

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and  
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioner Wilson

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Vice Chair McDonald called the regular meeting to order at 7:11 pm

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Under item #9, New Business, add item #a. Historical Village Furnace Replacement and #b Facebook Promotion

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**3. Presentations**

None

**4. Public Comment**

David Ledebuhr, Cornell Road, Okemos, stated he is the Vice Chair for the Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC). The EDC has made the Farmers' Market activity one of their priority projects this year. The EDC supports a more prominent, visible location, and with its relocation to the Meridian Mall, the Market will be able to expand and improve its commerce base. He supports the proposal for a walkway, pavilion, improvements to the pond and all the connections for the Ledebuhr parcel (which his family donated to the Township). He supports all of the improvements for Central Park.

Maddie Masterson, President of the Meridian Garden Club, stated they are in support of the improvements but suggests relocating the new Pink Garden to a different location. The purpose of the Pink Garden is to raise awareness of breast cancer would prefer a more a serene location to offer visitors a quiet place for reflection. Director Maisner will forward the suggestion to the consultant.

## 5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Stephens thanked everyone who participated in the charrettes and believes OCBA has done a great job so far on Central Park Master Plan project.

Commissioner Deschaine spoke about the Kids and Dogs store and would like a presentation at a future Commission meeting about the strider bikes.

Vice Chair McDonald complimented OCBA for their work on the Central Park Master Plan and was impressed with their research and knowledge of this project.

## 6. Approval of Minutes

- a. June 9, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. June 9, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes – page 5, item #12, Discussion items, #b, Social Media, second sentence, change 5% to 500

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JUNE 9, 2015 MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

## 7. Communications

### A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Mary Gebbia-Portice, RE: Graham Riley and Zach Reid Assisted Park Visitor

### B. Commission Information

1. August Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Parks & Recreation Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report (April-June 2015)
3. Towne Courier: **June 7:** Frog forage campfire at nature center June 27; **June 14:** Meridian Fishing Derby this Sunday; **June 28:** Meridian Township parks and getting lots of love; **July 5:** Harris Nature Center campfire set for July 11; Nature camps offered at Harris Nature Center; Meridian hosts Music in Village each Wednesday; **July 12:** Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center; Meridian seeks input for Central Park improvements; **July 19:** Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center; Nature center hosts Bat time campfire; **July 26:** Meridian Township seeking input on Central Park's future; Full moon walk in woods takes place July 31; Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center
4. Lansing State Journal: **June 22:** Buggin' Dad on Dad's Day
5. Press Releases: **July 6:** Meridian Township Park Commission Requests Residents' Input/Focus Groups Scheduled to Discuss Central Park Master Plan; **July 24:** Participatory Design Charrettes Planned/Two-day Open Studio Meetings to Discuss Central Park Master Plan

### C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

Vice Chair McDonald appreciated the compliment on the two employees from the Township resident.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

## 8. Director's Report

### CENTRAL PARK

- Master Plan Update (OCBA, public input sessions and focus group meetings well attended, design charrettes)
- The Town Hall parking areas are scheduled for light replacement and resurfacing in August/Sept

### WONCH

- Wonch Pavilion
  - 40' hexagon Polygon pavilion – PO is requested
  - Wonch Parking lot paving - Being done this week
  - Electrical conduit and water line installed under new parking lot
  - Wonch Park Pathway Ribbon Cutting - suggested dates: Wednesday, August 26, September 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 14-18
- Wonch Park Fencing - Black, aluminum railing installed
- Wonch Park Gate and Restroom Railings - Painted black

### ORLANDO PARK SWINGS & SLIDES

- In the selection process now. Will order

### HILLBROOK ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND

- Working on plan currently. Received one bid for play equipment.

### TOWNER ROAD PARK Phase I

- Entering into agreement with Viridis Design Group to begin redesign of front of park and bid project. Time projection for bidding: early October
- Demolition of Applegate house and surrounding structures late September

### HARTRICK PARK

- Player Bench Covers - September project

### HARRIS NATURE CENTER

- Crack-fill, seal and stripe parking lot HNC-next week. Waited for summer camps to conclude. Greatest summer camp season ever! 440 campers over 8 weeks. Congrats to staff
- Improve parking lot runoff area to reduce erosion – September project
- Progress report on Nature Exploration Area: Turtle, Fossil Dig area, log jam climbing structure, spider web, accessible trail all done. Gathering Circle construction in process
- Steps near canoe launch (Jay Hanks and volunteers)

#### FERGUSON PARK

- Crack filled , sealed and striped parking lot - done

#### NANCY MOORE PARK

- New siding Nancy Moore Park pavilion - done
- Safety Fencing on Ball diamonds - done

#### EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

- A scout is working on gaga ball at N Meridian Rd Park

#### NEWTON ROAD

- Road will be paved in front of Newton Road Park

#### NEW RECREATION COORDINATOR

- Darcie Weigand, new Parks and Recreation Specialist - Welcome

#### SNELL-TOWAR RECREATION CENTER

- Summer program is complete

#### LEGG PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- No updates

#### VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

- Jay Hanks and Lansing Oar and Paddle Club installed steps down to river near canoe deck
- Midge Morrow and 21 volunteers from the Capital Area Geocache Club spent two hours cleaning up Wonch and Ferguson

#### DEER MANAGEMENT

- A third deer was found with CWD
- Planning an August 27 Town Hall meeting to discuss CWD (DNR). Time to be determined.

#### MERIDIAN GARDEN CLUB

- Continues to beautify the gardens near the Town Hall and the Village. Staff has been very busy attending to work orders that include pruning, mulch spreading, irrigation repairs, landscape bed edging, moving rocks, etc. This has been our busiest summer in the village yet and it shows.

#### GOOD-BYE TO OUR INTERN AND LEAD WORKER ROB MACKENZIE

- Travis Larson is leaving on Friday, he has done an excellent job and his friendly personality will be missed
- Lead Worker in Parks and Grounds, Rob MacKenzie has moved to lead the Sewer Department. Rob was an outstanding worker and leader in our department and I thank him for his dedicated efforts.

**9. New Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

**A. Historical Village Furnace Replacement**

The Friends of Historic Meridian are a volunteer organization who manages the Meridian Historical Village and provide programming for the community year around. The furnace in the brick house needs replacing. The Friends have ordered a new unit for installation.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO REIMBURSE THE FRIENDS OF HISTORIC MERIDIAN \$3,114 FOR THE NEW FURNACE INSTALLED IN THE BRICK HOUSE.

Roll Call:

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

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

**b. Facebook Promotion**

Commissioner Jaramillo reported she met with representatives from the Township's Communication Department to discuss effective ways to better promote the parks in our community through social media. Funds are available in the current budget for target marketing and boosting on Facebook and Twitter. They also discussed different ways to engage residents. The Commissioners supported the idea.

**10. Unfinished Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**11. Other Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**12. Discussion Items**

PUBLIC COMMENT

**a. Central Park Master Plan Update**

Director Maisner presented the preliminary plans that were created for Central Park by O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Associates. The process began in June with a thorough evaluation of the site and site conditions to determine opportunities and challenges for future development. A number of input opportunities were held including the public, stake holders, staff and Commission. This plan was developed from this foundation.

- To navigate the facility, 16' wide paved pathway promenade through the area with big entrance points and open areas; improving the north/south and east/west connections.
- Focus on all entrance points into the park.
- Identity – Signage, amenities, name all areas Central Park
- Historical Village area would include a “town center feel” with new pavilion, restroom building, light posts, benches, signage, new pink garden, small amphitheater and wide bridge connecting the Village to Central Park.
- Due to site constraints, the Farmers’ Market activity would move to a new location. This will provide new opportunities for this site. The current pavilion would be removed and replaced, the restroom would be relocated to the Village, add a fountain play area, plaza feature, family picnic space, new play equipment, Wi-Fi, and open green space.
- Ledebuhr site would include a sculpture garden walking trail, covered basketball/ice rink facility, paved pathways, boardwalks, signage, access walk to the Meridian Mall
- Relocation of the Farmers’ Market to the Meridian Mall, with covered open structures in the parking lot. The large greenspace would transform into a small park with restroom building, picnic area, small music stage, etc. A street crossing area will connect the Market with Central Park South.
- Central Park South - improved water quality, canal connecting to pond in Historical Village, boardwalk through wetland along canal, picnic area, parking and overlook/fishing area
- Nancy Moore Park would have a new entrance with the extension of Gaylord C Smith Court into the park (as in the original design), additional pavilion, restroom building.

This is just a summary of the plan. Sandy Bliesener from O’Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Associates will attend the September 8 regular meeting to make a detailed final presentation including cost estimates.

### **13. Final Comments**

None

### **14. Announcements**

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2015, Meridian Service Center
  - Farmers’ Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays, July 1-October 31, 8 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
- b. Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, Sunday, August 23 & September 27, 11 am – 4 pm, Central Park Pavilion
- c. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 19, 10 am – 3 pm, Meridian Historical Village and Central Park

**15. Public Remarks**

Mary Lou Hatfield, Okemos, shared her concern of having an open air design for the farmers' market pavilion during times of cold weather. Director Maisner replied that those types of details will be researched and determined during the design phase of that project.

Vice Chair McDonald reported he was please to see representation from Ingham County Parks and East Lansing Parks and Recreation at the meetings.

**16. Closed Session**

None

**17. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.