



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2016
TOWN HALL ROOM



WORK SESSION 6 PM
(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **CIP 2017 – 2022**
4. **Grant Proposals 2016 Projects**
5. **Doggie Playground Proposal**
6. **Comments**
7. **Adjournment**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations** (goldenrod)
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. January 21, 2016 Work Session Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)
8. **Director's Report**

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.

9. **New Business** (pink)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Doggie Playground Proposal
 - b. LEAP Request for Proposals of Public Art for Communities 2016
 - c. Projects for 2016 Grant Proposals
 - d. Set Public Hearing Date for Grant Proposals
 - e. Nancy Moore Park Sand Volleyball Court Improvement

10. **Unfinished Business** (green)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.

11. **Other Business** (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. March meeting location change - Central Fire Station Haslett/Okemos Community Meeting Room

12. **Discussion Items** (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.

13. **Final Comments**

14. **Announcements**
 - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016, Central Fire Station Haslett/Okemos Rotary Community Room, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos
 - b. Winter Farmers' Market – J C Penney Corridor, Meridian Mall, first and third Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm
 - c. Meridian Ice Fishing Derby – Saturday, February 13, 9 am – Noon, Central Park South Pond
 - d. Moonlight Sledding, Saturday, February 13, 6-8:30 pm; North Meridian Road Park, weather dependent
 - e. Animal Valentine Campfire, Saturday, February 13, 7 pm, Harris Nature Center
 - f. Howl at the Moon, Friday, February 19, 7 pm, Harris Nature Center
 - g. Moonlight Ski and Shoe, Saturday, February 20, 6-9 pm; Harris Nature Center
 - h. Family Special: Birds of Winter; Sunday, February 21, 3 pm; Harris Nature Center
 - i. Meridian Swims, Sunday, February 21, 6:30-8 pm; Michigan Athletic Club, space limited - pre-registration is required

15. **Public Remarks**

16. **Closed Session**

17. **Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting
February 9, 2016

WORK SESSION

CIP 2017 – 2022

Grant Proposals 2016 Projects

Doggie Playground Proposal

MEMORANDUM

2017-2022 CIP

TO: Park Commission

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 5, 2016

RE: 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Program

During the January 19, 2016 Work Session, the commission reviewed the proposed CIP proposal for 2017-2022. This exercise is important as it will help determine which projects should be targeted for grants. As discussed earlier, the Commission can budget between \$200,000 and \$300,000 per year for projects.

I look forward to reviewing these projects and discussing priorities.

Total Capital Projects per Park

February 5, 2016

Central Park	\$4,847,000	
Harris Nature Center	\$430,000	
Hillbrook Park	\$290,000	
Legg Park	\$250,000	
Marshall Park	\$165,000	
Meridian Riverfront Park	\$850,000	
Nancy Moore Park	\$220,000	
Newton Road Park	\$120,000	
Ottawa Hills Park	\$80,000	
Wonch Park	\$585,000	
Eastgate Park	\$ 50,000	
	Total Project Costs	\$7,887,000
	Estimated Funds Available	\$3,400,000

2017-2022 CIP Summary by Park/Year

January 13, 2016

Central Park Improvements

• Restroom Building	\$200,000	
• Bridge into Village	\$100,000	
• Promenade Pathway (A,C,D)	\$370,000	
• Covered Basketball/Ice Rink & Parking	\$500,000	
• Sculpture Garden	\$ 60,000 plus art	
• Overlook shelter, railing and path	\$ 80,000	
• Overlook dock	\$ 62,000	
• Pavilion and Sidewalks (Village)	\$275,000	
• Pavilion, Playground and Splash Pad	<u>\$400,000</u>	
	\$2,047,000	
2022	Other Projects and amenities in Master Plan	<u>\$2,800,000</u>
	Total	\$4,847,000

Harris Nature Center

Pavilion	\$150,000
Natural Playground	\$20,000
Restroom Building near HNC	\$200,000
Parking lot expansion	<u>\$60,000</u>
	\$430,000

Hillbrook

Tennis Court Renovation	\$100,000
Restroom Bldg.	\$150,000
Accessible Trails	<u>\$40,000</u>
	\$290,000

Legg Park

Pave Driveway	\$120,000
Dog Park	\$55,000
Expanded Parking	\$60,000
Habitat Improv	<u>\$15,000</u>
	\$250,000

Marshall Park

Accessible Playground	\$100,000
Paved Loop Trail	\$50,000
Parking improvements	\$10,000
Landscaping	<u>\$5,000</u>
	\$165,000

Meridian Riverfront Park Improvements

Pave/Boardwalk River Trail	<u>\$850,000</u>
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Nancy Moore Park

Accessible Playground	\$100,000
Pavilion	<u>\$120,000</u>
	\$220,000

Newton Road Park

Playground	\$80,000
Loop Trail	<u>\$40,000</u>
	\$120,000

Ottawa Hills Park

Playground	\$80,000
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Wonch Park

Restroom	\$250,000
Stream bank improvements	\$200,000
Accessible canoe landing	\$125,000
WiFi	<u>\$10,000</u>
	\$585,000

New – Eastgate Park

Pave Parking Lot	\$50,000
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MEMORANDUM

Dog Playground

TO: Park Commissioners
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation
DATE: February 5, 2016
RE: Dog Playground

During the January 19, 2016 Work Session, the Commission discussed a proposal to construct a "Doggie Playground" in Central Park across from the Service Center on Gaylord Smith Ct. This would be a specialty park for both large and small dogs approximately 2- acres in size with trails and agility equipment. This would be our first off-leash dog facility in Meridian and would provide an opportunity to foster relationships with our users to help determine next steps in creating other dog-friendly facilities in our community.

The proposed location is adjacent to the Parks and Recreation office making supervision and maintenance more manageable than at an off-site location. It's centrally located and not directly near a residential dwelling. Staff believes that it would be a good first step in the dog park process.

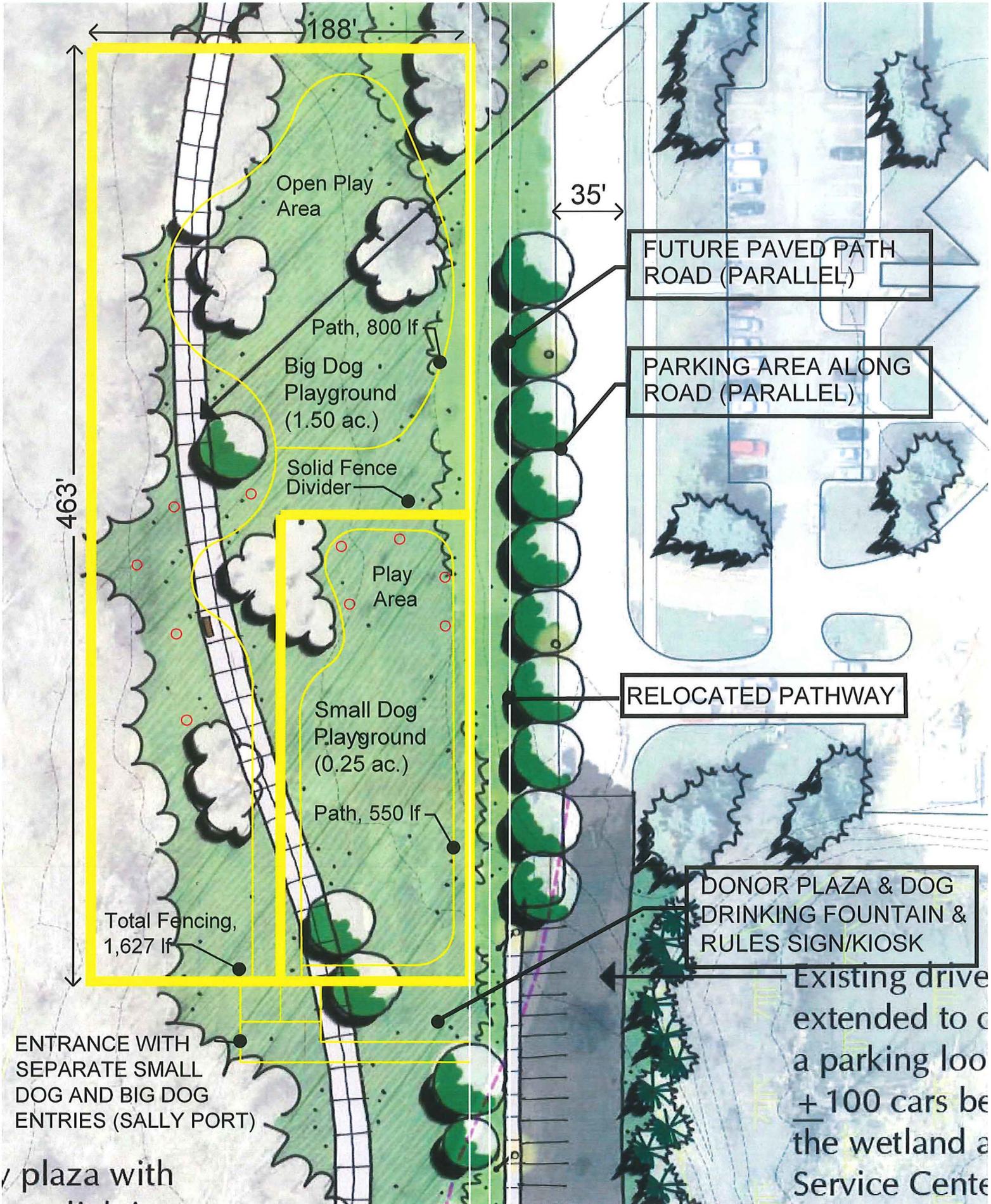
Motion for Consideration

MOVE TO BUILD A DOGGY PLAYGROUND IN CENTRAL PARK ADJACENT TO GAYLORD SMITH CT, HASLETT, APPROXIMATLEY 2-ACRES IN SIZE WITH BOTH LARGE AND SMALL DOG AREAS, TRAILS, AND AGILITY EQUIPMENT FOR AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$76,000 FUNEDED BY THE PARK MILLAGE.



**OPINION OF COST
CENTRAL PARK DOGGY PLAYGROUND
MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
5-Feb-16**

NO. ITEM	UNIT	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
Fencing				
1	Galvanized Chain Link Fencing, 6' ht.	LF	1300	\$ 15.00 \$ 19,500.00
2	Gated Entry (Sally Port) - 3 gates	EACH	3	\$ 600.00 \$ 1,800.00
3	Solid Fence to Block View on Small/Big Dogs	LF	327	\$ 25.00 \$ 8,175.00
4	Vinyl Double Gates (12' Maintenance Access)	EACH	2	\$1,500.00 \$ 3,000.00
Fencing SubTotal=				\$ 32,475.00
Dog Park Entry Area				
5	Decomposed granite - small dog area 25' x 25', 6"	CY	11.5	\$ 50.00 \$ 575.00
Dog Park Entry Area SubTotal=				\$ 575.00
Signs				
6	Park Rules Sign/Bulletin Board/Other	LS	1	\$ 1,500.00 \$ 1,500.00
Signs Area SubTotal =				\$ 1,500.00
Site Amenities				
7	Dog Waste Bag Dispensers	EACH	3	\$ 350.00 \$ 1,050.00
8	Pathways, 8' wide, 4" deep (mix of sand and clay-infield mix)	SY	3564	\$ 5.00 \$ 17,820.00
9	Litter Receptacles	EACH	3	\$ 900.00 \$ 2,700.00
10	Dog/Person Drinking Fountain	EACH	1	\$ 2,000.00 \$ 2,000.00
11	Water Service (water line)	LSUM	1	\$ 3,500.00 \$3,500.00
12	Big Dog Play Kit	LSUM	1	\$ 6,500.00 \$ 6,500.00
13	Small Dog Play Kit	LSUM	1	\$ 2,800.00 \$2,800.00
SubTotal=				\$ 36,370.00
TOTAL=				\$ 75,220.00



DOGGY PLAYGROUND

Total Area = 2 acres (small dog area is 1/4 acre)



NORTH



INDIVIDUAL PLAY ELEMENTS, SIGNS, FOUNTAIN, MESSAGE BOARD, SIGNS



SMALL DOG KIT



LARGE DOG KIT

DOGGY PLAYGROUND

CENTRAL PARK, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

November 2015

Park Commission Meeting

JANUARY 21, 2016

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
1. From: Michigan House of Representatives, RE: Meeting Agenda to discuss Elections
 2. From: United States Senator Debbie Stabenow; RE: Thank you for supporting conservation projects
 3. From: Dr. Maureen Sander; RE: 2016 Michigan Barn Preservation Network Calendar – featuring The Maureen Sander Barn (March)
- B. Commission Information
1. Towne Courier: **Nov 8:** Turkey campfire program set for Nov 14; **Jan 3:** Harris Nature Center has cross-country ski, snowshoe classes; Qigong exercise classes offered at nature center; Preschool Science Exploration Class; Snow Tales walk at the Harris Nature Center; **Jan 10:** Harris Nature Center has cross-country ski, snowshoe classes; Chipmunk Story time at nature center; Snow Tales guided walk at the Harris Nature Center; **Jan 17:** Meridian deer removal efforts resumes; Native plants available for sale through April 29; Photography class offered; “An Afternoon of Relaxation” event Jan 24; Chipmunk Story time at Harris Nature Center
 2. 2016 Township Board Goals, Action Plan and Strategic Plan
 3. Meridian Township 2015 Community Livability Report
 4. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Newsletter; Winter 2016
 5. Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission – A meeting of the Planning and Community Outreach Committee of the Ingham County Park & Recreation Commission, January 19
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response
1. Associate Planner Harmony Gmazel; RE: Special Use Permit #16031 (Fann)



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Notice
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
Elections
Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons, Chair

Date: **Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

Time: **10:30 a.m.**

Place: **Room 308, House Office Building, Lansing, MI**

AGENDA

HB 5219 (Lyons) Campaign finance; public funding; provision related to use of public funds for certain advertisement campaigns; modify.

OR ANY BUSINESS PROPERLY BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE

Individuals needing special accommodations to participate in the meeting may contact the Chair's office.

Malika Abdul-Basir, Committee Clerk, 517-373-7256
email: mabdul@house.mi.gov

Date posted: 1/19/2016

Schedule changes or cancellations available at <http://www.house.mi.gov/publiccommitteeschedule>.
Subscribe to electronic notices at <http://legislature.mi.gov/mileg.aspx?page=listserversignup>.

Jane Greenway

From: Senator Debbie Stabenow <senator@stabenow.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:40 PM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: Re: Make a Smart Investment for America - Renew LWCF

United States Senate

U. S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
MICHIGAN

Dear Jane,

Thank you for contacting me in support of long-term conservation projects. I share your views about the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In 1964, Congress established the LWCF to provide money to federal, state, and local governments to conserve land, water, and wetlands. Since that time, Michigan has received nearly \$291 million to support conservation projects across our state.

This year's government funding bill included \$450 million for the LWCF and extended the program for three years. I understand how important this fund has been for Michigan, which is why I'm working to make it permanent. I have cosponsored the Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act (S.890), which would make the LWCF permanent and fund it at \$900 million each year. The bill is currently before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where I serve as a senior member. You can count on my continued support as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Please do not hesitate to do so again if I can be of assistance to you or your family.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
The United States Senate • Washington, DC 20510
stabenow.senate.gov



Meridian deer removal efforts to resumes

Deer removal efforts has been resumed within the 2-mile radius of the initial case of Chronic Wasting Disease found within Meridian Township.

The United States Department of Agriculture has asked the Department of Natural Resources to resume removal efforts and continue as directed. The USDA has been in contact with several private landowners as well as the township to make sure the USDA may still remove deer from the identified properties.

In an effort to reduce the over-population of deer within Meridian Township, managed deer harvests have occurred on designated Twp. and County properties. The program began in 2011 and has been conducted each year since that time.

The harvest is held during the regular archery season, Oct. 1-Jan. 1. In 2015, a total of 54 deer were taken. The Deer Management Program will not continue into January and February, as the sharpshooters will return and attempt to get ahead of the CWD issue.

For information about the Deer Management Program, please visit the township website at www.meridian.mi.us or contact Jane Greenway at 517-853-4610 or greenway@meridian.mi.us. For inquiries regarding the CWD deer removal efforts, please contact Lieutenant Ken Plaga 517-853-4896 or plaga@meridian.mi.us.

Dead deer along the road may continue to be reported to the Department of Natural Resources at 517-614-9602.

Native plants available for sale through April 29

The pre-order forms for the Harris Nature Center's annual Native Plants Sale are available now through April 29. Pre-ordered plants can be picked up May 7 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp. Additional plans will be available. Proceeds from the sale support the Harris Nature Center. For more information, a pre-order form, and plant list, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866. All plants are grown locally by Designs by Nature in Laingsburg.

Photography class offered

If you would like to become more comfortable with your camera, join national award-winning photographer Ron St. Germain at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp. for a 3-week photography class 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 3-17. Cost is \$55 per person. For more information and a registration form, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866. Mr. St. Germain will share many tips and techniques on taking professional looking family, pet and vacation photos as well as outdoor and wildlife photos with very basic equipment. Also learn about digital cameras and printing your photos. Bring your camera.

"An Afternoon of Relaxation" event Jan. 24

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos, is holding "An Afternoon of Relaxation" 1-4 p.m. Sunday Jan. 24. Activities will include moving meditation, relaxing through coloring, creating your own moisturizer, and healthy treats with recipes to take home. The class is designed for adults. There is a fee of \$25 per person. Space is limited, so register at www.meridian.mi.us or by contacting 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Chipmunk Story Time at Harris Nature Center

Children are invited to join Chicory Chipmunk at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 21 for Chipmunk Story Time, "Pout Pout Fish". Program is open to pre-school and elementary children. Story is followed by games, a craft, or a walk. The fee is \$3 per child, per session and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866.

Harris Nature Center has cross-country ski, snowshoe classes

Learn everything you need to know to safely cross-country ski or snowshoe on your own and spend time practicing at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road on Saturday, Jan. 16 or Feb. 6. The cross-country skiing class runs 9:30-11:30 a.m., and the snowshoeing class runs 1-3 p.m. both days. The fee is \$15 for one half-day session if you bring your own equipment and \$20 if you borrow nature center equipment. The fees are \$30 and \$40 if you enroll for both classes. Space is limited, so contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866 to have a registration form sent to you. Participants are advised to dress appropriately for the weather. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517-349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us and www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter and www.twitter.com/HarrisNatureCnt.

Qigong exercise classes offered at nature center

Classes for the Chinese exercise, Qigong, are continuing 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays this autumn at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$10 per person per class attended. Contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866 for more information. Qigong can be practiced by all people of all ages and abilities.

Preschool Science Exploration Class

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is "Winter Wonders". The program is designed for 4-5-year-old children. The fee is \$4 per child and is due at the time of the program. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517-349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us and www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter and www.twitter.com/HarrisNatureCnt.

Snow Tales walk at the Harris Nature Center

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, will host a guided walk 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17 to see what the fresh snow tells us about the animals living here. There is a \$3 per person

or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 517-349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us and www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter and www.twitter.com/HarrisNatureCnt.

Towne Courier • Sunday, November 8, 2015

Turkey campfire program set for Nov. 14

Enjoy a campfire and find out more about our native wild turkey at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or (517) 349-3866.

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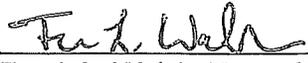
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM: 
Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager

DATE: December 29, 2015

RE: 2016 Goals Document

Please see the attached final draft of the 2016 Strategic Action Plan. You will note the addition of Goal #10 to the list to help us articulate our efforts to promote team chemistry, teambuilding, and an overall positive work environment. Our best effort was used to include all the suggestions/comments from the November 16 Goal Setting meeting. We do have an ambitious itinerary for 2016 and beyond.

We hope that you will review the document one final time prior to the January 5 Board meeting. We certainly desire to bring closure to the planning portion of this annual process on January 26. Through the collective minds of many, we believe the final draft is comprehensive blueprint for Meridian Township going forward.

Attachments:

1. 2016 Action Plan
2. 2016 Strategic Plan

Meridian Charter Township

2016 Action Plan

1. Review, create, and implement a long-term plan to stabilize the Township's critically underfunded pension funds.
2. Assist the Planning Commission and the Township Board with the creation and follow through on updating the 2005 Master Plan.
3. Develop a short-term plan to foster development in the Carriage Hills, Haslett, and Downtown Okemos business districts.
4. Through mutual respect, negotiate new employment contracts with all seven (7) bargaining groups.
5. Continue to seek opportunities to reduce overall operating costs similar to the 2015 Engineering/Public Works reorganization.
6. Implement a Meridian Township branding campaign and a more welcoming website.
7. Update the 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and begin construction of Towner Road Park.
8. Provide for a comprehensive review of the Township's Redi-Ride public transportation system.
9. Create a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy supported by leadership and employee involvement to maintain a well-rounded workforce.
10. Review the Township's Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) Ordinance.

Meridian Charter Township 2016 Strategic Plan

Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.

Goal #1 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance the environment

a. Update the street tree ordinance and adopt a tree protection ordinance
b. Prepare, update, and enforce ordinances that protect natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplain areas
c. Utilize the Township's Greenspace Plan as part of the review for land development projects
d. Apply the best planning practices to encourage the preservation of green and open spaces
e. Continue the Deer Management Program to reduce the deer population in our community
f. Manage invasive species in the parks and land preserves (removing garlic mustard, buckthorn, autumn olive, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hedge parsley, and phragmites)
g. Administer and enforce the Soil Erosion Sedimentation Control Program
h. Maintain the sewer system to minimize sewage backups
i. Develop an Urban Management Service area
j. Maintain robust recycling initiatives including the Meridian Recycling Center, community events, and educational programs, and work to enhance recycling opportunities in apartment complexes
k. Continue energy, water, and waste reduction efforts in Township buildings and other facilities
l. Adopt an ordinance prohibiting or regulating, as the law allows, fracking within the Township
m. Mitigate climate change - including investigating becoming a solar ready community
n. Review the cost/benefit analysis of implementing a Railroad Quiet Zone
o. Draft legislation regarding the placement of cell towers
p. Investigate the cost/benefit of solar panels on Township facilities

**Goal #2 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance
public health, safety, and welfare**

a. Increase information shared with the public through social media regarding public safety tips, PSAs (Public Service Announcements), emergency communications, and police and fire services
b. Provide Beyond the Badge police and fire programs and stories
c. Strengthen communication and educate developers/builders, business owners, and neighborhood associations regarding the planning process in an effort to minimize violations and negative impacts
d. Continue implementation of the Grand River Corridor Access Management Ordinance
e. Renew our police services contract with Williamstown Township
f. Administer the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Traffic Grant
g. Purchase new mobile phone forensics software
h. Upgrade the booking area camera
i. Evaluate conversion to the State Records Management System (RMS) in the Police Department, and implement if determined to be feasible
j. Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software
k. Continue fire service to Alaiedon Township
l. Continue the yearly Police Citizens' and Youth Academies
m. Participate in the Lansing Regional Shared Fire Services
n. Process monthly police and fire citizen surveys
o. Monitor legislative actions relative to medical marijuana and prepare to act accordingly with local ordinances
p. Explore revision and/or modification of Township ordinances for the purpose of reducing penalties for possession or use of small amounts of marijuana
q. Review the opportunity to provide medical first response to Alaiedon Township

Goal #3 - Meridian Township shall provide an unparalleled parks system

a. Develop and construct Phase I of Towner Road Park (7)
b. Complete Legg Park projects - parking area, dog park, and stewardship
c. Construct roof structures over the dugouts at Hartrick Park
d. Rebuild the drainage system for the Harris Nature Center parking island
e. Construct the Wonch Park Pavilion with grant support
f. Install new play equipment at Orlando Park and Hillbrook Park
g. Replace the footbridge at Legg Park
h. Provide support for Eagle Scout Projects
i. Build an 18 hole disc golf course
j. Improve directional signage on trails
k. Construct a youth environmental exploration area at Harris Nature Center
l. Establish a plan for development of a smart-phone application (App) that provides Township Parks and Trails information
m. Develop the Water Trail Access Program
n. Update the 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (7)
o. Seek renewal of the 2004 Pathway Millage set to expire in 2016

**Goal #4 - Meridian Township shall provide exemplary
public services and facilities**

a. Conduct an annual assessment/reinspection program of taxable properties within Meridian Township
b. Improve communication and educate the public on the Rental Housing Program and continue to improve the process for rental housing inspections
c. Revise the sign and parking regulations
d. Continue support of and membership in regional organizations (i.e. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission)
e. Strengthen cooperative planning efforts with the Ingham County Road Department, Ingham County Drain Commission, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and surrounding jurisdictions
f. Promote good design standards through the site plan review process
g. Utilize a health impact assessment guide, created in conjunction with the Ingham County Health Department and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, in the review of development projects
h. Streamline field survey procedures so that information will flow directly into the Geographic Information System
i. Participate with Tri-County regional partners to contract for flight services to provide orthographic photography for the entire Township and surrounding areas
j. Update the patrol car graphic design
k. Upgrade or replace lift station SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system communications and software
l. Complete the first year of 3-year SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater) Grant project to develop sanitary sewer system asset management plan
m. Replace the control panel at Woodhill lift station
n. Construct a pathway on the south side of Mt. Hope Road (Okemos Road to Maumee)
o. Pursue Ingham County Trail Millage funding to implement the Lake Lansing to River Trail connector pathway
p. Investigate options for establishing Meridian Township as a smart community and explore viable plans for expanding municipal fiber, broadband, and public Wi-Fi in Meridian Township
q. Investigate providing a leaf pickup program in Meridian Township
r. Fill in pathway gaps
s. Provide for a comprehensive review of the Township's Redi-Ride public transportation system (8)
t. Review our Rental Inspection Program fee structure and timeframes to conduct inspections
u. Work with the City of East Lansing and Michigan State University on major upgrades to the city's wastewater treatment plant

Goal #5 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance our economic prosperity for all residents

a. Defend assessment appeals made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal
b. Enhance and encourage the retention of existing businesses and establishment of new businesses
c. Promote Township resources to prospective businesses and industries
d. Encourage infill and/or redevelopment of existing commercial sites
e. Promote mixed-use development in commercial areas
f. Facilitate the objectives of the Downtown Development Authority by eliminating the causes of property value deterioration and promoting economic growth
g. Continue streetscape improvements to define downtown areas and promote a sense of place
h. Assist with the redevelopment of the former Central Fire Station/MARC property
i. Develop a short-term plan to foster development in the Carriage Hills, Haslett, and Downtown Okemos business districts (3)
j. Continue focus on the Douglas J project
k. Continue to conduct monthly business visits with a focus on customer service
l. Assist the Planning Commission and the Township Board with the creation and follow through on updating the 2005 Master Plan (2)
m. Sustain and enhance our positive working relationship with Michigan State University
n. Complete the Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) receiving an unmodified audit opinion and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
o. Complete the annual budget process focusing on how the budget mirrors our annual goal setting process
p. Maintain, per the Board's direction, a minimum fund balance in the General Fund of \$5,250,000
q. Increase enrollment of online bill pay and explore options for new platforms to accept these payments (including BS&A's AccessMyGov-Internet Services)
r. Support all types of transportation modes in the Township including the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
s. Encourage the use of complete streets practices as a routine part of operations
t. Review, create, and implement a long-term plan to stabilize the Township's critically underfunded pension plans (1)
u. Investigate reaching out and expanding the Celebrate Downtown Okemos event to include other areas of the Township, including Haslett and East Lansing
v. Encourage more low/mid income housing opportunities
w. Continue to seek opportunities to reduce overall operating costs similar to the 2015 Engineering/Public Works reorganization (5)

**Goal #6 - Meridian Township shall promote and enhance
diversity across the Township**

a. Promote cultural diversity with our community programs and celebrations
b. Investigate and possibly launch a Chinese version of HOM-TV news programs
c. Continue to encourage the use of the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development and Commercial Planned Unit Development Ordinances
d. Encourage developers to provide affordable housing
e. Encourage a wide range of housing types
f. Strengthen community pride through such activities as downtown events and expanded outdoor sculpture displays
g. Host Chinese New Year and Heritage Festival events
h. Promote Nokomis Learning Center activities
i. Consider implementing the Language First Program (in an effort to aid our Township staff with communicating with visitors from all over the world)
j. Review the Township's Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (MUPUD) Ordinance (10)

**Goal #7 - Meridian Township shall provide outstanding
recreational and cultural programs**

a. Provide sports and fitness programs for youths and adults
b. Administer environmental programs and events for all ages at Harris Nature Center
c. Offer educational, fitness, and social opportunities for senior citizens at the Meridian Senior Center and Meridian Mall
d. Coordinate the Farmers' Market outdoors (May-October) and indoors (December-April)
e. Investigate Farmers' Market Relocation (location, size, and funding)
f. Support activities of the Friends of Historic Meridian
g. Support activities of the Meridian Garden Club
h. Conduct special events: Chinese New Year, Celebrate Downtown Okemos, July 4th Fireworks Celebration, Meridian Heritage Festival, Halloween Adventures, Drive-thru Santa, Christmas in the Village, Free Family Winter Sports Weekends, Polar Bear 5K Race, Music in the Park Program
i. Continue the Arts and Crafts Marketplace each month during the summer
j. Continue Recreation Services Agreement with the City of Williamston

**Goal #8 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance
constituent communications**

a. Continue to respond to <u>all</u> citizen inquiries in a timely, professional, and efficient manner
b. Provide assessment information to property owners and their representatives (e.g., real estate agents, title company employees, private real estate appraisers, etc.)
c. Increase public engagement and participation through multimedia and other ways to connect to the Township
d. Create a monthly Township Manager blog and increase its outreach
e. Conduct a communications needs assessment
f. Audit social media outlets and develop a social media strategy campaign
g. Publish the Meridian Monitor twice-yearly to all residents
h. Reach out to residential and business groups regarding potential development impacts
i. Increase staff engagement and participation with neighborhood groups using social media, fire safety programs, HOM-TV interviews, and Beyond the Badge
j. Add a new disk appliance to the network to increase storage space and reliability
k. Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software
l. Print and distribute one issue of the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide (distribution in January)
m. Increase communication with constituents through email and multi-media sources
n. Rename select Land Preserves
o. Implement a Meridian Township branding campaign and a more welcoming website (6)

**Goal #9 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance
neighborhoods and eliminate blight**

a. Create DAS (Distributed Antenna System) ordinance with the Public Works & Engineering and Planning Departments
b. Promote Neighborhood Watch
c. Develop a method to increase compliance of communications companies using the rights of way in the Township
d. Continue to work with homeowners associations to strengthen code enforcement in residential neighborhoods
e. Promote and encourage the preservation of older neighborhoods
f. Enforce the Property Maintenance Code
g. Continue the Code Enforcement Committee with neighborhood associations
h. Continue pavement preservation program on local roads
i. Continue sidewalk repair program (order to maintain)
j. Maintain and improve the water and sewer systems
k. Support the community gardens in the Township
l. Inspect Township owned buildings annually to ensure appropriate maintenance
m. Provide focused oversight of all vacant homes

Goal #10 – Meridian Township shall support employee relations through diversity, inclusion, equal opportunity, and employee health and welfare programs

a. Create a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy supported by leadership and employee involvement to maintain a well-rounded workforce (9)
b. Seek diversity in hiring and promoting; utilize additional recruiting outlets and resources such as online job boards, advertisements, and professional organizations to attract qualified minorities to apply for job openings
c. Provide Township-wide professional training programs and staff development that support the objectives in the Personnel Policy Manual
d. Maintain visibility at multiple annual career fairs to enhance recruitment efforts in addition to on-going approaches that highlight job openings
e. Define an approach to succession planning in preparation for turnover in key positions
f. Promote health, safety, and welfare of employees through implementation of a Township-wide Safety Committee to provide a safer work environment through awareness and productive training initiatives
g. Continue to review comparable health and dental coverage options while maintaining compliance with Public Act 152
h. Continue employee appreciation events such as the annual picnic and holiday celebration
i. Annually update the Personnel Policy Manual
j. Through mutual respect, negotiate new employment contracts with all seven bargaining groups (4)

THE NCSTM

The National Citizen SurveyTM

Meridian Township, MI

Community Livability Report

2015



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National Research Center Inc

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The National Citizen Survey™
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The NCS™ is presented by NRC in collaboration with ICMA.

NRC is a charter member of the AAPOR Transparency Initiative, providing clear disclosure of our sound and ethical survey research practices.

About

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS) report is about the “livability” of Meridian Township. The phrase “livable community” is used here to evoke a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live.

Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS captures residents’ opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement).

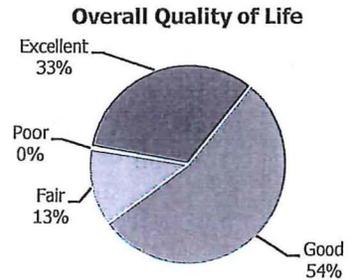
The Community Livability Report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 331 residents of Meridian Township. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 5% for the entire sample. The full description of methods used to garner these opinions can be found in the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover.



Quality of Life in Meridian Township

Most residents rated the quality of life in Meridian Township as excellent or good. The rating for the overall quality of life in Meridian Township was similar to the national benchmark (see Appendix B of the *Technical Appendices* provided under separate cover).

Shown below are the eight facets of community. The color of each community facet summarizes how residents rated it across the three sections of the survey that represent the pillars of a community – Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation. When most ratings across the three pillars were higher than the benchmark, the color for that facet is the darkest shade; when most ratings were lower than the benchmark, the color is the lightest shade. A mix of ratings (higher and lower than the benchmark) results in a color between the extremes.



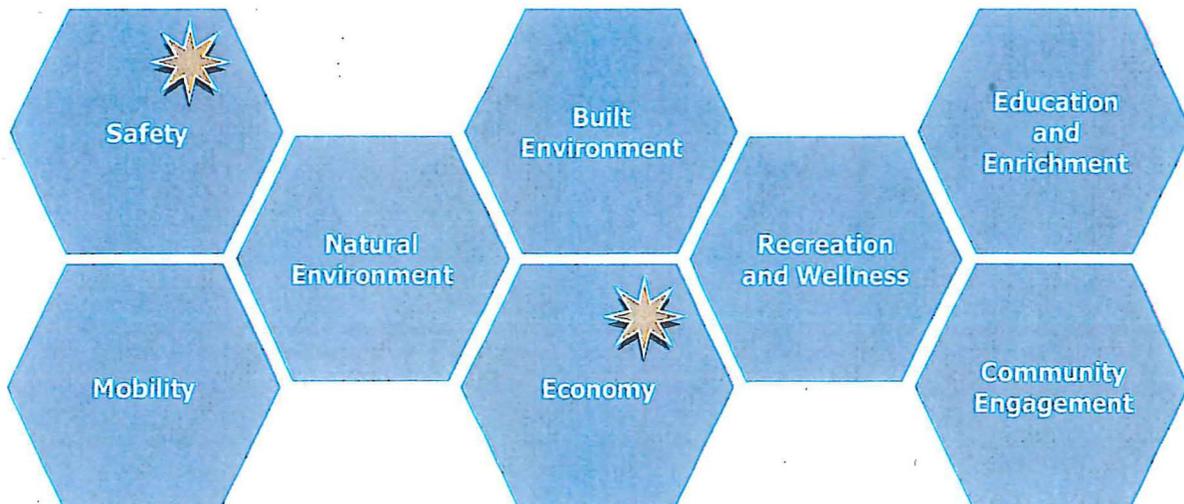
In addition to a summary of ratings, the image below includes one or more stars to indicate which community facets were the most important focus areas for the community. Residents identified Safety and Economy as priorities for the Meridian Township community in the coming two years. It is noteworthy that Meridian Township residents gave favorable ratings to both of these facets of community as well as to the remaining facets that are similar to the benchmark. This overview of the key aspects of community quality provides a quick summary of where residents see exceptionally strong performance and where performance offers the greatest opportunity for improvement. Linking quality to importance offers community members and leaders a view into the characteristics of the community that matter most and that seem to be working best.

Details that support these findings are contained in the remainder of this Livability Report, starting with the ratings for Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation and ending with results for Meridian Township's unique questions.

Legend

- Higher than national benchmark
- Similar to national benchmark
- Lower than national benchmark

Most important



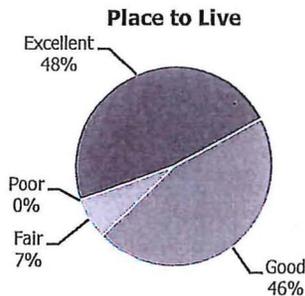
Community Characteristics

What makes a community livable, attractive and a place where people want to be?

Overall quality of community life represents the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community. How residents rate their overall quality of life is an indicator of the overall health of a community. In the case of Meridian Township, 93% rated the Township as an excellent or good place to live. Respondents' ratings of Meridian Township as a place to live were similar to ratings in other communities across the nation.

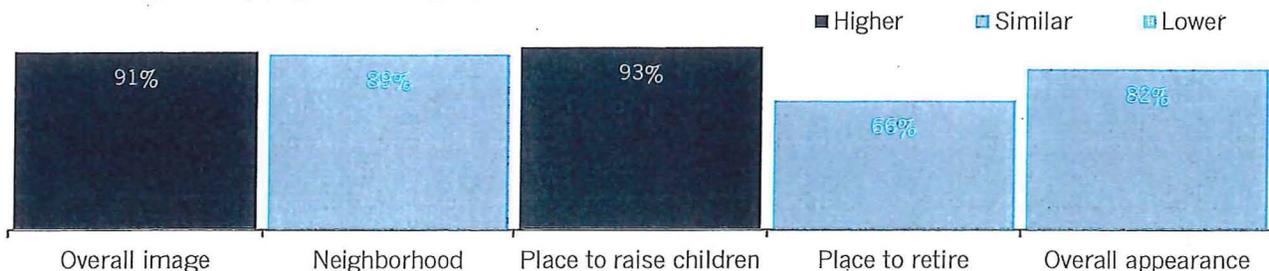
In addition to rating the Township as a place to live, respondents rated several aspects of community quality including Meridian Township as a place to raise children and to retire, their neighborhood as a place to live, the overall image or reputation of Meridian Township and its overall appearance. About 9 in 10 residents gave positive ratings to their neighborhood as a place to live and Meridian Township as a place to raise children as well as the overall image of the Township. About 8 in 10 gave positive ratings to its overall appearance and two-thirds gave positive ratings to Meridian Township as a place to retire. The ratings for overall image and the Township as a place to raise children were higher than the national benchmark.

Delving deeper into Community Characteristics, survey respondents rated over 40 features of the community within the eight facets of Community Livability. When benchmark comparisons were available, Meridian Township's ratings tended to be similar to or higher than other communities across the U.S. Nearly all residents felt safe in their neighborhoods and about 9 in 10 felt safe in downtown/commercial areas and gave positive ratings to their overall feeling or safety. At least 87% of residents gave positive marks to each of the three Community Characteristics related to Natural Environment and each were rated higher than the national comparison. Mobility ratings were varied with about half of residents giving positive ratings to ease of travel by bicycle and ease of travel by public transportation while 8 in 10 gave positive ratings to ease of travel by car and nearly 9 in 10 gave positive ratings to public parking and overall ease of travel. Of these eight aspects of Mobility, four were similar to the national comparison and four were higher. Ratings of Economy were also varied; only one in three gave a positive rating to vibrant downtown/commercial area (lower than the national comparison) while 8 in 10 gave a positive rating to shopping opportunities (higher than the national comparison). Seven in 10 or fewer residents gave positive ratings to each of the five aspects of Community Engagement, all of which were rated similar to the benchmark.



Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national benchmark



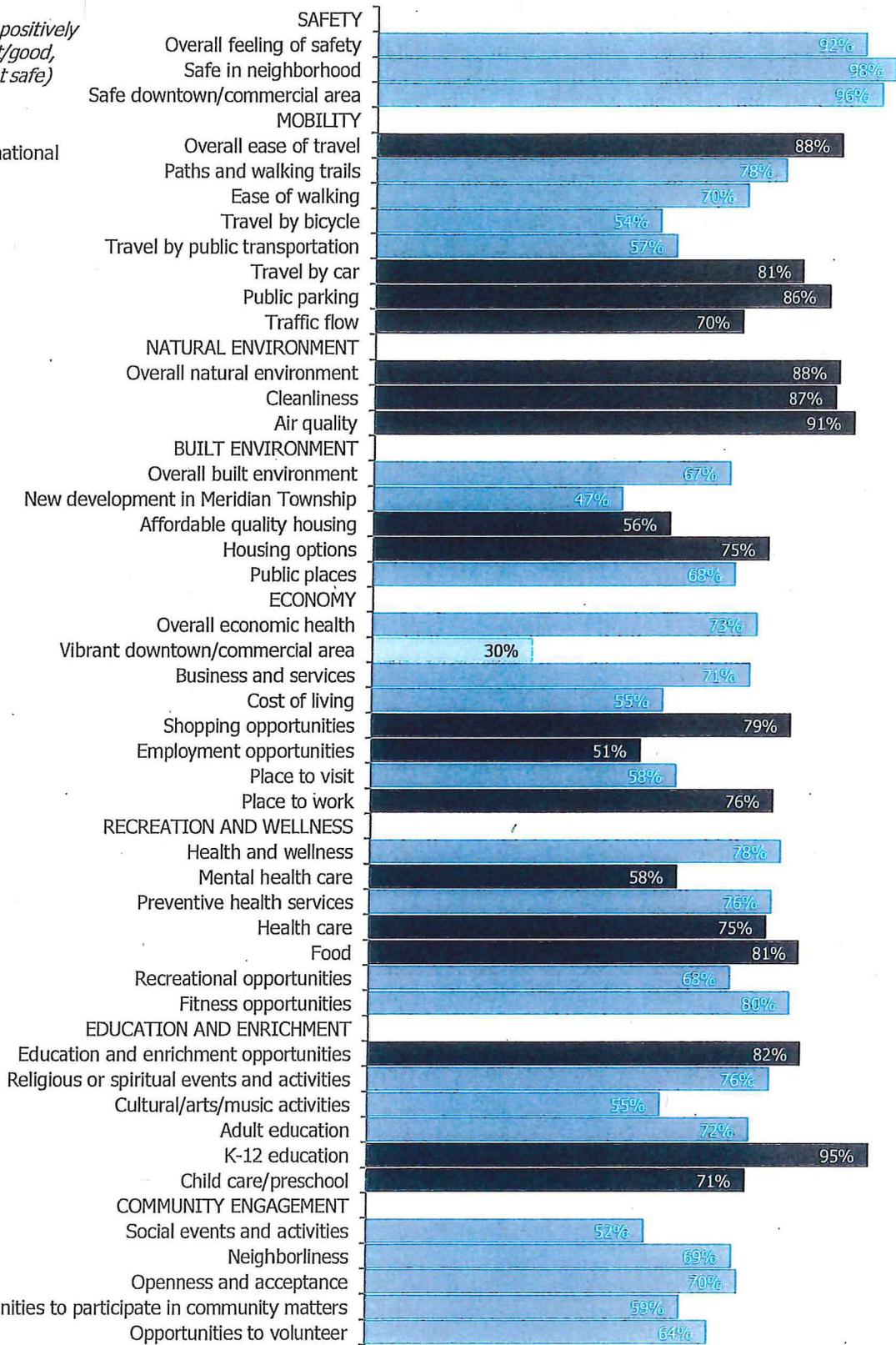
The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 1: Aspects of Community Characteristics

Percent rating positively
(e.g., excellent/good,
very/somewhat safe)

Comparison to national
benchmark

- Higher
- Similar
- Lower



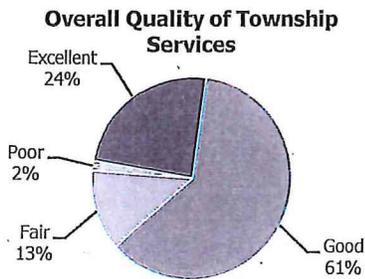
Governance

How well does the government of Meridian Township meet the needs and expectations of its residents?

The overall quality of the services provided by Meridian Township as well as the manner in which these services are provided are a key component of how residents rate their quality of life. The overall quality of services provided by Meridian Township was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 85% of residents, while services provided by the Federal Government were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 42% of residents. Ratings for the services provided by Meridian Township and the Federal Government were similar to the national benchmark.

Survey respondents also rated various aspects of Meridian Township’s leadership and governance. Each aspect was similar to the national benchmark however positive ratings varied from 48% excellent or good for Meridian Township welcoming citizen involvement to 83% excellent or good for Township customer service.

Respondents evaluated over 30 individual services and amenities available in Meridian Township. The vast majority of Meridian Township’s ratings were similar to ratings given in other communities across the U.S. Within Safety, nearly all residents gave positive ratings to fire and ambulance/EMS service while 9 in 10 gave positive ratings to police services. About 6 in 10 gave positive ratings to animal control and emergency preparedness. Mobility ratings were mixed with three-quarters giving positive ratings to traffic enforcement while one in three gave positive ratings to street repair, a rating that was lower than the national comparison. Aspects of Natural Environment also saw varied ratings with about half of respondents giving positive ratings to yard waste pick-up and about 9 in 10 residents giving positive ratings to garbage collection and the quality of drinking water. The rating for drinking water was higher than the national comparison while the ratings for recycling and yard waste pick-up were lower. Recreation and Wellness saw generally positive ratings with at least 7 in 10 residents giving a positive rating to each of the four aspects (parks, recreation programs, recreation centers and health services).



Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/ good)

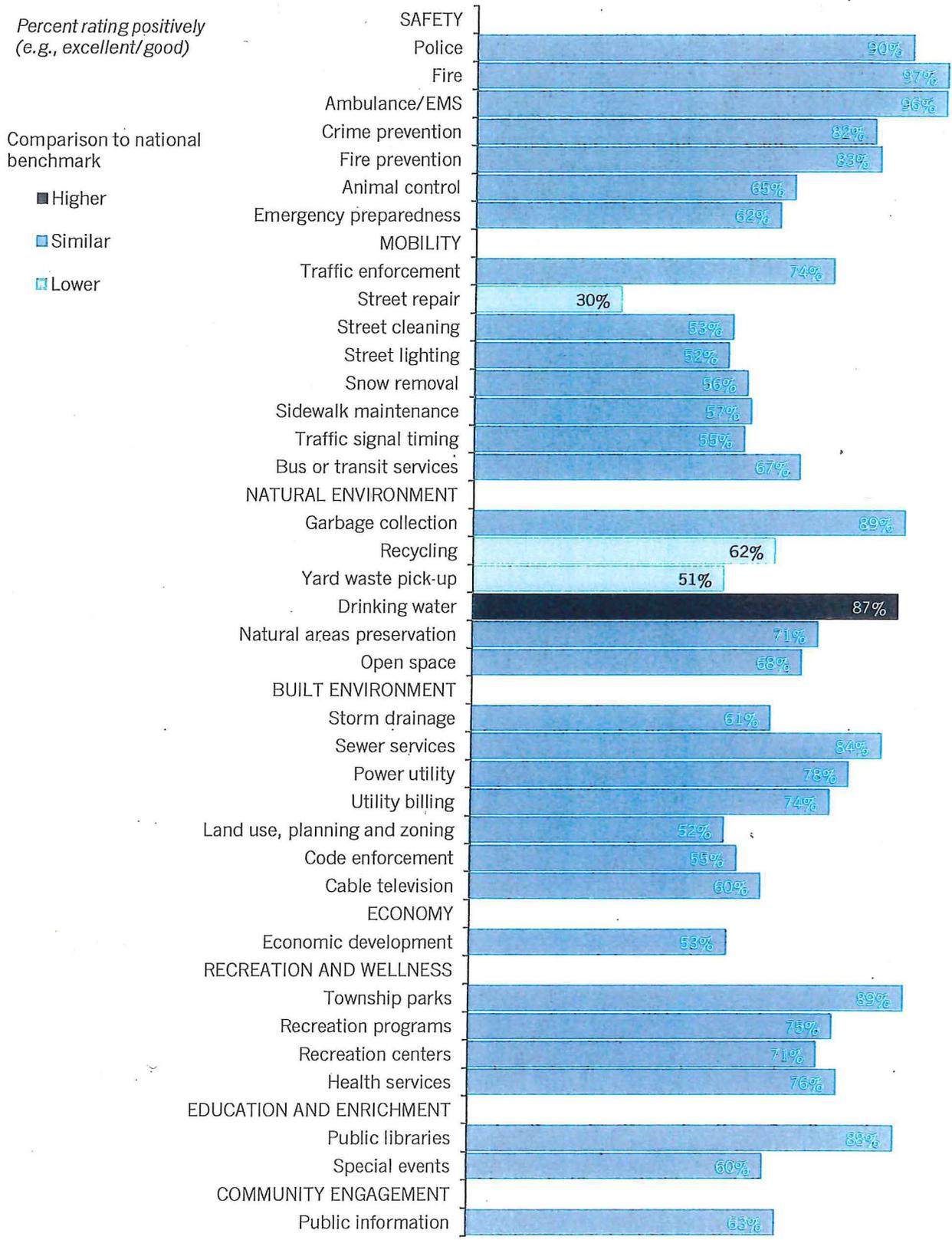
Comparison to national benchmark

■ Higher ■ Similar ■ Lower



The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 2: Aspects of Governance



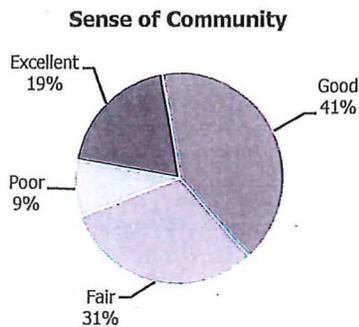
Participation

Are the residents of Meridian Township connected to the community and each other?

An engaged community harnesses its most valuable resource, its residents. The connections and trust among residents, government, businesses and other organizations help to create a sense of community; a shared sense of membership, belonging and history. A majority of respondents rated the sense of community in Meridian Township as excellent or good, and nearly all residents would recommend living in Meridian Township (93% somewhat or very likely). Eight in 10 residents reported they were somewhat or very likely to remain in the township. These ratings were similar to other communities across the nation. About 4 in 10 residents reported contacting a Meridian Township employee within the last 12 months, which was a similar contact rate as seen in other communities.

The survey included over 30 activities and behaviors for which respondents indicated how often they participated in or performed each, if at all. Overall, the extent to which respondents participated in these activities varied, but tended to be similar to or lower than the participation levels of residents in other communities across the nation.

Compared to residents in other communities across the country, more Meridian Township residents reported that they were not under housing cost stress, did not observe a code violation and did not report a crime while fewer stocked supplies for an emergency, worked in the community, participated in religious or spiritual activities and volunteered. Participation in economy-related activities was mixed; nearly all respondents had purchased goods or services in Meridian Township while about one-quarter worked in Meridian Township and believed the economy would have a positive impact on their income. Participation in Community Engagement activities was also mixed. For example, most respondents had read or watched local news, voted in local elections, talked or visited with neighbors and done a favor for a neighbor but fewer than 2 in 10 had campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate, contacted elected officials or attended a public meeting. Within Recreation and Wellness, about half of residents had used Meridian Township recreation centers while 8 in 10 residents had visited a Township park.



Percent rating positively
(e.g., very/somewhat likely,
yes)

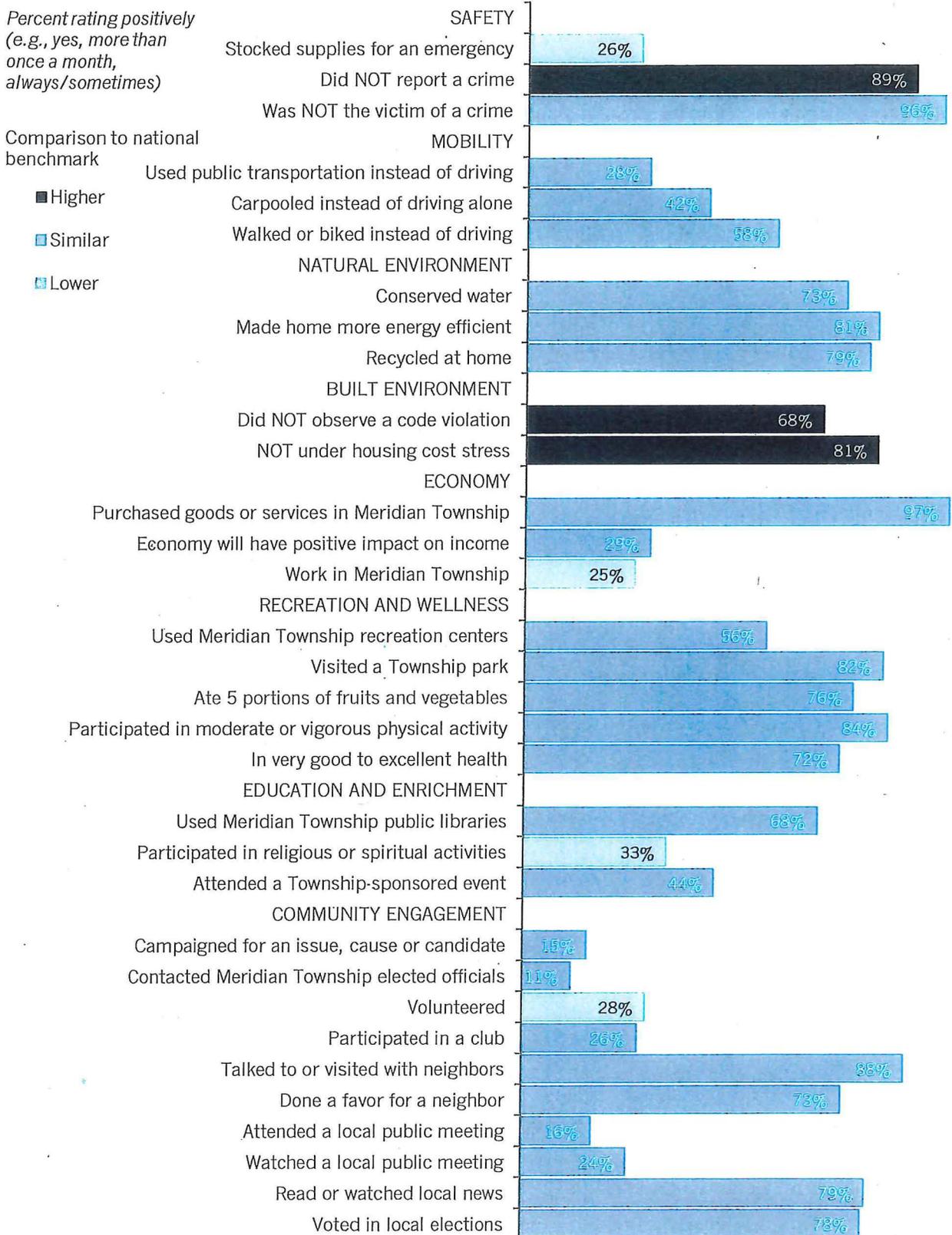
Comparison to national
benchmark

■ Higher ■ Similar □ Lower



The National Citizen Survey™

Figure 3: Aspects of Participation



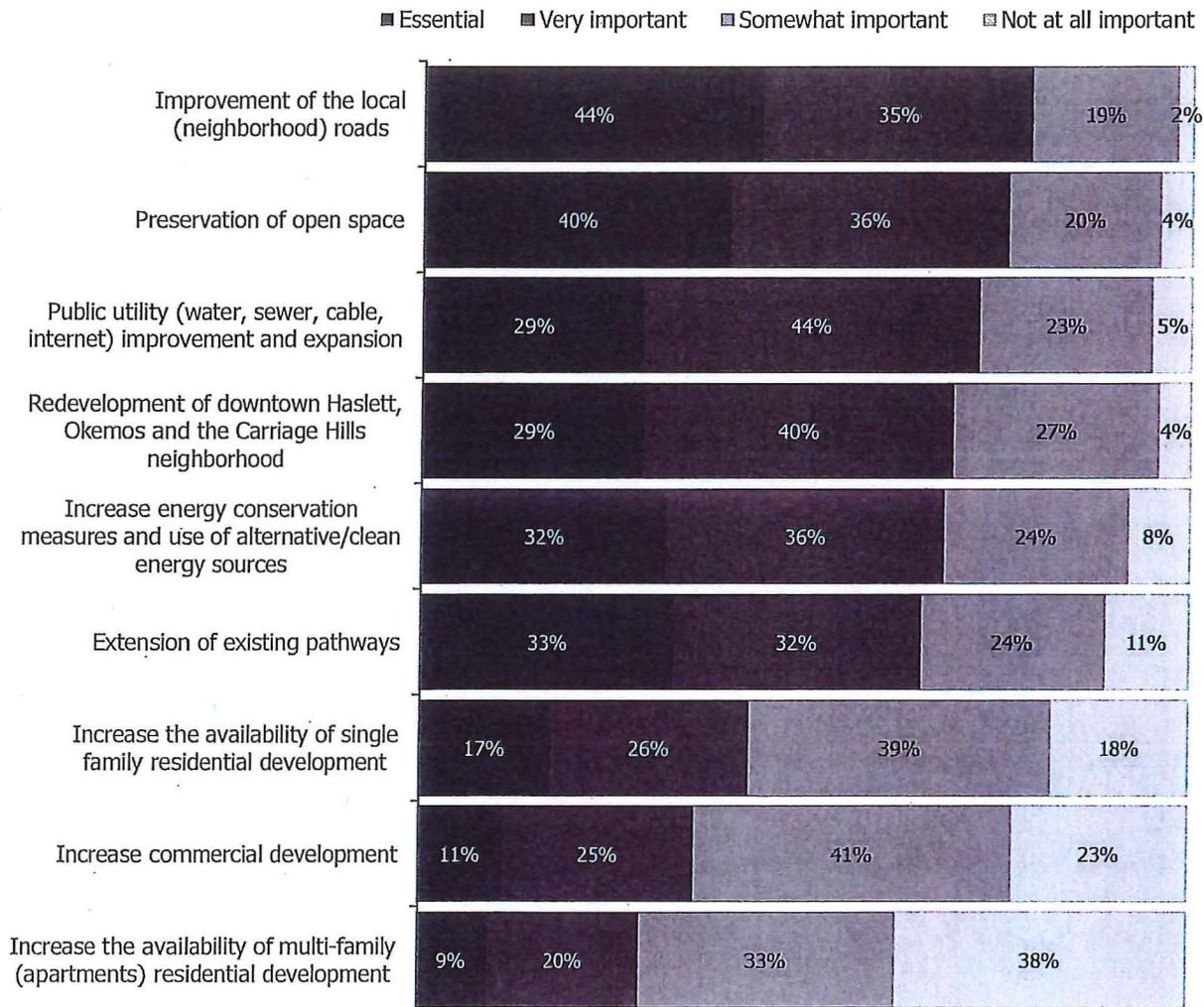
Special Topics

Meridian Township included four questions of special interest on The NCS.

Residents were first asked to indicate how important, if at all, they felt a variety of projects and issues would be for the Township to address over the next five years. At the top of the list with about three-quarters of residents giving essential or very important ratings were improvements of the local roads, preservation of open space and public utility. Fewer than half of residents gave essential or very important ratings to increasing development (single family, multi-family and commercial).

Figure 4: Important Issues to Address

Please indicate how important, if at all, each of the following projects and issues will be for the Township to address over the next five years:

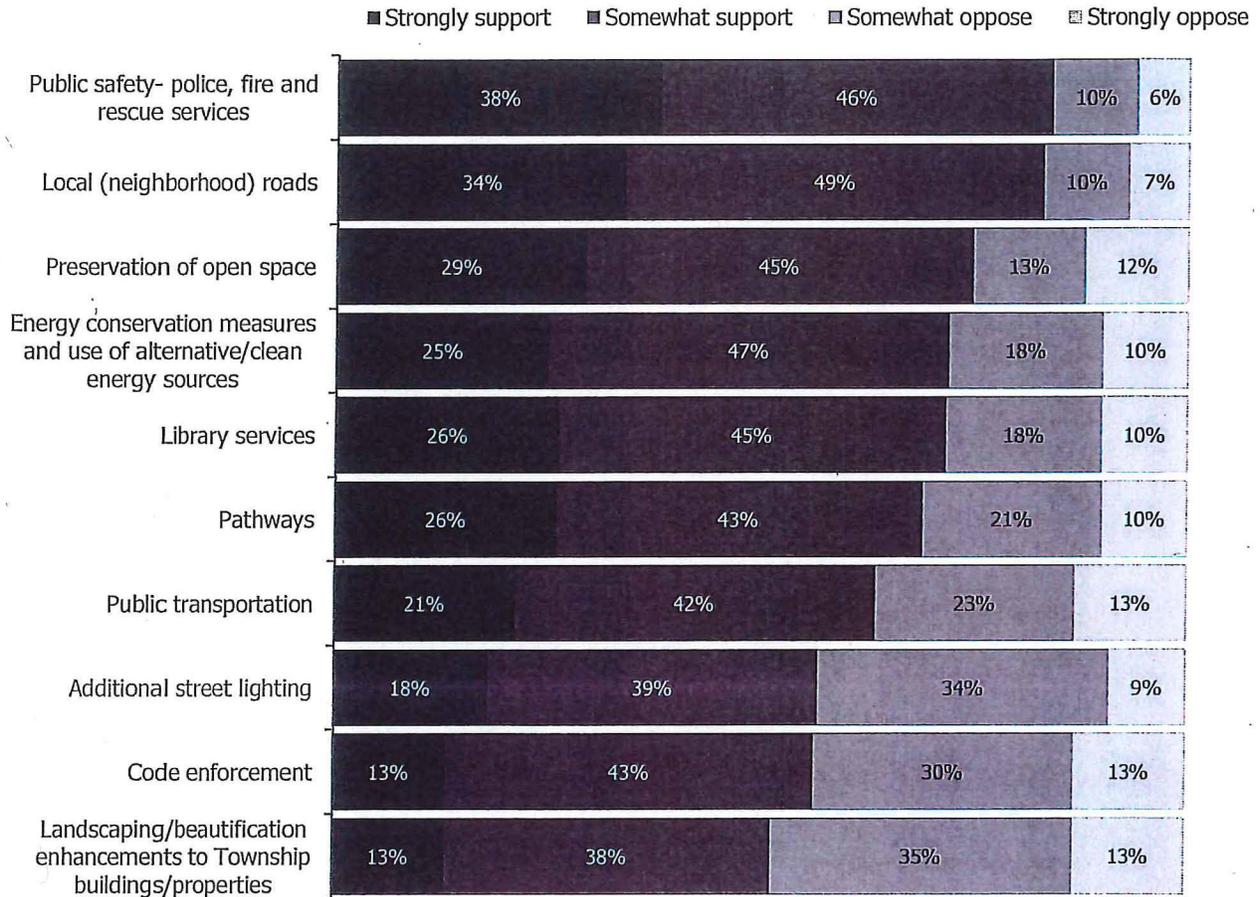


The National Citizen Survey™

When asked if they would support or oppose a property tax increase to fund new facilities, maintenance or services for a variety of projects, ratings varied. Most residents would support a property tax increase for public safety services and local roads while about half would support a property tax increase for additional street lighting and code enforcement and fewer than half would support an increase for landscaping/beautification enhancements to Township buildings/properties.

Figure 5: Level of Support for Property Tax Increase

Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a property tax increase for each of the following to fund new facilities, maintenance or services:

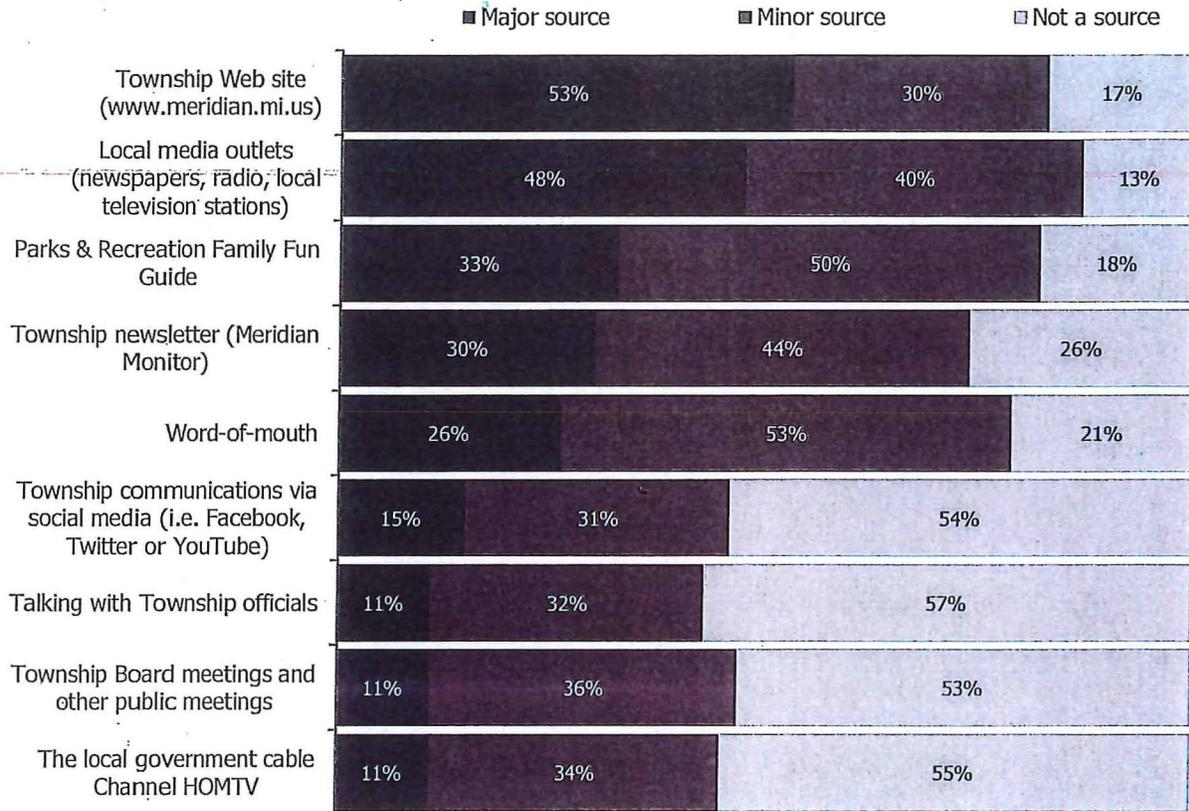


The National Citizen Survey™

About half of residents indicated that the Township Web site and local media outlets were a major source of information about the Township government and its activities, events and services and fewer than 2 in 10 felt they were not sources. About 1 in 10 felt talking with Township officials, Township board meetings or other public meetings and Channel HOMTV were major sources of information and one-third felt they were minor sources of information.

Figure 6: Information Sources

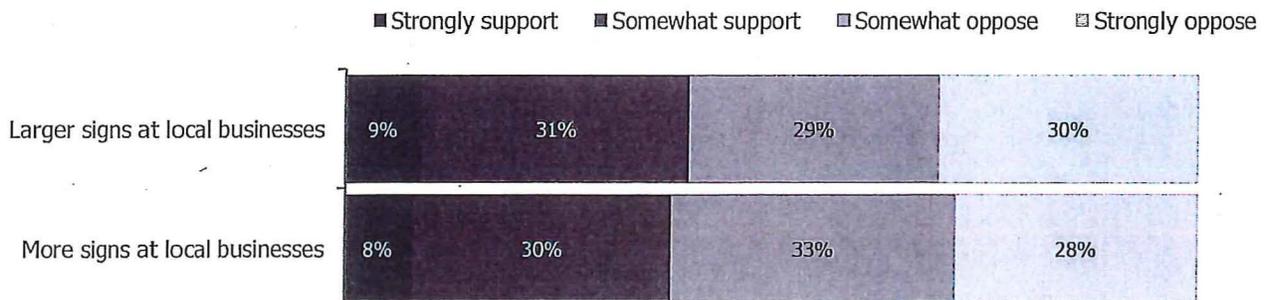
Please indicate how much of a source, if at all, you consider each of the following to be for obtaining information about the Township government and its activities, events and services:



Less than 1 in 10 indicated strong support for larger and more signs at local businesses. About 3 in 10 indicated strong opposition to each potential sign ordinance change and about 6 in 10 somewhat supported or somewhat opposed each.

Figure 7: Level of Support for Property Tax Increase

Currently under local laws (sign ordinance), the commercial business community is allowed to have one sign at a maximum size of 25 square feet. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose each of the following:



Conclusions

Meridian Township residents enjoy a high quality of life.

Most residents rate their overall quality of life as excellent or good, nearly all residents would be very or somewhat likely to recommend Meridian Township as a place to live to someone who asks and 8 in 10 plan to remain in the community for the next five years. Meridian Township's overall appearance and overall image along with the township as a place to live, to raise children and their neighborhood as a place to live received favorable ratings by at least 8 in 10 residents. Many of the aspects that aid in community livability were rated positively and were similar to or higher than the national benchmark comparison. The ratings for overall image and the Township as a place to raise children were higher than the national benchmark.

The health of the economy is important to maintaining residents overall quality of life.

Economy was identified as a priority for the community in the coming two years and Meridian Township's overall economic health was rated positively by 7 in 10 residents. Nearly all respondents had purchased goods or services in Meridian Township and about 29% of respondents believed the economy would have a positive impact on their income. Within Community Characteristics, shopping opportunities, employment opportunities and Meridian Township as a place to work were all rated higher than the national comparison.

Residents feel positive about the overall ease of travel and aspects of Mobility in Meridian Township.

The overall ease of travel in Meridian Township was rated positively by 88% of residents and was higher than the national comparison. Generally, aspects related to Mobility were rated positively by a majority of residents and were similar to or higher than the national comparisons. Within Community Characteristics, each of the eight ratings related to Mobility were rated positively by a majority of residents, six of which were rated positively by 7 in 10 or more residents. Within Governance, seven of the eight aspects related to Mobility were similar to the benchmark; however the rating for street repair was lower than the benchmark. Compared to 2012, more residents gave positive ratings to traffic flow and paths and walking trails in 2015 (see *Trends over Time* under separate cover).

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

In this issue:

- We're Taking a Closer Look
- TIP Development Underway
- The Transportation FAST Act is Now Law!
- Coordinated Bids Save Money
- Your Water Guide is Here
- Tri-County Commissioners Corner
- Sue Says
- Opportunities & Events
- Tibbles 2016

WE'RE TAKING A CLOSER LOOK



Urban strategist Michele Reeves takes a tour of East Lansing with community members to evaluate potential opportunities for economic growth.

The Greater Lansing Regional Prosperity Initiative (GLRPI) for the Capital Region's Tri-County area had an exciting second year. Now we look ahead to continued efforts in 2016. In December, the GLRPI applied for continued funding support of their activities, as well as additional funding to support new initiatives. Activities include continued focus on Talent, Education, Transit, Economic Development and Placemaking. GLRPI requested the maximum award amount of \$375,000. The Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget is reviewing applications and will announce awards in January 2016.

The GLRPI furthered regional outreach by partnering with Imagine Mid-Michigan, a collaboration between Portland State University's Urban Sustainability Accelerator Program, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC), and area leaders in health, housing, land use, environment, economics, local government, and private development. This partnership was able to provide two unique opportunities for our region with presentations from urban strategist Michele Reeves of Civilis Consultants and Charles Mahron of Strong Towns. Michele spent a week in November taking a close look at ten different locations throughout the Tri-County Region, culminating in usable strategies tailored to our region's sustainable growth and redevelopment efforts. Charles gave a presentation to elected officials and city managers discussing the fiscal impact of tax-based revenue.

Read Michele Reeves' Report and Regional Toolkit:

http://mitcrpc.org/NewsRelease/Revitalization%20Toolkit%20TCRPC_lowrez.pdf.

See Charles Mahron's Presentation:

<http://mitcrpc.org/NewsRelease/CM%20Thank%20You%20doc.pdf>.

Keep an eye on MICapitalRegion.com, follow [@MICapitalRegion](https://twitter.com/MICapitalRegion), and like [MICapital-Region on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MICapitalRegion) for meeting schedules and event updates. Please contact Associate Economic Development Planner Rachel Elsinga at relsinga@mitcrpc.org if you have questions about GLRPI. To learn more about Imagine Mid-Michigan events and work plans, contact Executive Director Susan M.C. Pigg at spigg@mitcrpc.org.

TIP DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

TCRPC is a Metropolitan Planning Organization. Thus, a major responsibility is to program federally funded transportation projects by year and funding category. Projects seeking federal funding must be selected through a public process, and be included in the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

TCRPC issued a call for projects in November. Local road agencies submitted approximately 170 projects, in addition to some 150 projects submitted by transit agencies. TCRPC staff evaluated road projects for eligibility and provided a preliminary score based on program criteria. These projects were then considered by committees on January 15, where yearly priorities were recommended for a variety of federal

funding categories included urban, small urban, rural, plus some specialized programs.

Recommended highway and transit projects will be brought through the TCRPC committee process in February and will be incorporated in the TIP, which will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation by July 1.

Check our website at <http://mitcrpc.org/trp.htm> for results of the January 15 meeting and to see additional opportunities for public comment. Scheduled committee meeting dates where the proposed projects will be reviewed are also posted. All TCRPC meetings are open to the public and welcome comments. TCRPC will act on projects February 24.

THE TRANSPORTATION FAST ACT IS NOW LAW!

With surprisingly few fireworks in early December, President Obama signed into law the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The five year reauthorization bill totals over \$300 billion, including about \$281 billion for surface transportation. The FAST Act is the first notably long term reauthorization since 2005 federal transportation legislation



was passed. The bill represents a huge milestone for the House and Senate. Critics question the

source of additional funding that was required to make up the gap between current gas tax revenues and the bill's spending levels. To pass a long term bill with at least a modicum of growth in available funding meant cobbling together gas tax revenues and other "payfors." In the case of the FAST Act, additional funds came from using the Federal Reserve's "surplus" funds, selling oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and a number of other sources. By choosing

to close the funding gap by means other than raising the gas tax means that the cliff will be that much higher in five years when the FAST Act expires. It will be interesting to see what this means for reauthorizing the FAST Act down the line.

In early January 2016, Congress released a \$57.6 billion spending package for Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) programs for fiscal year 2016, as part of the larger Omnibus funding package. The THUD bill adopts the policies and funding levels from the newly-passed FAST Act. The plan also reversed cuts from the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program of the U.S. Department of Transportation to maintain the current \$500 million funding level. This is good news for our region as we seek TIGER funds in support of the proposed Bus Rapid Transit system. The THUD package continues a restriction on double trailer trucks on the national highway system, even though it was in both the House and Senate appropriations bills. Transit commuters earned a huge win, as the bill restores some parity between parking and transit benefits and makes the change permanent.

COORDINATED BIDS SAVE MONEY

For the third year in a row, the Lansing Board of Water and Light is readying the joint solicitation proposals for the purchase of chemicals on behalf of the Mid-Michigan Joint Purchasing Consortium. The Consortium was brought together and is coordinated through the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and includes water and wastewater utilities throughout mid-Michigan. The coordinated bid process provides the opportunity for higher volume purchasing power to the participating communities. As a result, all the participating communities have experienced cost savings in each year of the program, and anticipate additional savings with

the 2016 contracts. Lansing Board of Water and Light, East Lansing-Meridian Water and Sewer Authority, Delhi Charter Township, East Lansing Wastewater, and the Cities of Adrian, Ann Arbor and Jackson participated in 2015. Combined savings to date are estimated at over \$200,000 compared to the traditional process of each community bidding separately.

The solicitations will be sent in early February for 2016 contracts. If you have any questions or would like additional information contact Christine Spitzley, Chief Environmental Programs Planner at (517) 393-0342.

YOUR WATER GUIDE IS HERE

The Tri-County Water Policies & Programs Guide has been completed!

In December, the Guide was presented to the Groundwater Management Board (GMB). It is a unique effort that, for the first time, brought together experts in groundwater, drinking water, land use, surface water, and wastewater from Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties to examine in depth how well they are working together to protect mid-Michigan's water resources. These experts reviewed everything from agriculture to wetlands and throughout considered how each system and program is interconnected and interdependent.

The Guide is intended as an informational tool and guidance document for decision



makers and the citizens of the Tri-County Region. Each chapter contains a narrative that provides a topic overview, main programming components, an outline of gaps and concerns and key resources. Each chapter also includes a correlating table that identifies central programs/activities. The table outlines standards, resources, actions, funding, evaluation, coordinating agencies and timelines for each identified program/activity. (Side Note: For ease of reference, each chapter is color coded.)

To see the Tri-County Water Policies & Programs Guide, go to www.mitrpc.org/env.htm. If you have questions about the Guide, contact Chief Environmental Programs Planner Christine Spitzley at cspitzley@mitrpc.org.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that participated in our holiday drives in November and December—they were both a success! We were happy to be able to provide aid to regional families in need.



TRI-COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CORNER

The TCRPC Board enjoyed a well-attended meeting on December 17, 2015, their last regular one of the calendar year. Despite the holiday schedule, most of the Commissioners participated along with a number of guests from the public and partner agencies. The Commission enjoyed an informative presentation and conducted some standard business.

At the meeting, Commissioners heard a report on the region's recent aerial photography fly-over and saw examples. Presenters Laura Tschirhart, TCRPC Transportation Planner and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialist and Everett Root, a State of MI geographer, explained how the flyover was done and they discussed and demonstrated the results. TCRPC has facilitated regional flyovers every five years since the 1960s. Photography of our region, with the leaves off the trees and no snow cover, is an important tool for land use planners, emergency services providers, developers, utilities servicers, and others. Sharing the same photography across the region helps us all work well together. This time, sharing the cost and coordinating the timing of the flights across our three counties along with other regions of the state, gave us all the opportunity to acquire higher resolution photos and establish images that are consistent region

wide, all at a lower cost.

Also at this meeting, per the Finance Committee recommendation, the Commissioners accepted the Fiscal Year 2015 Audit report provided by Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. Certified Public Accountants. The report indicated a solid financial position for TCRPC. There were no negative findings. The Commissioners also received and placed on file the normal monthly finance reports for November. These are available at www.mitrpc.org.



Upon recommendations of the Transportation Review Committee, the Commissioners approved an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for a newly funded Ingham County Roads project. However, they tabled action on a request to alter a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality project pending further information. The next meeting is the Annual Dinner Meeting on January 27, 2016.

SUE SAYS...HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2016 will be another terrific year for TCRPC. Together we will mark milestones and celebrate important anniversaries. The U.S. Park Service will turn 100 this year. The Beach Boys album *Pet Sounds* turns 50, and I will begin my sixth year as Executive Director. In October, it will be 90 years since Winnie-the-Pooh first starred in his own collection of stories by A.A. Milne. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the first Tweet "Just setting up my twttr," from Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey. He made social media history and the message has been re-tweeted more than 66,000 times. Celebrate TCRPC's active social media communications by liking us on [Facebook](#) or following the regional travels of [Tibbles the Tri-County Troll](#).

Most exciting for us is that 2016 will mark TCRPC's 60th year! Founded in 1956 by the leaders of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties,



TCRPC has provided countless reams of data, technical reports and secured millions of federal funds for our region. We worked with our members, businesses, residents and others to develop and implement plans for a more sustainable, livable region. We have marked progress and enjoyed many successes along the trail of regional planning. And, even as we mark milestones and celebrate anniversaries, we will continue forward facilitating problem solving, providing a cooperative forum for community development, and improving opportunities for wise growth and economic prosperity in Michigan's capital, Tri-County Region.

Susan M.C. Pigg, GECD

TCRPC Executive Director

Don't Miss These Opportunities!

TCRPC IS HIRING! We are looking for a Land Use Planner to take over our Land Use Program. Position details are at www.mitcrpc.org. Submit cover letter, TCRPC Job Application (available at www.mitcrpc.org), and resume demonstrating qualifications to: TCRPC, Land Use Planner Position, 3135 Pine Tree Rd. Ste. 2C, Lansing MI 48911 or email a single .pdf file to reception@mitcrpc.org. **All submissions must be received by February 19, 2016 at 4 p.m. EOE.**

Webinar Series: The Business of Sustainability — February 18, 2 p.m. (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5295006478065861122>)

Public Art for Communities Grant Program — deadline for submission is 4:00 p.m. February 19, 2016 (www.purelansing.com/publicart)

Quiet Water Symposium — March 5 at the MSU Pavilion (<http://www.quietwatersymposium.org/>)

4 College Scholarships available through the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) — Two deadlines: March 15 and May 1 (http://www.mi-wea.org/list_of_awards_and_scholarship.php)

2016 Michigan Municipal League Conference — March 22-23 at the Lansing Center (<http://www.mml.org/sites/Event.aspx?EventKey=L-C16&WebsiteKey=6c903230-4a06-4cc8-8cd2-d7c66df022f1>)

MWEA's Michigan Watershed Summit — March 29 at Eagle Eye Banquet Facility (<http://www.viethconsulting.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=37272>)

TIBBLES IN 2016

In another adventure that took him throughout the region, Tibbles traveled along with urban strategist Michele Reeves as she toured the three county seats as well as key corridors in the region. Follow Tibbles the Travelin' TCRPC Troll as he travels along with our planners at <http://www.twitter.com/TravelinTroll>.



Tibbles enjoying Courthouse Square in Charlotte, MI.

AGENDA

Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission
121 E. Maple Street, P.O. Box 178, Mason, MI 48854
Telephone: 517.676.2233; Fax: 517.244.7190

The packet is available on-line by going to www.ingham.org, choosing the "Monthly Calendar," and clicking on Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

**A MEETING OF THE
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE
OF THE INGHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Will Be Held at
6:00pm
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Human Services Building
Conference Room B, Second Floor ~ 5303 S. Cedar, Building #3
Lansing, Michigan**

1. Call to Order
2. Limited Public Comment
3. Late Items / Deletions

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Trails & Parks Task Force Discussion (Executive Committee Resolution and Recommendation)
 - B. Boat Wash Station- SAD special assistant district partnership

5. ACTION ITEMS
 - A. Resolution Honoring Ralph Monsma
 - B. Resolution Extending an Agreement with the City of Lansing for the Maintenance and Operation of a Non-Motorized Pathway through Scott Woods Park
 - C. Resolution to Comply with Provisions of the Open Meetings Act Setting Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings for January 2016 through December 2016
 - D. Motion for the Executive & Planning & Community Outreach Committees to Review the Master Plan Vendor Proposals and to Recommend a Consultant for Hire to the Park Commission

6. Review Park Commission Agenda

7. Limited Public Comment
8. Adjournment

Note due to Holiday meeting will be held on Tuesday instead of Monday

The Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting for the visually impaired, for individuals with disabilities a the meeting upon five (5) working days notice to the Ingham County Parks Department. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Ingham County Parks Department in writing or by calling the Ingham County Parks Office at P.O. Box 178, Mason, Michigan 48854 ~ Phone: (517) 676-2233.

A QUORUM OF PARK COMMISSION MEMBERS MAY BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING

INGHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of January 25, 2016

Resolution # -16

RESOLUTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TRAILS AND PARKS TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Trails and Parks Task Force at their December 10, 2015 meeting determined that five percent of the Trails and Parks Millage funds should go to the Ingham County Parks Department, and that these funds should be spent on CIP expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission concurs with the Trails and Parks Task Force that the millage funds allotted to the Ingham County Parks Department should be used to enhance the facilities and services provided by the Ingham County Parks Department and are not meant to supplant the Parks Department appropriation annually, but to help restore park funding to prerecession times; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission has attached an amended detailed list of items from its planning budget document which includes all dollar amounts estimated; and

WHEREAS, the amended planning budget document is estimated to be \$2,654,800.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission requests that the Trails and Parks Task Force reconsider the previously determined percentage of funding designated to the Ingham County Parks Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission requests that the Trails and Parks Task Force also reconsider the determination to designate the millage funds for CIP only. The Parks and Recreation Commission has concerns that limiting these funds to just capital improvements will limit the ability of the Ingham County Parks Department and the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission to provide all that is needed to accomplish the deferred facilities maintenance, capital improvements, as well as the delivery of the goals and objectives of the Parks Department within its operating budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Trails and Parks Task Force consider ____ percent of the Trails and Parks Millage funds be designated annually for the Ingham County Parks Department, for each year the millage is levied.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission respectfully requests that the Trails and Parks Task Force recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the Board of Commissioners the allocation of the millage funds that will be dedicated specifically to the Ingham County Parks Department, as per the normal budgeting process.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the above requests be considered by the Board of Commissioners Trails and Parks Task Force at their February 2016 meeting.

THESE ITEMS NOT FUNDED IN THE 2016 BUDGET REQUEST

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

PARK	ITEM	COST	NEW/Renew
BUR	Table Saw	\$2,500	Renew
BUR	Stone chip existing paved road	\$10,000	Renew
LL	Carousel Building Roof- LLS	\$25,000	Renew
HAWK	Construct Pump house building/snow hill	\$25,000	Renew
HAWK	Red Tail Roof - HI	\$20,000	Renew
HAWK	Parking Lot Repair - crack seal	\$50,000	Renew
HAWK	Boardwalk sealer	\$10,000	Renew
LL	Sand Hill Shelter Roof - LLN (use funds from 2015)	\$4,000	Renew
HAWK	Boardwalk repairs	\$10,000	Renew
HAWK	Bathroom refurbishments	\$15,000	Renew
BUR	Boardwalk sealer	\$3,000	Renew
BUR	Electrical hand dryers for beach	\$3,500	Renew
BUR	Accessible Canoe/Kayak Launch BUR/McNamara(added 1/4/16)	\$100,000	New
All Parks	Point of Sale System	\$150,000	New
Subtotal		<u>\$428,000</u>	

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EQUIPMENT

BUR	John deer Gator	\$15,000	Renew
HAWK	Golf Cart	\$4,300	Renew
BUR	Canoe Van	\$30,000	Renew
Subtotal		<u>\$49,300</u>	

2017-2021 PROJECT PLANNING BUDGET

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

PARK	ITEM	COST	NEW/REPLACE
BUR	Accessible Loop Trail	\$150,000	New
LL	Accessible Loop Trail - LLN	\$150,000	New
All Parks	ADA Beach / Swim Chairs (3)	\$6,000	New
LL	Band Shell Roof - LLS	\$20,000	Replace
HAWK	Beach Irrigation	\$10,000	New
HAWK	Boardwalk Repair	\$5,000	Replace
HAWK	Boardwalk Replacement	\$5,000	Replace
BUR	Boat and equipment replacement	\$2,500	Replace
HAWK	Boat Rental - Hawk	\$5,000	Replace
LL	Boat Rental Roof - LLS	\$4,000	Replace
BUR	Construct ski rental building	\$26,000	New
LL	Chip & Seal Parking Lots	\$50,000	New
HAWK	Construct Cabanas (2)	\$30,000	New
BUR	Disc golf master map	\$1,500	New
HAWK	Dog Park Bridge	\$50,000	New
LL	Dog Park Fence - LLN	\$60,000	New
HAWK	Dog Park Sidewalk	\$15,000	New
HAWK	Drinking Fountains	\$15,000	Replace
LL	Drinking Fountains	\$15,000	Replace
BUR	Drinking Fountains	\$15,000	Replace
LL	Gate House Roof - LLS & LLN	\$2,000	Replace
HAWK	Gatehouse & Snow Lift Roof - Hawk	\$2,000	Replace
HAWK	Grills & Tables	\$6,000	Replace
LL	Grills & Tables	\$6,000	Replace
BUR	Grills & Tables	\$6,000	Replace
HAWK	Kayaks	\$4,000	Replace
BUR	Canoes & Kayaks	\$6,000	Replace
HAWK	Kestrel Roof	\$5,000	Replace
BUR	Kiosk Sign at Winter Sports Building	\$1,000	Replace
LL	Lakefront Boardwalk/Gazebo	\$75,000	New
LL	Lakeview Shelter Roof - LLS	\$5,000	Replace
LL	Land Acquisition Match - LLS	\$60,000	New
HAWK	Magic Carpet	\$150,000	New
LL	Maintenance Building Roof - LLS	\$15,000	Replace
BUR	MDOT road signage	\$2,000	New

2017-2021 PROJECT PLANNING BUDGET

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

PARK	ITEM	COST	NEW/REPLACE
LL	Oak Knoll Shelter Roof - LLN	\$5,000	Replace
HAWK	Path Sealcoat	\$8,500	Replace
HAWK	Path-Concessions to Trail	\$10,000	New
HAWK	Pathway Sealcoat	\$10,000	Replace
BUR	Pave/Chip Seal Parking/Roadway Burch	\$100,000	New
LL	(cost increased \$45K with kayak/canoe)	\$100,000	Replace / NEW
LL	Row Boats	\$3,000	Replace
HAWK	Row Boats	\$3,000	Replace
BUR	Pedal boats (4)	\$10,000	Replace
HAWK	Pedal Boats (4)	\$10,000	Replace
LL	Pedal Boats (4)	\$10,000	Replace
HAWK	Peregrine Roof	\$10,000	Replace
BUR	Pine Knoll Roof - Burch	\$5,000	Replace
HAWK	Restroom Stall Dividers	\$20,000	Replace
HAWK	River Overlook Dock	\$5,000	New
BUR	Road Gravel	\$10,000	Replace
LL	Road Gravel	\$10,000	Replace
LL	Snell Restroom Roof - LLN	\$6,000	Replace
HAWK	Snow Tubes	\$8,000	Replace
BUR	Snow Tubes - 25	\$3,000	Replace
BUR	South Ridge Shelter Roof - Burch	\$5,000	Replace
HAWK	Splash Pad - Pump & Features	\$5,000	Replace
HAWK	Splash Pad Filter & Pump	\$12,000	Replace
HAWK	Stamped Kiosk Concrete	\$3,000	Replace
LL	Trail Boardwalk - LLN	\$50,000	Replace
BUR	Winter Sport Building Roof - Burch	\$20,000	Replace
		<u>\$1,421,500</u>	

2017-2021 EQUIPMENT PLANNING BUDGET

VEHICLES / EQUIPMENT

PARK	ITEM	COST	NEW/REPLACE
All Parks	Back Hoe	\$110,000	New
LL	Blower	\$7,500	New
LL	Dodge Pick Up #676	\$30,000	Replace
HAWK	Dump Truck - Replace w/pick up	\$45,000	Replace
HAWK	Exmark	\$16,000	Replace
HAWK	Exmark	\$16,000	Replace
LL	Exmark #595	\$16,000	Replace
BUR	Exmark #696	\$16,000	Replace
HAWK	Exmark 798	\$16,000	Replace
BUR	GMC Pick Up #670	\$30,000	Replace
HAWK	GMC Pick Up #776	\$30,000	Replace
LL	GMC Pick Up #571 (Dump)	\$45,000	Replace
LL	GMC Pick UP #572	\$30,000	Replace
BUR	GMC Pick UP Mechanic #673	\$30,000	Replace
BUR	Golf Cart	\$5,000	New
HAWK	Golf Cart (2)	\$10,000	Replace
BUR	JD 4310 #693	\$40,000	Replace
LL	JD 4720 #590	\$50,000	Replace
HAWK	JD 4720 w/ bucket	\$50,000	Replace
HAWK	JD3320 w/broom	\$40,000	Replace
LL	John Deer Gator #K2	\$18,000	Replace
HAWK	Mechanic Truck	\$35,000	Replace
HAWK	Pick up 773	\$24,000	Replace
HAWK	Portable Power Washer	\$6,200	Replace
BUR	Scag #799	\$15,000	Replace
HAWK	Sign machine	\$7,000	Replace
LL	Skag #598	\$16,000	Replace
All Parks	Skid Steer + attachments	\$85,000	New
HAWK	Snow Brush	\$4,000	Replace
HAWK	Snow Thrower	\$4,000	Replace
BUR	Snowmobile	\$10,000	Replace
All Parks	Wood Chipper	\$40,000	New
HAWK	York Rake	\$1,800	Replace
		<u>\$898,500</u>	

TRAILS AND PARKS TASK FORCE

December 10, 2015

Minutes - Draft

Members Present: Banas, Maiville, Case-Naeyaert, and Nolan

Members Absent: Anthony, Koenig, Tennis, and Tsernoglou

Others Present: Tim Morgan, Jared Cypher, Brian Collins, Lucie Fortin, Nancy Krupiarz, Kurt Smith, Henry Rojas, and others

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Banas at 6:07 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room "D & E" of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the November 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CASE-NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO TABLE THE NOVEMBER 19, 2015 TRAILS AND PARKS TASK FORCE MINUTES.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Anthony, Koenig, Tennis, and Tsernoglou.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

None.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert stated she did not feel comfortable having the consultants responding to constituents on behalf of the Board of Commissioners or the Task Force.

Commissioner Maiville asked why the email headers were not from Mannik Smith Group.

Chairperson Banas clarified that Mannik Smith Group was subcontracted by Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

Chairperson Banas reviewed the agenda for the December 10, 2015 Trails and Parks Task Force meeting.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert

1. Overview of Project Scope of Services – Next Steps (Tim Morgan, Jared Cypher)

Jared Cypher, Deputy Clerk, addressed the Task Force regarding the project status.

Tim Morgan, Parks Director, addressed the Task Force regarding the next steps of the project.

Chairperson Banas asked why a criterion ranking system was not included.

Lucie Fortin, Mannik Smith Group, stated that the plan was to discuss projects first, and then form criteria to be discussed.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert asked how projects could be ranked before criteria ranking the projects was established.

There was a discussion regarding criteria.

Ms. Fortin stated that she wanted to suggest criteria based off of public input and the projects.

Commissioner Nolan suggested compiling projects based on precincts.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert stated that she thought the consultants would provide suggested criteria that the Task Force would use to decide on projects.

Ms. Fortin stated that she wished to discuss the projects first because some projects might be more relevant than others.

Chairperson Banas stated the Task Force was not ready for recommendations as the projects needed to be discussed.

2. Deliberation of Maintenance within Funding Categories

a. Set aside for County Parks

Chairperson Banas suggested labeling "maintenance" as "preventive maintenance."

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert asked if the consultants had defined maintenance.

Chairperson Banas stated that consultants could provide an answer by the next month.

Commissioner Nolan stated that defining maintenance should be defined by excluding the performance of tasks such as leaf and snow removal, grass mowing and trash removal.

Commissioner Maiville stated that some tasks could border routine maintenance depending on the scale of the task.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she would be happy defining it as the exclusion of snow removal, grass mowing, and trash removal.

Chairperson Banas stated that the millage should not assume the operations of local departments.

MOVED BY COMM. NOLAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. CASE-NAEYAERT, TO DEFINE LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE AS THE PRESERVATION OF THE TRAILS TO OPTIMAL STANDARDS WHILE EXCLUDING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS: SNOW AND TRASH REMOVAL AND GRASS MOWING.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert suggested amending it to include the word millage as a reminder that millage dollars would not do those things.

Chairperson Banas stated that it could be precisely stated in the introduction for the defined categories.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioners Anthony, Koenig, Tennis, and Tsernoglou.

Chairperson Banas addressed the Task Force regarding fund operating appropriation and capital improvement.

Mr. Morgan reviewed the different millage percent rates and fund operating appropriation.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert asked the time frame for equipment replacement.

Mr. Morgan answered that items on the first page were for asked for 2016, section C was for the next 5 years, and section D was beyond 5 years.

Commissioner Nolan asked if the numbers had been added up.

Mr. Morgan answered that some of the costs were to be determined and others were estimates.

Commissioner Nolan stated that at 5%, the county would receive \$1,220,000.00 over 6 years.

There was a discussion regarding capital improvements on county parks.

Mr. Morgan asked if county parks would get trail connections paid for out of the general fund or the capital improvement appropriation.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert answered that if it fit the criteria the Task Force decided, it would.

Commissioner Nolan stated that she saw the appropriation as a gift that the county could use to complete long put off capital improvements.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert stated that these would be things that were needed with or without millage money. She further stated that they would be looked at for how they fit into the regional plan.

COMM. NOLAN, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, MOVED TO SET ASIDE 5% OF THE AFTER-TIFF FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTY PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Anthony, Koenig, Tennis, and Tsernoglou.

b. Set aside for Blue Ways

Commissioner Maiville stated that he could support it overall, but coming up with a number now would be premature as the scope was unknown.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert stated that including a regional water trail was an exorbitant inclusion.

Commissioner Nolan stated that including accessible entry places at the Red Cedar and Grand River might be a more acceptable suggestion. She further stated that more data was needed before making a decision.

Commissioner Maiville stated that more information was needed before a decision was made.

Chairperson Banas stated that relatively inexpensive improvements could create new recreational opportunities and allow areas of the county that did not have great trails systems to participate with millage dollars.

Mr. Morgan stated that water trails were a valuable asset to the Parks and Trails system. He further stated that, as to Commissioner Nolan's suggestion, it might be a low hanging fruit.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert stated more criteria and information was needed.

Commissioner Nolan asked for estimated costs of a barrier-free access point on the river where there was already parking.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert asked for the cost of clearing waterways with traditional equipment. She stated that it needed to be elaborated because tasks such as clearing a water trail could escalate into tasks such as drudging out Sycamore Creek.

Chairperson Banas stated an application process for special projects would handle requests for something like the clearing of a water trail with expensive equipment.

Mr. Morgan stated that the Mannik Smith Group would propose a Blue Ways plan.

Commissioner Nolan related a first person story of going to Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann to address the flooding of homes.

Commissioner Maiville stated the Sycamore trail needed to have some work done on it, but was not sure as to how it was being paid for even though it was a special case.

3. Presentation by Consultant, Lucie Fortin of Mannick Smith Group and Nancy Krupiarz of Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance
a. Public Input Results

Ms. Fortin and Nancy Krupiarz, Mannick Smith Group, addressed the Task Force regarding the results of the public input survey.

There was a discussion of the categorization of Delhi Township.

Commissioner Nolan asked if the survey was advertised to the Friends of the River Trail.

Mr. Morgan stated that it was done through tweets and Facebook.

There was a discussion regarding the online survey.

Chairperson Banas asked why twice as many urban participants completed the survey online versus the in-person public input.

Ms. Krupiarz answered that it was easier to complete a survey online than to attend a meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the online survey participants.

Chairperson Banas asked for the difference between long-term and routine maintenance.

Ms. Krupiarz answered that routine maintenance was everyday things such as: leaf and debris blowing, grass cutting, and grass removal. She further stated that long-term maintenance was about preserving the standards that the trails were built to and that trail rehab was the complete redoing of trails.

Chairperson Banas stated that most people did not care who did the maintenance, as long as it was getting done.

Commissioner Nolan stated that when a grant application process started, applicants would be notified that they would have to provide routine maintenance. She further stated that it would be included in the application language.

Chairperson Banas stated that the DNR application had a check box indicating that the trail would be maintained. She further stated that it would be the purview of the Task Force to include something like it on applications. She asked what the most important categories pertaining to safety were.

Ms. Krupiarz answered trail connections and crossings because that was where most incidents would happen.

There was a discussion regarding the top three public input answers.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert asked for clarification if fifty people cared about safety at the public forums.

Ms. Krupiarz answered yes. She stated that citizens patrol and trail ambassadors were options the County could pursue.

b. Overview of Stakeholders Meeting and Ingham County Regional Trails Plan Map

Ms. Fortin Ms. Krupiarz addressed the Task Force regarding the stakeholders meeting.

Chairperson Banas asked how Washtenaw handled requests to disperse the \$4 million for regional trails, based on staff recommendation and board approval.

Ms. Krupiarz answered that it started with staff which comprised multiple committees, then it went to the Parks Commission, and then another committee.

Commissioner Nolan asked for a one page summary of the criteria used by Washtenaw and Charlevoix County for their application process.

Chairperson Banas asked for a model of ranking and criterion system.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert stated that citizens of the out-county never formed a plan because they did not know they would have the opportunity to apply for millage dollars.

Commissioner Nolan stated that they would like an application and criterion system, and then the Task Force would go from there.

Ms. Krupiarz stated that the listed criteria were grouped according to the categories obtained from the previous meeting.

Chairperson Banas asked for a recommended application process for the next meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the application process.

Chairperson Banas stated that she wanted to leverage county dollars through the application process. She stated that she wanted the applications to include promises to maintain the property.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert stated she wanted the criterion defined, and an application process suggested so that the Task Force could determine: appropriate projects, where they would rank based on criteria, and how it would involve the application process.

Mr. Cypher clarified that the Task Force wanted a list of projects that was not ranked.

Commissioner Case-Naeyaert stated that there were groups of people who had not submitted their project ideas because they did not know what would be required of them to ask for the money.

Mr. Cypher stated that, from the staff perspective, requests were either official or unofficial. He further stated that official requests came in written form to the office in some sort of official capacity.

Commissioner Maiville stated that projects requests would not only be coming through local units of government.

Mr. Cypher stated that official requests could come through the application process, and the list from the consultants could be used as a list of possibilities.

Commissioner Nolan stated that the Task Force should be mindful that it was a 6 year project and that people would apply throughout the 6 years.

Chairperson Banas stated that she would like information about the meetings at least a week before their date.

Commissioner Maiville asked if there was a limit as to how many surveys could be completed per each I.P. address.

Ms. Krupiarz answered that Survey Monkey allowed only one survey to be completed per device.

Commissioner Maiville expressed confusion over the distribution of online survey participants. He stated that the numbers did not look right.

Commissioner Nolan thanked everyone for their work.

Public Comment

Matt Bennet, Vice Chair of the County Parks Commission, addressed the Task Force regarding the data of the public input surveys. He stated that the data was skewed towards the Lansing Urban Trail users. He further stated that the takeaway of the results was that regional connections were the most requested.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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

January 15, 2016

RE: Special Use Permit #16031 (Fann)

Dear Property Owner/Occupant:

This is to notify you that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian has scheduled a public hearing for Monday, February 8, 2016 to hear all persons interested in a request for a special use permit from Eric and Jacqueline Fann to operate a group child care home for up to 12 children at 4628 Manitou Drive, Okemos MI, 48864. The 0.34 acre site is located in the Tacoma Hills Subdivision. The site is zoned RAA (Single Family, Low Density).

The February 8, 2016 regular meeting of the Planning Commission will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (517-853-4560).

The purpose of the public hearing is to give the Planning Commission an opportunity to hear all persons interested or involved in the request. Your comments may be made in writing addressed to Harmony Gmazel, Associate Planner, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, by email to [gmazel@meridian.mi.us](mailto:gkazel@meridian.mi.us) or at the public hearing.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (517) 853-4568.

Sincerely,

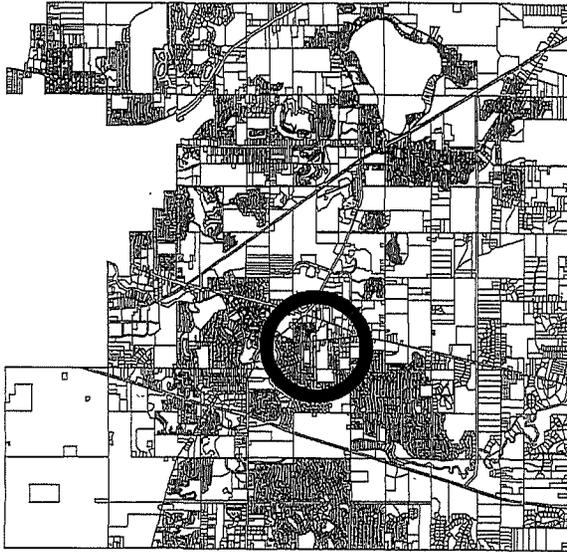
Harmony Gmazel, AICP
Associate Planner

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

www.meridian.mi.us

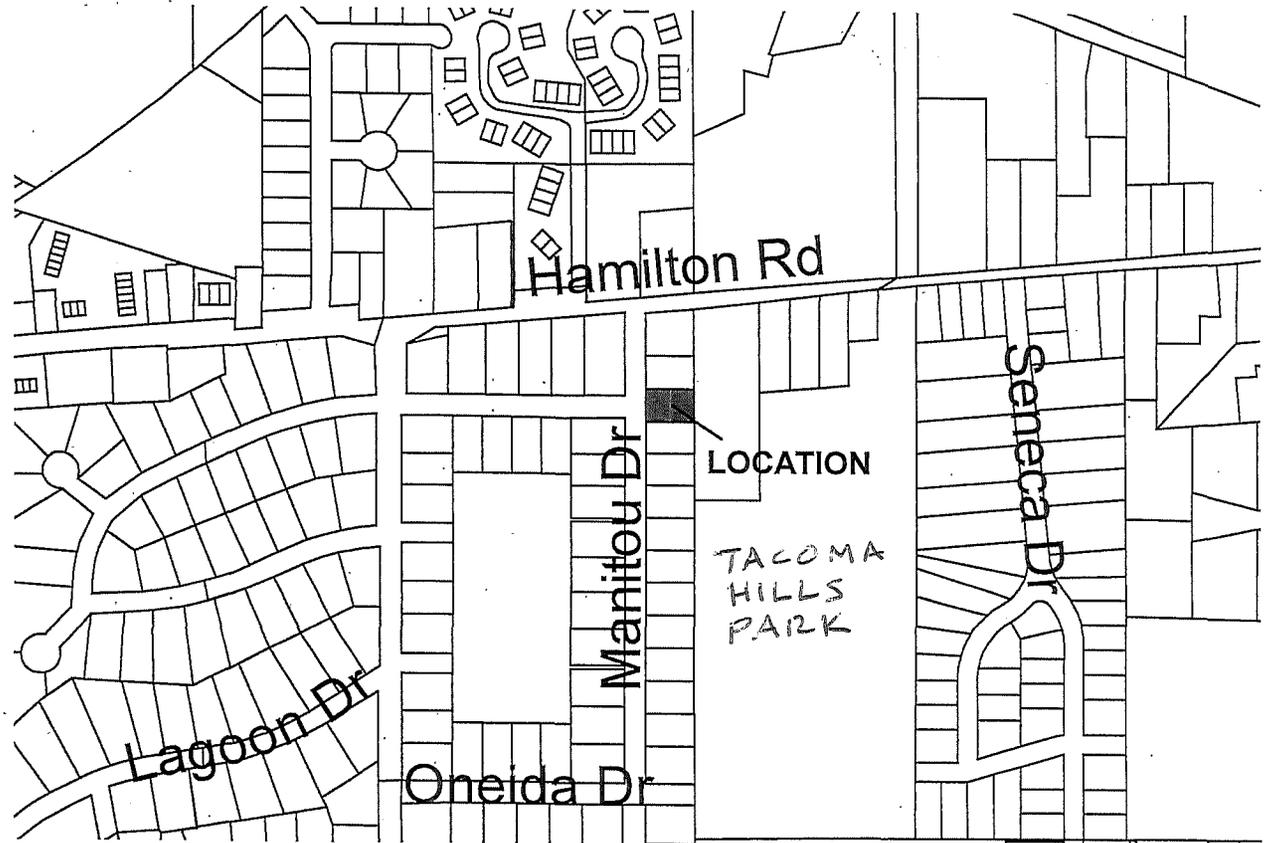




SPECIAL USE PERMIT #16031 (FANN)

**REQUEST FOR A GROUP CHILD CARE HOME
AT 4628 MANITOU DRIVE, OKEMOS**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN



Park Commission Meeting
February 9, 2016

6. MINUTES

- a. December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. January 21, 2016 Work Session Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson
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 meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote.
Motion passed.

3. Presentations

a. Certificates of Appreciation – Anthony (Tony) Bauer and Mike Lenkowski

Director Maisner stated the Park Commission is recognizing Tony Bauer and Mike Lenkowski for all their efforts and hard work on the Harris Nature Center Foundation Board. Tony Bauer led in the creation and development of the Nature Exploration Area and Mike Lenkowski served as the Foundation Board's Treasurer keeping them on track financially and leading the fundraising raffles. Patti Robbins, Harris Nature Center Foundation President, expressed appreciation for all of Tony's efforts and former President Barb Kissling shared her appreciation for Mike. Kit Rich, Harris Nature Center Coordinator, thanked both Tony and Mike for their generosity of spirit which is found in volunteers who gravitate toward the Nature Center.

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Stephens and supported by Chair Wilson,

WHEREAS, the Harris Nature Center Foundation (HNCF) was founded in 2008 with a mission to raise, invest and disperse funds in support of the Harris Nature Center to help sustain programs and facilities for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Park Commission would like to recognize former Foundation Board Member Anthony Bauer for his work and dedication toward this mission from 2013 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, Tony provided leadership in the design and development of the Nature Exploration Area by securing grants from Dart Foundation (\$5,000), Jackson National Life Foundation (\$5,000) and Okemos/Haslett Rotary (\$10,000); and

WHEREAS, Tony enlisted volunteers and utilized his professional skills in landscape architecture to create a play space including a Log Jam, Spider Web and Gathering Circle features for visitors to the Nature Center and park to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Tony gave generously of his time, talents and boundless energy in numerous ways and is held in high esteem by colleagues and citizens for his tireless efforts as a HNCF Board Member and advocate for Meridian Township Parks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THAT ANTHONY BAUER IS PRESENTED WITH THIS RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR HIS DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE ON THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION BOARD THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF A PARK SYSTEM THAT ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP.

ADOPTED:

AYES: Commissioners Deschaine, Stephens, Jaramillo, McDonald, and
Chair Wilson

NAYS: None

The resolution passed unanimously.

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Deschaine and supported by Commissioner Jaramillo,

WHEREAS, the Harris Nature Center Foundation (HNCF) was founded in 2008 with a mission to raise, invest and disperse funds in support of the Harris Nature Center to help sustain programs and facilities for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Park Commission would like to recognize former Foundation Member Michael Lenkowski for his work and dedication toward this mission from 2011 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, Michael served as Treasurer during his tenure on the HNCF Board and served as the HNCF's representative to the Meridian Area Business Association (MABA); and

WHEREAS, Michael head fundraising efforts of the Foundation by raising of nearly \$8,000 from raffles; and

WHEREAS, Michael gave generously of his time, talents and boundless energy in numerous ways and is held in high esteem by colleagues and citizens for his tireless efforts as a HNCF Board Member and advocate for Meridian Township Parks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THAT MICHAEL LENKOWSKI IS PRESENTED WITH THIS RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR HIS DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE ON THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION BOARD THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF A PARK SYSTEM THAT ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP.

ADOPTED:

AYES: Commissioners Deschaine, Stephens, Jaramillo, McDonald, and Chair Wilson

NAYS: None

The resolution passed unanimously.

The Commissioners all expressed their gratitude for the efforts of Mike Lenkowski and Tony Bauer.

b. Final Eagle Scout Presentation

Jacob Conklin was unable to attend.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Deschaine reported Kids N Dogs presented the Strider Bike Park proposal to the Kiwanis Club who are in favor of sponsorship and find it a doable idea.

Commissioner McDonald spoke about the results listed on the grant awards press release and stated the staff did a great job on the grant application submissions. A majority of the grants were awarded for trail development related to the Iron Belle Trail. He supports the continued submission of grant applications by the Township.

Chair Wilson spoke about the success of the Haslett Robotics Club teams and although they did not go to State Tournament, they did come home with awards.

Robotics is strong in the Haslett area and the support from the Haslett Kiwanis Club was greatly appreciated.

Commissioner Stephens reported on his work with 12 teachers to build under water cameras. Murphy School submitted and was awarded a grant to build and do this study in Central Park. He participated with Grand Learning Network and local students and parents to plant 1,200 plants in the Mary M G Helmbrecht Pollinator Garden in the Historical Village. Parks and Recreation Department staff were on hand to teach activities and run games. He also shared that Meridian Township assisted with the development of an interactive fishing map. He will forward the link to the map to staff for publishing in the Family Fun Guide.

Commissioner Jaramillo reported on forwarding an article on adult playgrounds to Director Maisner and would like to explore this idea at a future meeting. She also suggested discussing the Farmers' Market and all items related to it at a future meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. November 10, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 10, 2015 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: The Red Oak Foundation; RE: Donation of \$1,500 toward maintenance and improvements to Meridian Riverfront Park
2. To: The Red Oak Foundation; RE: Thank you letter
3. From: Dr. Maureen Sander; RE: 2016 Michigan Barn Preservation Network Calendar – featuring The Maureen Sander Barn (March)

B. Commission Information

1. Towne Courier: **Nov 15:** Discover beavers at Harris Nature Dec 3, Chipmunk Story Time at HNC Nov 19; **Nov 22:** Create treats for wild animals at Harris Nature Center Dec 6; **Nov 29:** Create treats for wild animals at Harris Nature Center Dec 6, Discover beavers at Harris Nature Dec 3
2. Harris Nature Center Foundation Minutes:
 - July 13, 2015
 - August 10, 2015
 - October 12, 2015

C. Staff Inquiries/Response
None

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

8. Director's Report

- a. **North Meridian Road Park** – since the restroom froze in 2013, a larger heating system was installed; it froze again in 2014 along with the septic system, new baseboard heating system was installed and balls of straw have been placed over the septic field to hopefully prevent freezing over this winter
- b. **Harris Nature Center** – over 100' of drain pipe was installed to address the erosion of the center island of the parking area; the area has been restored with approximately 60 yards of backfill and was completed today
- c. **Hartrick Park** – the concrete pads have been poured for the four dugout areas and the fencing and roof structures will be completed soon
- d. **2015 Grant Application Submissions:**
 - **North Meridian Road Park** – received \$50,000 grant award from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the construction of a pavilion
 - **Harris Nature Center** – the pavilion grant application did not receive approval
 - **Hillbrook Park** – have not heard the results from the Land and Water Conservation tennis court renovation grant application yet but hope to by end of year
 - Commissioners briefly discussed the grant scoring and suggested staff research additional information on the grant awards
- e. **Wonch Park** – footings for the pavilion are scheduled to be poured next week; installation will be in March for the remainder of the structure
- f. **Orlando Park** – playground equipment has been ordered and will be installed in April
- g. **Nancy Moore Park** – Eagle Scout Candidate Jacob Conklin constructed a gaga ball pit and will schedule his final presentation at January meeting
- h. **North Meridian Road Park** – have the hardware to construct and install a gaga ball pit next year
- i. **2016 Family Fun Guide** – finalizing the guide, scheduled to be mailed out by January 8, 2016; there will be only one edition to cover entire year and will be working on social media and articles in the Meridian Monitor throughout the year; will include the interactive fishing map
- j. **Wonch Park** – received grant approval from Greenfield Outdoor Fitness; it is on the agenda for approval to receive 12 pieces of universally accessible fitness equipment; this will be a first in the Tri-County area
- k. **Historical Village** – staff worked with 100 5th grade students from Murphy Elementary School to plant native plants along the pond edge as part of the pollinator garden that was planted using donations received in honor of former Clerk Mary M G Helmbrecht; seeds will be harvested next fall for planting in land preserves and parks
- l. **Miracle Midwest** (playground equipment dealer) in Okemos is closing due to a reorganization; moving to Missouri but some of their sales personnel will remain in the Detroit area

- m. **Larry Bobb, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Lead Worker**, along with the maintenance staff have been problem solving on issues in the parks; has great construction knowledge and the department has an outstanding staff
- n. Commissioner Stephens reported on meeting new **Stewardship Intern Kelsey Dillon**; she is incredible, very knowledgeable about plants and stewardship ideas, although sad at the loss of Nick Sanchez, Kelsey is great and strongly recommended her for a full-time position. Director Maisner will bring Kelsey to the January meeting; agrees she is very knowledgeable, great with staff and public of all ages, took off running with current projects; knows how to tell the story, is very excited about stewardship and the importance of educating everyone on it and is a valuable benefit to our community.
- o. **Christmas Tree Drop Off** – only one location, Nancy Moore Park parking area but can also take trees to the Recycling Center

9. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. 2016 Meeting Schedule Resolution

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Stephens and supported by Commissioner Jaramillo.

WHEREAS, the Park Commission desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission deems the 2016 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board's Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board's Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that the Park Commission adopts its regular 2016 meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 12*	Town Hall Room	<u>Joint Meeting w/Township Brd, 6 pm</u>
January 19**	Town Hall Room	<u>6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg</u>
February 9	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
March 8	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
April 12	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
May 10	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
June 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
July 12	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
August 9	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
September 13	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
October 11	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
November 8	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
December 13***	<u>Service Center</u>	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg

2. The Park Commission has set a schedule to meet on the second Tuesday of the month; except in January, when it will meet on the third Tuesday.
3. Each of the above meetings shall be held in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, (517) 853-4000, with the exception of December 13, when the Commission shall meet at the Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840 (517) 853-4600.
4. If the meeting location is in the Town Hall Room, the Park Commission meeting shall consist of a non-televised work session at 6 pm and the televised regular meeting at 7 pm. If the meeting location is other than the Town Hall Room, the non-televised meeting will consist of a non-televised work session at 6 pm and a regular meeting at 7 pm unless a work session is not required and therefore the regular meeting will begin at 6 pm.
5. Special meetings of the Park Commission may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
6. Regular meetings may be canceled, recessed or postponed by members of the Park Commission pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
7. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, and a copy of this resolution shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Philip Deschaine, Michael McDonald, Mark Stephens, Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson
NAYS: None

The resolution passed.

b. Greenfield Outdoor Fitness Grant Award

Director Maisner reported the Township was awarded a "Go Greenfields" grant in the amount of \$17,680. The grant requires a financial commitment match of 35,110 for a total cost of \$52,790 including shipping. The grant project will provide 12 pieces of freestanding fitness equipment that will be placed along the pathway in Wonch Park. Installation costs are not included and are the responsibility of the Township.

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,680 FROM GREENFIELDS OUTDOOR FITNESS "GO GREENFIELDS" GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURCHASE OF OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT TO E PLACED IN WONCH PARK, 4555 OKEMOS ROAD. THE TOTAL EQUIPMENT AND DELIVERY COST IS \$52,790 WITH THE REQUIRED

LOCAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OF \$35,110 FUNDED THROUGH THE PARK MILLAGE. THE EQUIPMENT ORDER WILL BE PLACED BY DECEMBER 31, 2015 WITH A 50% DOWN PAYMENT AS REQUIRED IN THE GRANT AGREEMENT.

Discussion:

- The project will require a certified installer with an estimated cost of installation of \$11,000 plus surfacing material.
- The equipment will be funded through the Park Millage.
- Director Maisner will research the product warranty.
- The equipment will be placed in 2-3 pods along the new paved path on the northern portion of the park.
- This new outdoor fitness area will provide opportunities for fitness classes and age-appropriate programming. This could help make Wonch Park a real destination park for many of our residents.
- Suggestion was made to have a lunch cart on the site during the summer and exploring funding and program opportunities with the DDA or businesses in the DDA district.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Todd Wilson, Melanie Jaramillo, Mark Stephens, Michael McDonald,
Philip Deschaine

NAYS: None

The resolution passed.

10. Unfinished Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None

11. Other Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Elections of Officers

Chair Wilson opened the floor for nominations for **Chair**

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, TO NOMINATE TODD WILSON AS CHAIR. COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED.

Todd Wilson accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nominations for Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Philip Deschaine, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

Nomination passed.

Chair Wilson opened the floor for nomination for **Vice Chair.**

COMMISSIONER DESCHAINE MOVED, TO NOMINATE MICHAEL MCDONALD AS VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED.

Michael McDonald accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nomination for Vice Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Philip Deschaine, Todd Wilson, Melanie Jaramillo, Mark Stephens,
Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Nomination passed.

b. Land Preservation Appointment

Chair Wilson asked Commissioner Stephens to continue as the Park Commission representative on the Land Preservation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Stephens accepted the appointment.

Director Maisner thanked Commissioner Stephens for his service on the Land Preservation Advisory (LPA) Board. As liaison, he has brought the LPA Board, Park Commission, and local school children together to work on joint projects. Parks and Land Preserves are all Township properties and regardless of who funded them, we have a responsibility to work together and be responsible for their maintenance and stewardship.

12. Discussion Items
PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Towner Road Park Construction Management

Chair Wilson reported on conversations with Viridis and staff on the construction for the project and how the services will be delivered. He recommended the option of using a construction manager who would sub contract the work and have the project completed to the Township's satisfaction. The Township used a construction manager on the new fire station site. With a construction manager, Township will verify the delivery of

scope of work at the cost specified. The Commissioners appreciate Chair Wilson's insight and supported his recommendation.

b. Joint Meeting with Land Preservation Advisory Board and Environmental Commission

Director Maisner reported the Environmental Commission approached the idea of a joint meeting with the Land Preservation Advisory Board and Park Commission to discuss topics in common. It has been suggested that the three Chairs meeting in January to discuss topics and draft an agenda and to possibly set a joint meeting late February.

c. 2016 Grant Proposals

Director Maisner asked the Commissioners their opinions about possible projects for grant proposals.

Discussion:

- Central Park South fishing dock
- Historical Village restroom building
- Historical Village covered wagon
- Harris Nature Center pavilion but change name of project to Meridian Riverfront Park Trail Enhancement
- Suggested holding a strategic planning session in January; staff will prepare a draft list of projects; will need to know the proposed costs for the Towner Road Park development and possible funding options
- Suggested Coordinator Greenway attend first round of grant meetings, talk with DNR staff and other grant recipients on projects that received a grant this year

13. Final Comments

None

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2016, Town Hall (third Tuesday)
- b. Joint Meeting of Boards and Commissions on Tuesday, January 12, Town Hall, 6 pm (second Tuesday)
- c. Winter Farmers' Market – 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, December, 2015 to April, 2016, from 10 am – 2 pm, J C Penney Corridor, inside the Meridian Mall (December 19, January 2 and 16)
- d. Christmas in the Village, Sunday, December 13, 2-4 pm; Annual tree lighting at 4 pm
- e. Drive Thru Santa, Saturday, December 19, 5-8 pm, Service Center

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

None

17. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO
SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson (left at 7:45 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 work session to order at 6:31 pm.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to:

#4, Presentations, Eagle Scout Candidate Jacob Conklin Final Report

#5, Communications

#6, CIP 2017-2022

#7, Central Park Master Plan Priorities

#8, Grant Proposals 2016 Projects

#9, LEAP Request for Proposals of Public Art for Communities 2016

#10, Doggie Playground Proposal

#11, Public Comment

#12, Adjournment

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

4. Presentations

a. Eagle Scout Project Final Report

Director Maisner reported that she gave approval for Eagle Scout Candidate Jacob Conklin from Haslet Troop 97, to construct a gaga ball pit in Nancy Moore Park.

Jacob distributed pictures of the project and explained that the pit is 25-feet in diameter with 10'x3' walls with one wall containing a short gap for easier access. Mulch was added around the outside walls to make mowing around it easier. The project took approximately 27 hours, was completed mostly by himself, his dad and a few scouts. His proposed budget was \$750 but with

ending costs was \$850. He was able to cover the project costs through donations and a can drive.

The Commissioners thanked Jacob for his efforts.

5. Communications

- a. December 8, 2015 Park Commission Minutes
- b. 2016 Township Goals
- c. January 19, 2016 Meeting of the Planning and Community Outreach Committee of the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission
- d. 2015 Meridian Township National Citizen Survey Results
- e. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Newsletter, Winter 2016

Director Maisner reported that Township Manager, Frank Walsh has assigned her to be the Township's liaison to the Ingham County Park and Trails Millage. She will be working to get the County to invest some of the Trails Millage funds in Meridian Township and will be enlisting assistance from engineering Director, Derek Perry and Chief Engineer, Younes Ishraidi. Commissioner McDonald volunteered to assist Director Maisner with this project. She will keep the Park Commission informed of her progress.

6. CIP 2017-2022

Chair Wilson stated that the proposed 2017-2022 CIP Summary by Park and Year was completed by staff and contains edits based on relevance and completed projects. Once Towner Road Park is developed, it is estimated that approximately \$400,000 will be available for the remaining capital projects that have an estimated cost of \$8,560,000.

Discussion:

Director Maisner reviewed the Summary

- Central Park Improvements – leave as stated
- Harris Nature Center – leave as stated
- Hartrick Park – remove the maintenance/concession building and paved trail;
- Hillbrook Park – leave as stated; would like to see this park as a priority
- Land Acquisition – remove; can be added if property becomes available
- Legg Park – remove the restroom and pavilion
- Marshall Park – remove the Skate Park
- Meridian Riverfront Park Improvements – leave as stated
- Nancy Moore Park – leave as stated; highly used park and there is a need for an accessible playground
- Newton Road Park – remove the playground and loop trail
- North Meridian Road Park – remove the gage ball/disc golf item; researching a new location for disc golf, and Gaga Ball pit scheduled for installation in 2016
- Orlando Park – remove trail to Mud Lake; it is not desired by the school

- Ottawa Hills Park – leave as stated
- Snell-Towar Recreation Center – remove new roof, shelter and patio
- Wonch Park – remove the plaza since a patio is being added to pavilion; fitness equipment will be installed this spring
- Eastgate Park – leave as stated, very needed
- New Farmers' Market Relocation – remove from Park Commission items. As it is not a Park Millage project

Commissioners were asked to list their top three projects for 2017 and 2018 for additional discussion at the February meeting. If possible, send priorities to staff for tabulation prior to the meeting.

Director Maisner reported Haslett Librarian Ann Chapman discussed a story book trail grant she would like to see developed at Orlando Park and the first story could be about Clifford the Big Red Dog since that will be one of the new playground items to be installed this spring. This story book trail can have interchangeable stories and tied into programs out of the Haslett Library.

Commissioners briefly discussed their desire to hold a meeting with the Harris Nature Center Foundation Board to review Park Commission priorities for the Center and surrounding grounds. The Commissioners discussed the need for a picnic pavilion. Director Maisner will speak with HNC Foundation Board President about a future meeting.

7. Central Park Master Plan Priorities

Director Maisner discussed the need to prioritize projects for implementation of the Central Park Master Plan. This will assist in identifying grant projects in the coming years. Now that the plan is complete, the Commissioners suggested presenting the final plan to the Township Board at a future meeting. The estimated cost for construction is \$5,047,000. Add this item to the February agenda for future discussion

8. Grant Proposals 2016 Projects

By consensus, this item will be tabled to the February Park Commission meeting.

9. LEAP Request for Proposals of Public Art for Communities 2016

Director Maisner reported on her discussion with Associate Planner Menser, on their submission of a grant proposal for public art. In the past, the Okemos DDA was awarded a grant for the sculpture located adjacent to the Woods Marathon. The grant proposal for 2016 is proposed for Wonch Park. This project will tie into the sidewalk planned for pedestrian entry into the Park. The grant will be prepared by Associate Planner Menser and requires a small local match either in-kind, cash, or in combination. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of

the Commission to proceed forward with the proposed project and to have this item added to the February agenda for formal approval.

10. Doggie Playground Proposal

Director Maisner proposed developing a unique facility for pets and their owners located across from the Meridian Service Center in Central Park. The "Doggie Playground" would be Meridian's first off-leash dog facility accommodating both large and small dogs. The playground would consist of both trails and agility equipment and would be a great "first step" in interacting with pet owners on future facilities. Staff is also looking into creating a loop trail for off-leash dogs between the Post Office and new Central Fire Station on Central Park Drive and Okemos Road.

The Commissioners asked for a formal plan and motion for discussion and action for the February 9, 2016 meeting.

11. Public Remarks

Madeline Masterson, President, Meridian Garden Club (MGG), stated they are very interested in participating in the development of the Central Park Master Plan and the Historical Village. She requested clarification of the location of the proposed "Pink Garden" as it is in the wrong location on the map. They are suggesting it be moved closer to the Brick House so the irrigation system can be extended to it. The Garden Club is proposing to cover the costs for the "Pink Garden" and extension of the irrigation system. The Garden Club would like to proceed with the "Pink Garden" development in 2016. Director Maisner stated that the garden could move as long as the promenade could accommodate access and suggested she work together with Parks and Land Management Coordinator, Jane Greenway on the project. MGG President Masterson stated the Pink Garden is part of a nation-wide effort to raise awareness of breast cancer and the Club members have been speaking to area businesses to get their support for this effort. Pink Zinnia seeds have been ordered and will be planted by girl scouts from East Lansing, Haslett and Okemos and the Garden Club will be furnishing signs. Currently there are 82 members in the Club and when she joined 12 years ago, there were 35 members.

Commissioner McDonald spoke about the need for owners to clean up after their pets at the Davis/Foster Farm. Also there is a need for signage on the site and a way to keep cars from driving along the firebreak trail.

Commissioner Deschaine thanked staff for the wonderful Family Fun Guide. It is a great publication and he especially enjoyed the tribute to Park Friend of the Year Bobbi DuByne, the "Love a Park" information, and volunteer activities and efforts.

Director Maisner reported on Township Administrative Staff attending the recent public hearing on House Bill 5219 prohibiting communication regarding a millage request within 60 days of an election. She also reported on the upcoming

Chinese New Year event in the Meridian Mall on Sunday, February 7 from 1:30 to 4:30pm and that the "Celebrate Meridian" event will take place on Saturday, June 11.

12. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Vice Chair McDonald adjourned the work session at 8:46 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

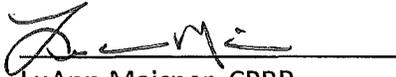
February 9, 2016

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Doggie Playground Proposal
- b. LEAP Request for Proposals of Public Art for Communities 2016
- c. Projects for 2016 Grant Proposals
- d. Set Public Hearing Date for Grant Proposals
- e. Nancy Moore Park Sand Volleyball Court Improvement

MEMORANDUM

Dog Playground

TO: Park Commissioners
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation
DATE: February 5, 2016
RE: Dog Playground

During the January 19, 2016 Work Session, the Commission discussed a proposal to construct a "Doggie Playground" in Central Park across from the Service Center on Gaylord Smith Ct. This would be a specialty park for both large and small dogs approximately 2- acres in size with trails and agility equipment. This would be our first off-leash dog facility in Meridian and would provide an opportunity to foster relationships with our users to help determine next steps in creating other dog-friendly facilities in our community.

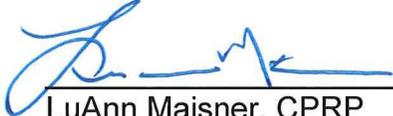
The proposed location is adjacent to the Parks and Recreation office making supervision and maintenance more manageable than at an off-site location. It's centrally located and not directly near a residential dwelling. Staff believes that it would be a good first step in the dog park process.

Motion for Consideration

MOVE TO BUILD A DOGGY PLAYGROUND IN CENTRAL PARK ADJACENT TO GAYLORD SMITH CT, HASLETT, APPROXIMATELY 2-ACRES IN SIZE WITH BOTH LARGE AND SMALL DOG AREAS, TRAILS, AND AGILITY EQUIPMENT FOR AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$76,000 FUNDED BY THE PARK MILLAGE.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 5, 2016

RE: LEAP Request for Proposals
Public Art for Communities 2016

During the Park Commission's January 21, 2016 Work Session, the Commission discussed supporting the submission of a grant proposal for public art to the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP). As discussed, Associate Planner Menser will prepare the proposal which will require a small local match either in-kind, cash or in combination. Staff is recommending Wonch Park for the project location and this project will tie into the sidewalk planned for pedestrian entry into the Park.

The following motion is proposed:

MOVE TO SUPPORT THE SUBMISSION OF THE PUBLIC ART FOR COMMUNITIES GRANT PROPOSAL FOR WONCH PARK TO THE LANSING ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTE A LOCAL MATCH OF \$500 CASH FUNDED THROUGH THE PARK MILLAGE.



Request for Proposals Public Art for Communities 2016

The Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) is currently accepting proposals from municipalities and organizations within Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties interested in receiving funding to commission and install a piece of art on public property. The LEAP Public Art for Communities program with additional support from PNC Bank will award three grants of \$10,000 each for the municipality or organization to commission, create, and install the piece of public art for year round public display.

Arts and culture strategies help to reveal and enhance the underlying identity — the unique meaning, value, and character — of the physical and social form of a community. This identity is reflected through the community's character or sense of place. A community's sense of place is not a static concept; rather, it evolves and develops over time, reflecting the spectrum of social values within and around the community.

In this way, the community character of a city, county, town, or neighborhood can be seen as a story or narrative of a place. Planners and community members can come together to reveal and burnish this narrative through:

- *an articulation of the historic, cultural, economic, and cultural context of the community;*
- *a commitment to the reinforcement and enhancement of the community's identity; and*
- *the implementation of policies, regulations, and incentives that support and enhance this evolving identity.*

*How Arts and Cultural Strategies Create, Reinforce, and Enhance
Sense of Place. American Planning Association.*

The most successful applicant will identify a key, central, public location that is highly visible or recognizable to a significant and regular flow of foot and car traffic. Beyond the visibility issue (we want the public to enjoy the art), equally as important is that the location, and the placement of art at the location, will greatly enhance the image of the specific, strategic place within the community, making it more likely to retain and attract business and talent to that area.

How would the community utilize the piece, interact with the piece, feel ownership of the piece? The perfect piece should be specific to the community and the people in it. Does the piece utilize triangulation, or does it interact with the ground it sits on? These are the things the community should be thinking about when choosing the location and creating the plan.

Examples of Artistic Placemaking



Example of the piece interacting with the building it is placed on. White River Gallery, Montague, MI



Example of the piece being created by the community. Friedland Industries, Lansing, MI



Example of the piece representing the brand of a community. The Worker, Lansing, MI



Example of the piece being iconic and photographed by residents and tourists. Love, Philadelphia, PA.



Example of the piece serving a functional purpose. Lansing Community College bike rack, Lansing, MI



Example of the piece interacting with the ground and becoming a piece people can climb on. Awakening, Washington D.C.



Eligibility

- The request for proposal is open to any municipality or organization located in Ingham, Eaton or Clinton Counties.
- Applications must be submitted by a representative of the community's municipal body acting on behalf of the municipal body.
 - If a neighborhood organization plans to apply, they must partner with and secure a letter of support from their municipal governing body.
 - Municipal governments will serve as fiduciary agents.
- Applicants need to demonstrate the existence or adoption of a public art policy for their community. The policy must be in progress at the time of the application and adopted by the time the award is made.
 - Two templates of public art policies are available at www.purelansing.com/publicart.
- Scoring of applicants will be weighted toward LEAP community members.
- Art pieces must be created by an artist from Michigan with additional points awarded to artists from the tri-county region.
- Ability to complete this project within LEAP's fiscal year, with an unveiling event taking place prior to October 31, 2016.

Definition of a "Public Art Piece": A public art piece is a uniquely created piece of physical art work, such as a sculpture, statue, mural, or bike rack that will permanently endure the site, activities, and weather. It must not be political or obscene in nature.

Deadline

The deadline for submission is 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 19, 2016. Please email applications to: Sara Parkinson, Director of Talent & Communications, sara@purelansing.com.

Submission

Please include the following items in your written request:

- Evidence of existence or adoption of a public art policy for the community.
- Plans to seek matching dollars from the private sector or community in the form of crowd funding or contribution.
- Plans to seek in-kind support for the project in the form of landscaping, maintenance, lighting, etc.
- Narrative of the municipality's efforts and priority of placemaking efforts.
- Description on how the public art piece will contribute to the distinct identity for the area and specific place(ment).
 - Examples of other placemaking initiatives in the community.
- Discussion of how the art piece located at a specific place will enhance business development efforts and attract talent and new businesses to that specific area.
- Description, including photo or map, of the location of the public art piece.
- Information related to the visibility of the location (traffic counts, pedestrian counts, etc).



- Submission of a site prep outline, physical foundation development, continuous maintenance plan, insurance/liability issues and final installation budget and plan.
- Description of community plans to jury the artists/art pieces.
 - Suggestions for committee members that will draft the RFP and/or jury the pieces.
- Timetable for the commission and installation of the public art piece (Timeline suggestion, see below.)
 - LEAP RFP Open for Submissions: December 15, 2015-February 19, 2016
 - Review of received proposals: February 22-26, 2016
 - Press Event/ Announcement: week of February 29-March 4, 2016
 - Community Art Committee Convene to write Artist RFP: Week of March 7, 2016
 - Community Call to Artists RFP Open for Submissions: March-April, 2016
 - Choose Artist/Enter into contract with Artist: May 2016
 - Fabrication of Art Piece: June – September, 2016
 - Unveiling of Art Piece/Press Event: October, 2016

Selection Process

LEAP's Placemaking Workgroup will serve as the selection panel. The co-chairs of the Committee are Steve Curran and Julie Pingston and the committee consists of 5-8 representatives.

Selection Criteria

The selection will be based on the following criteria:

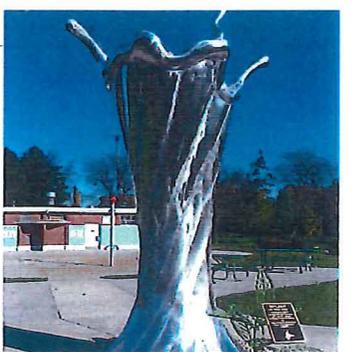
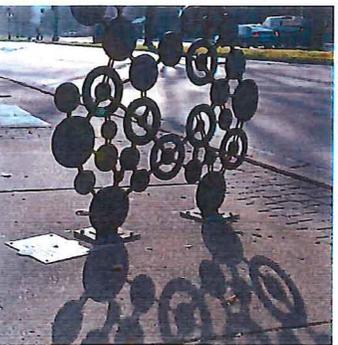
- Does the community have a public art policy in place or in process?
- How engaged is the community in creating a sense of place for the region?
- Does the project increase the sense of place for resident and visitors?
- Does this project impact potential business investment and talent in the area?
- Is the placement of the piece in a high visibility location?
- Does the community plan to offer a match/in kind donation to the grant dollars?
- Is the applicant a LEAP member?

Award

The three awards will be announced publically at a press event in early March. Applicants will be notified prior to the public announcement. Grantees will receive 50% of the grant dollars at the time of contract with LEAP and 50% upon completion of the final report and installation of the piece. Accompanying plaque is required featuring LEAP and PNC logos placed prominently on the site. All press activities must be initiated and handled by LEAP.

Questions

Please direct any questions to Sara Parkinson at the Lansing Economic Area Partnership | LEAP at sara@purelansing.com.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission
FROM: LuAnn Maisner
LuAnn Maisner CPRP
DATE: February 5, 2016
RE: Schedule Public Hearing Date for Grant Submissions

The following motion is for your consideration:

MOVE TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE PROPOSED GRANT
SUBMISSIONS FOR:

- _____
- _____

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016, 7 PM, AT THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION
HASLETT/OKEMOS ROTARY COMMUNITY ROOM, 5000 OKEMOS ROAD, OKEMOS,
MI

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 5, 2016

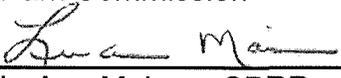
RE: Nancy Moore Park Sand Volleyball Courts

In 1992, the amenities for Nancy Moore Park were installed including two sand volleyball courts. These courts have hosted leagues, tournaments and casual play for the last 24 years. Staff is recommending the sand be replaced at a cost of approximately \$12,000 for the two courts. This recommendation requires a budget amendment.

The following motion is offered for your consideration.

MOVE THAT THE PARK COMMISSION APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000 TO PURCHASE NEW SAND FOR TWO SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS IN NANCY MOORE PARK IN 2016 FROM THE PARK MILLAGE FUND.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner CPRP
DATE: February 5, 2016
RE: March Park Commission Meeting Location Change

On December 8, 2015, the Park Commission passed a meeting resolution for 2016. As indicated on the resolution, the Park Commission is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 8 at 6 pm for work session and 7 pm for regular meeting in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building. Due to the upcoming election on March 8 and the Town Hall Room being designated one of the polling locations, it is recommended the Park Commission move the meeting location from the Town Hall Room to the Central Fire Station Haslett/Okemos Rotary Club Community Room.

The following motion is for your consideration:

MOVED TO RELOCATE THE MARCH 8, 2016 PARK COMMISSION MEETING FROM THE TOWN HALL ROOM, MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING TO THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION HASLETT/OKEMOS ROTARY CLUB COMMUNITY ROOM AND THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 6 PM.