal: **July 2:** New Island park celebrates opening
3. Towne Courier: **June 1:** Meridian Fishing Derby to be held; Register now for track and field meet; **June 8:** Insect Safari with Dad at Harris Nature Center June 15; Take a guided walk June 13 at nature center; Community band's music in park series to kick off June 18; Meridian to fall vacancy on Park Commission; **June 15:** Music in the Park summer series starts June 18; HNC offers preschool nature camps June 24-27; Outdoor Adventures Camp at HNC June 23-26; **June 22:** Campfire program at HNC June 28; One-day nature camps at HNC in July being offered; Outdoor Adventures Camp at HNC June 23-26; HNC offers preschool nature camps; **June 29:** HNC offers preschool nature camp; Toddler nature camps at HNC; One-day nature camps at HNC on offer; Guided evening walk for people dogs July 11

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

5-14

Fulham -

Thank you for joining our
Keenager group today. I hope
you enjoyed yourself as much
as we enjoyed having you.
Your presentation gives us a
greater appreciation of Meridian
Township's parks.

Barb Scott



Jane Greenway

From: Nicholas Sanchez
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 3:52 PM
To: Eckhart Dersch
Cc: Jane Greenway
Subject: RE: Red Cedar Preserve

Hi Eckhart,

Thank you very much for keeping an eye on the garlic mustard movements and pulling what you can. I was able to spray garlic mustard at North Meridian, Ted Black Woods, and a portion of Brattin Woods today. Just for your information, before spraying at North Meridian I took a quick walk through the trails to see if I could spot any garlic mustard elsewhere. I found a few small patches along prairie pass, and a rather large patch near the western most point of savanna loop. I sprayed those as well as near the sledding hill. I will return to each of these spots in the fall if the weather cooperates (before the leaves cover them up). And again next spring.

I intend to head back out on Thursday to make it to Meridian Riverfront. Spraying this time of year is not ideal, but keeping the pressure down and the nozzle properly adjusted, I can control the drift pretty well and avoid excessive drip.

Thanks again for all of your hard work!

-Nick

From: Eckhart Dersch [mailto:dersch@anr.msu.edu]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 11:01 AM
To: Jane Greenway
Cc: Nicholas Sanchez
Subject: RE: Red Cedar Preserve

Hi Jane and Nick,

There is not much that Nick can do at the flagged sites in the Red Cedar Preserve - the GM is all pulled for now. However, there are other sites where spraying is badly needed if it is not already too late in the season, as other plants are actively growing and would be killed.

One hot area is west of the sledding hill at North Meridian Park. Although this park is in pretty good shape overall at this time, walkers and animals will spread the seeds around the park in pretty short order if we don't eliminate this hot spot.

Another area where control is paramount is in Legg Park west of the creek. If we can hold the line there, we can prevent the GM from spreading into the western part of the park and into Red Cedar Preserve. If the GM can be removed from the area between the creek and the trail leading to the RR track and also from the RR track embankment itself, I think we will significantly improve our chances of control there. Then, when we have teams of GM pullers on the scheduled work days, they can begin working eastward from the creek, sweeping toward the power line to clear this area.

Then comes the massive job of shrinking the huge infestation in Legg between the power line and VanAtta Road. This will require several years of spraying early in the year before the other plants are sprouting.

There are also several places along trails in Eastgate where colonies are starting. I pulled lots of GM there last year, but I am sure it is continuing to grow this year. This too, would be a great area for hand labor.

GM in Central Park is out of control in several areas where spraying is the only hope. But here too, I think it is already too late in the year to spray because other plants are already growing. Very helpful would be volunteers who can walk the park trails and pull the isolated plants along trails and the smaller newly established colonies.

Ted Black Woods is in pretty good shape too, but we must keep after the GM that keeps sprouting between the Grand River Ave. entrance and the loop trail. If we are not careful, walkers will track the seed throughout the park from this area.

With some effort I think the GM can be knocked down in all of our parks while we work a whittling down the major zones in Legg, North Meridian, and Central.

Hope this helps.

Eck

I hope this gives you some idea where Nick can spray and where volunteers can make a big difference.

From: Jane Greenway [greenway@meridian.mi.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:11 AM
To: Eckhart Dersch
Cc: Nicholas Sanchez
Subject: RE: Red Cedar Preserve

Hi Eck,

Thank you for your hard work. We will have Nick Sanchez check out the flagged sites and determine if he should spray or not. And I will pass this note along to the LPAB.

FYI, the engineer, LPAB, ICDC, are meeting at the Red Cedar Glen next Wednesday, May 21 at 9 am for a final walk through/punch list. Hope you can join us. I haven't been out there in a while so I'm interested in seeing how everything is growing.

Jane

From: Eckhart Dersch [mailto:dersch@anr.msu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 7:00 PM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: Red Cedar Preserve

Hi Jane,

Please relay the following information to the Land Preservation Advisory Board:

On Wednesday, May 14, I spent a few hours in the Red Cedar Preserve for a second time this spring to inventory the status of garlic mustard in this property.

1. The three 8 to 12 foot diameter colonies discovered a few years ago and which I pulled several times since then are now reduced to just a few plants emerging from residual seed.
2. Three new colonies were discovered today. One had a 16 foot diameter and other two were in the 6 to 10 foot range.
3. I flagged all six sites and pulled out all of the visible plants, resulting in 1 1/2 garbage bags of the weed.

My observation is that with just a little bit of continuing diligence, we can keep the Red Cedar Preserve almost entirely free of garlic mustard. I suggest combing the property three or more times each year and removing any GM plants found. The residual seeds will keep germinating for up to nine years.

And because people and deer will track seeds in from off-site (there are huge monocultures of the weed south of the railroad track and in Legg Park), finding and pulling the weed will be a continuing necessity. However, the LPAB can be proud to be able to point out that garlic mustard in this property continues to be under control and is not expanding at this time.

Eckhart

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Supervisor
Brett Dreyfus Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Frank L. Walsh Manager



Milton L. Scales Trustee
Ronald J. Styka Trustee
John Veenstra Trustee
Angela Wilson Trustee

June 10, 2014

Cheryl Loudon, Troop Leader
Junior Girl Scout Troop 30219
6083 Rutherford Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48823

Dear Mrs. Loudon and Troop 30219:

WOW, what an accomplishment! The Snell-Towar Recreation Center landscaping looks beautiful. We greatly appreciate your efforts and I am certain that the neighbors do too. Thank you for thinking of Meridian Township parks when you considered dedicating your time and effort toward a volunteer activity.

I hope you had an enjoyable time last Sunday. The weather conditions were perfect and the teamwork outstanding. We look forward to watching the gardens develop over the summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane L. Greenway".

Jane L. Greenway, RLA
Parks and Land Management Coordinator



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Supervisor
Brett Dreyfus Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Frank L. Walsh Manager



Milton L. Scales Trustee
Ronald J. Styka Trustee
John Veenstra Trustee
Angela Wilson Trustee

June 25, 2014

Mrs. Helen Tanner
Meridian Garden Club
5755 Green Road
Haslett, MI 48840

Dear Mrs. Tanner,

I enjoyed speaking with you today about Meridian Township's future plans for the landscaping in the Historical Village. It was very interesting to learn so much about your history and dedication to the township. The gardens around the buildings are absolutely beautiful and of course this is all a result of many days of hard work from members of the Meridian Garden Club.

One thing that is needed in the Village is more shade. Although we have not drawn up formal landscape plans, our intention is to plant future trees along the existing paved walkways to provide more shade for park visitors. In 2014 we planted three large deciduous trees along the paved pathway to honor our 2013 park volunteers. Our plan is to keep this tradition going for the purpose of eventually developing a shaded promenade through the Village.

With that said, there are many places within the village and other parts of Central Park that are in need of shade. We have lost many ash trees in the recent years and the time has come for some replacements. The river birch that was planted to celebrate Arbor Day in 2014 is a beautiful addition to the fishing dock area and although it is not native, it is thriving and provides a lot of visual appeal with its tree bark, its catkins, and the leaves. Of course we all know that native species are best, so perhaps this year we can all work together to find a native tree that is tolerant to our conditions and also to our hungry deer.

We look forward to working with you again to improve and maintain the beautiful gardens in the village.

Yours truly,

Jane L. Greenway, RLA
Parks and Land Management Coordinator

cc: Jane Rose, Director Meridian Historical Village
Susan Leahy, President, Meridian Garden Club

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

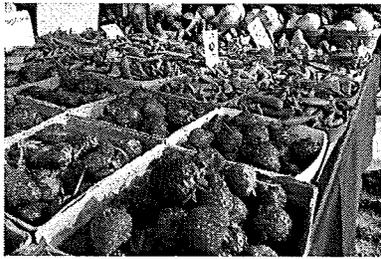
www.meridian.mi.us



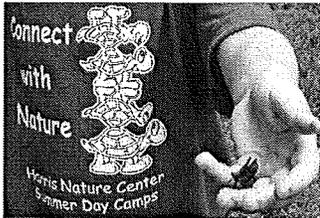
Meridian Township Parks & Recreation

July Calendar of Events

- July 1 – Cool Critters Camp
- July 1 – Insect Adventures Camp
- July 1 – Animal Webs Camp
- July 1 – Rock Hounds Camp



- July 2 – Summer/Fall Farmers Market** begins
- July 2 – Animal Seekers Camp
- July 2 – Following Tracks and Traces Camp
- July 2 – Wildlife Explorers Camp
- July 3 – Turtle Time Camp
- July 3 – Snakes Alive! Camp
- July 3 – Wilderness Child Camp
- July 4 – Meridian July 4th Fireworks Celebration**
- July 4 - Lake Lansing Band Shell – Meridian Community Band**
- July 7 – Tee Fore Toddlers (ages 3-4) Golf Camp
- July 7 – Youth and Adult Summer Introduction to Target Archery Registration Deadline



- July 8 – Insect Adventures Camp
- July 8 – Animal Webs Camp
- July 8 – Rock Hounds Camp
- July 9 – Nature Explorers Camp

- July 9 – Animal Seekers Camp
- July 9 – Meridian Historical Village Music in the Park – Pooh & Jim and The Grand River Bank**
- July 9 – Following Tracks and Traces Camp
- July 9 – Wildlife Explorers Camp
- July 10 – Turtle Time Camp
- July 10 – Snakes Alive! Camp
- July 10 – Tee Fore Toddlers (ages 5-6) Golf Camp
- July 10 – Wilderness Child Camp

- July 11 – Howl at the Moon**
- July 11 – Lake Lansing Band Shell – Soultown Band**
- July 12 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class**

- July 12 – Summer Campfire Series: Thunder Moon**
- July 14 – Sporties for Shorties Camp
- July 14 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class



- July 15 – My Cub and I Summer Camp
- July 15 – Timber Tots Summer Camp
- July 15 – Bug Buddies Camp

- July 15 – Wet and Wild Camp
- July 15 – Reptiles and Amphibians Camp
- July 16 – Meridian Historical Village Music in the Park – Twilight Memories**
- July 18 – Lake Lansing Community Band Shell – Sudden Impact**
- July 18 – Okemos K - 8th Grade Boys and Girls Soccer League Registration Deadline**
- July 18 – 4 on 4 Adult Summer/Fall Sand Volleyball League Registration Deadline**
- July 18 – Co-Ed Adult Kickball League Registration Deadline**
- July 19 – HNC Stewardship Mornings**
- July 19 – Summer Campfire Series: Animal Songs and Sounds**
- July 20 – Meridian Sun Junior Academy One-Week Golf Camp**
- July 21 – Adult Fall Softball League Registration Deadline

- July 22 – Fur, Feathers, Scales and Slime Camp
- July 22 – Amazing Animals Camp
- July 22 – Things with Wings Camp
- July 22 – Counselor-in-Training Camp
- July 23 – Meridian Historical Village Music in the Park – Raw Brass and Bridges to Choro**
- July 25 – Lake Lansing Band Shell – Sea Cruisers**
- July 26 – Summer Campfire Series: Canine Friends**
- July 27 – Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace**
- July 28 – Sporties for Shorties Camp
- July 28 – Youth and Adult Summer Introduction to Air Rifle Registration Deadline
- July 29 – Nature Explorers Camp
- July 29 – Nature's Artists Camp
- July 29 – Nature's Artists II Camp
- July 29 – CSI: Critter Scene Investigation Camp
- July 30 – Meridian Historical Village Music in the Park – Jackson French Quarter Dixeland Band and Tom & Mary**
- July 31 – Cool Critters Camp

- July 31 – Feathery Friends Camp
- July 31 – Grossology Camp
- July 31 – Earth Friends Camp



Questions, call Meridian Township Parks & Recreation at (517) 853-4600

New island park celebrates opening

Dimondale effort took at least 10 years

By Will Kangas
wkangas@lsj.com

DIMONDALE — After at least 10 years of planning and fundraising, Danford Island Park is ready for visitors.

And village residents and kayakers have come, said Village Manager Denise Parisian, even before the park's official Monday dedication.

"The response has been tremendous," Parisian said. "People are using the park every day and we have been getting compliments consistently."

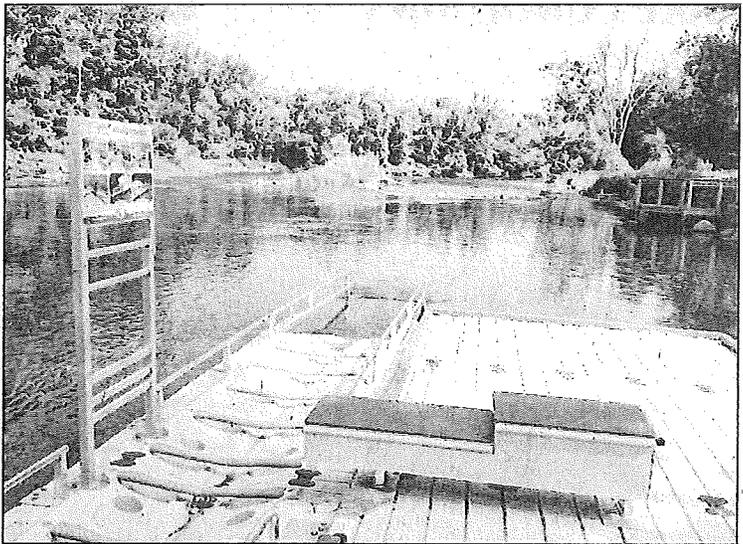
The park's 14 acres include a nature trail, boat launch, overlook and benches for scenic views of the Grand River.

The \$240,000 project was a work in progress since 2004, Parisian said. An early accomplishment was removing the old dam from the river in 2006.

"Since then we've been doing whatever we can to raise funds, from selling snow cones to applying for state grants," she said.

Parisian said because of the huge positive response, preparations for a second phase are already underway.

"We look forward to trying to



A boat launch was part of the upgrades to Danford Island Park. Donations and a state grant helped pay for the village park. LCN

secure state grants and to develop the park further," she said.

Plans include a large gazebo for weddings and other events.

"Ever since we opened the park we've had multiple requests to hold weddings there," she said. "So that will be our next priority along with a restroom facility."

Parisian said even though it has taken a long time to get the park completed, it was done without raising taxes.

"This was truly a grass roots

effort," she said. "But we couldn't have done it without a generous donation from Mister Danford."

Village resident George Danford's donation along with a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund paid for a majority of the cost.

"The next phase is something we are going start working on right away," Parisian said. "Based on the response from the community we have started something special and want to keep it that way."

July 2, 2014 LST

Continued from Page 2A

Meridian Fishing Derby to be held

The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department will host their eighth annual Meridian Fishing Derby for kids ages 5-16 on Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Central Park Pond in the Meridian Historical Village.

This event is held in conjunction with Michigan Department of Natural Resources "Free Fishing Weekend" allowing all residents and visitors to Michigan to fish without a license. Although a license is not required for the event, individuals planning on fishing this summer are encouraged to purchase a state fishing license.

Some poles will be available on site at the event on a first come, first serve basis. Prizes will be awarded for the largest, second largest and smallest fish.

For more information, visit www.meridian.mi.us or

follow the Parks and Recreation Department on social media.

Register now for track and field meet

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the Hershey Track and Field local meet, to be held on Friday, June 13, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Haslett High School track. Pre-registration is required by Friday, June 6. This free event is open to youth that will be between the ages of 9 and 14 as of Dec. 31, 2014. Winners of the local meet qualify for the state meet on June 27 at Holt High School. Events offered are the 50, 100 and 200-meter dash; and the 400, 800, 1,600 meter run and 4x100 meter relay. Field events are standing long jump and softball throw.

For more information, contact Greg Grothous at (517) 853-4616 or grothous@meridian.mi.us.

Insect Safari with Dad at Harris Nature June 15

Children and adults will be connecting with nature on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15 at 3 p.m. during the Insect Safari with Dad at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee due at the time of the program which is open to all ages.

Towne Courier • Sunday, June 8, 2014

Take a guided walk June 13 at nature center

Enjoy the full moon while taking a guided walk through the moonlit woods of the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, on Friday, June 13 at 9 p.m. Dogs are welcome and the group meets in the parking lot. The fee for the walk is \$3/person due at the time of the walk. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or (517) 349-3866.

QUICK HITS

COMMUNITY BAND'S MUSIC IN PARK SERIES TO KICK OFF JUNE 18

The Meridian Community Band kicks off Meridian Historical Village's Music in the Park series with a free concert on Wednesday, June 18 at 7 p.m.

Musical director Carolyn Sherrill promises an evening of American music including toe tapping marches, Broadway tunes, folk songs, rock and roll, spirituals and patriotic favorites.

Featured soloist James Finch will sing "You Raise Me Up," "Can't Help Falling in Love" and Irving Berlin's "God Bless America." Music lovers are reminded to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Popcorn, ice cream and lemonade are available on site for a minimal fee.

10A • Sunday, June 8, 2014 • Towne Courier

Meridian to fill vacancy on Parks Commission

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP — A member Meridian Township Park Commission has resigned, creating a vacancy that must be filled within 45 days, under township ordinance.

Marilyn Aronoff, who resigned effective June 1, was serving a second, four-year term that concludes in 2016. Each member is elected by a public vote.

The five-member Park Commission will consider a replacement for the remainder of her term and make a recommendation to the Meridian Township Board for final action, said LuAnn Maisner, director of the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department.

Those interested in applying for the vacan-

cy must be township residents and at least 18 years old.

Applicants may be encouraged to complete an Application for Public Service available at www.meridian.mi.us/ forms or send a letter of interest and resume to Maisner@meridian.mi.us or to Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department, 2100 Gaylord Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840.

The process the Park Commission will use to "evaluate" applications and candidates will be discussed at the next Park Commission meeting on June 10.

A special meeting will be called to evaluate applicants in late June in order to place a recommendation before the township board at its July 1 scheduled meeting.

— From the Charter Township of Meridian

Music in the Park summer series starts June 18

OKEMOS — The Music in the Park summer concert series will be held Wednesdays from June 18-July 30 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Meridian Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos.

The Music in the Park summer concerts have been a staple in Meridian Township for over 20 years.

Families, couples and friends enjoy local musical talent in a beautiful park setting. Every season is a little bit different, with opportunities for new talent to find an audience. Bring a blanket, lawn chair and a picnic supper.

Popcorn, ice cream and

lemonade are available for a minimal fee. Concerts are free; donations are accepted.

The concert series is sponsored by the Friends of Historic Meridian, Meridian Township Park Commission and several local businesses and groups.

» June 18: Meridian Community Band

» June 25: Catbird Seat (Celtic, folk, vintage pop) and Hella and the Scatcats (jazz, folk and even Motown)

» July 9: Pooh and Jim (a mandolin and guitar duet) and The Grand River Band (folk, traditional and originals)

» July 16: Twilight

Memories (big band swing)

» July 23: Raw Brass (brass quintet) and Bridges to Choro (Brazil-

ian music)

» July 30: Jackson French Quarter Dixieland Band

— From Carolyn Sherrill

• Sunday, June 15, 2014 • Towne Courier

HNC offers preschool nature camps June 24-27

Preschool children will buddy up with bugs and animals of all types this summer at the Harris Nature Center (HNC), 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on June 24-27 and July 15-18 from 9 a.m.-noon. These four-day camps have a fee of \$65 and all campers will receive a camp t-shirt. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us. The camps will be repeated July 22-25 and Aug. 5-8. Registration for these camps is ongoing.

HNC is also holding two-day camps for preschoolers on July 1-2, July 9-10, July 29-30 and July 31-Aug. 1. Call or check the Meridian Township Web site for the themes and fees of these camps.

Outdoor Adventures Camp at HNC June 23-26

Every day is an adventure for campers when they attend the Outdoor Adventures Camp at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, the week of June 23-26. Camp meets at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday-Wednesday and 4-10 p.m. on Thursday so kids can explore the park at night, make supper and enjoy a campfire. The fee is \$125. All campers will receive a camp t-shirt. Campers must bring a sack lunch and should dress for the weather. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Campfire program at HNC June 28

Nothing says "Summer in Michigan" like an evening around the campfire. Enjoy one of the best parts of camping while staying close to home by attending the What's the Buzz? campfire program at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Saturday, June 28 at 7 p.m. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

One-day nature camps at HNC in July beng offered

If your camper's schedule doesn't permit a week of camp, they can still connect with nature at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, by participating in a one-day nature camp for children entering kindergarten through sixth grades during the weeks of July 1 and July 7. The camps meet from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and have a \$32 fee. All campers will receive a camp t-shirt. Campers must bring a sack lunch and should dress for the weather. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Outdoor Adventures Camp at HNC June 23-26

Every day is an adventure for campers when they attend the Outdoor Adventures Camp at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van

Atta Road in Meridian Township, the week of June 23-26. Camp meets at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday-Wednesday and 4-10 p.m. on Thursday so kids can explore the park at night, make supper and enjoy a campfire. The fee is \$125. All campers will receive a camp t-shirt. Campers must bring a sack lunch and should dress for the weather. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

HNC offers preschool nature camps

Preschool children will buddy up with bugs and animals of all types this summer at the Harris Nature Center (HNC), 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on June 24-27 and July 15-18 from 9 a.m.-noon. These four-day camps have a fee of \$65 and all campers will receive a camp t-shirt. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us. The camps will be repeated July 22-25 and Aug. 5-8. Registration for these camps is ongoing.

HNC is also holding two-day camps for preschoolers on July 1-2, July 9-10, July 29-30 and July 31-Aug. 1. Call or check the Meridian Township Web site for the themes and fees of these camps.

HNC offers preschool nature camp

Preschool children will buddy up with bugs and animals of all types this summer at the Harris Nature Center (HNC), 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on July 15-18 from 9 a.m.-noon. This four-day camp has a fee of \$65 and all campers will receive a camp t-shirt. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us. The camp will be repeated July 22-25 and Aug. 5-8. Registration for these camps is ongoing.

HNC is also holding two-day camps for preschoolers on July 1-2, July 9-10, July 29-30 and July 31-Aug. 1. Call or check the Meridian Township Web site for the themes and fees of these camps.

Toddler nature camps at HNC

Children 1-4 years old accompanied by an adult can connect with nature at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on July 15-18. In these programs, the naturalist will facilitate activities while the child and adult participate as a team. 3-4-year-olds will meet at 9-10 a.m. and 1-3-year-olds will meet at 11 a.m.-noon. These camps have a \$30 fee and all campers will receive a camp t-shirt. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us. The camps will be repeated the week of Aug. 5-8. Registration for these camps is ongoing.

One-day nature camps at HNC on offer

If your camper's schedule doesn't permit a week of camp, they can still connect with nature at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, by participating in a one-day nature camp for children entering kindergarten through sixth grades during the weeks of July 1 and July 7. The camps meet from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and have a \$32 fee. All campers will receive a camp t-shirt. Campers must bring a sack lunch and should dress for the weather. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Guided evening walk for people, dogs July 11

Enjoy the full moon while taking a guided walk through the moonlit woods of the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Friday, July 11 at 9 p.m. Dogs are welcome and the group meets in the parking lot. The fee is \$3/person due at the time of the walk. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or (517) 349-3866.