



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Town Hall Room  
January 30, 2018 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Chair, Michael McDonald; Commissioner Annika Schaetzl; Commissioner Mark Stephens; Commissioner Courtney Wisinski  
ABSENT: Vice Chair Amanda Lick  
STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Recreation Department Director, Parks & Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Stewardship Coordinator Kelsey Dillon; HNC Coordinator Kit Rich

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. **CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Hearing no objections, Chair McDonald accepted the agenda as submitted.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Meridian Township Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony

Park Commissioners acknowledged the following individuals, groups and organizations for their contributions in 2017 to Township Parks and Land Preserves:

**Meridian Garden Club**—Successfully dedicated the Plant it Pink Garden for Breast Cancer awareness, planted and maintained gardens in the Historical Village, the gardens in front of the Municipal Building and Claire Twohy Memorial Garden in Central Park – Helen Tanner/Founding President, Jodie Szalankiewicz/President

**Haslett Beautification Association**—Planted and maintained gardens in Haslett green spaces and engaged youth in meaningful beautification projects - Teri Banas/President, Shari Middlewood/Vice President, Chris Decker/Treasurer, Anne Perkins/Secretary; and board members: Patty Cotter, Diane Robinson, Simar Pawar and Peter Menser

**Friends of Historic Meridian**—Efforts toward growth and sustainability of the Meridian Historical Village and provided meaningful education programs and community events for youth and families – Jane Rose, Executive Director

**Meridian Senior Center Advisory Board**—Provided input, direction and program support for the Meridian Senior Center - Peggy Frish/President, Jack Whitmeyer/Vice President, Darla Jackson/Secretary, Betsy Bricker, Richard Fox, Gen Healy, Kristen Campbell/Ingham County Care Facility, Matt Prinz/Chippewa Middle School teacher

**Harris Nature Center Foundation**— Jim Buscetta/President, Nancy Parmenter/Vice President, Barb Kissling/Treasurer, Rachel McDaniel/Secretary, June Hicks, Julie Moore, Martha (Patty) Robbins, Roxanne Truhn, and Nora Thompson

**Haslett Kiwanis Club**—Participated at two locations for the annual Love A Park Day

**Kiwanis Club of Okemos**—Solicited giftcards from local businesses for the Harris Nature Center Silent Auction and donated money for a new flagpole at Towner Road Park

**Haslett-Okemos Rotary**— Sponsored the new interpretive signs at the Historical Village

**Howard and Helen Tanner**—Honorary directors of the Harris Nature Center Foundation

**Red Cedar Kid's 4-H Club**—Received training and monitored a vernal pool in a park for the Mid-Michigan monitoring program for a year; Elisabeth Baumann/Teen Leader, Maggie Callender/Member, Greta Gmazel/Member, Harmony Gmazel/Leader and Nature Study co-leader, Becky Callender/Volunteer Leader), Krista Baumann/Volunteer Leader, Jean Fierke/Nature Study co-leader

**Lansing Oar and Paddle Club**—Continued stewardship of the Red Cedar River ; President Jay Hanks, Vice-President Loretta Crum

**MSU Global Day of Service Volunteers**—Students and staff from MSU removed the invasive species Autumn Olive at the Davis Foster Land Preserve

**Earth Day Volunteers**—Okemos Daisy Scouts and staff from Okemos Goldfish Swim School planted flowers and cleaned up Nancy Moore Park

**Love A Park Day Volunteers**—Hillbrook and Orlando Parks – Haslett Kiwanis Club, Meridian Democrats, Bobby Dubyne, Township Board member Phil Deschaine; Harris Nature Center – Okemos Kiwanis Club, Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club, Treasurer Julie Brixie, Meridian Democrats; Hartrick Park – Martha Hentz and Chris Buck with families; Sander Farm – Larry Hennessy; Forest Hills Natural Area – Forest Hills Neighborhood Association; Ferguson Park- Haslett Scout Troop #265 and Lansing Young Professionals Kiwanis Club; Wonch Park- Williamston Girl Scout Troop

**Vernal Pool Volunteers**—Attended a presentation, training and monitored a vernal pool over the course of 2017: Leslie Kuhn (lead organizer for Ingham county properties), Jim Hewitt, Jeff Potter, Margo Smith, Elaine Fischhoff, Michael Fields, Cathryn Fields, Jan Derksen, Chris Leodler, John Leodler, Bri Krauss, Nicholas Stevenson, Ken Rosenman, Roger Webster, Becca Blundell, Karrie Korroch, Julie Walker, Joe Walker, Clara Bratton, Abigail King, Steve Hensel, Marion Gorton, Ralph Gorton, Ellen Link, Julia O'Connor, Jacqueline Stewart, Aaron Davis, Richard Baker, Hannah Lundin, Katie Gorman , Cindy Drier, Samantha Courtney, John Cox, Emma Jakobcic, Pat Witte, Tim Buckley, Travis Coon, Sara Huetteman, Chelsea Taylor, Rachelle Roake, Wendy Koerner, Jacqueline Stewart, Therese Nugent, Julie Hupp, Amy O'Brien, Michael Sanders, Mary Hennessey, Katherine Neils, Eckhart Dersch, Jean Fierke, Corey Lucas, Julia O'Connor, Deborah Harris, and the Red Cedar Kid's 4-H Club

**Eckhart Dersch**—Provided reports on parks throughout the Township identifying maintenance needs

**Larry Hennessey**—Cleaned and monitored the bluebird boxes in Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area and Tacoma Hills Natural Area

**Georganne Withey**—Fitness Over-50 Program Coordinator at the Meridian Mall

**Kelly Colflesh**—Assisted with annual Meridian Fishing event

**Leslie Kuhn and Jim Hewitt**—Treated invasive Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed across the Township; Mapping, permitting, owner contact and treatments. Mid-Michigan coordinators of the Stewardship Network

**Dave Reicosky and Julie Taliber**—Helped with the planting and continued maintenance the Monarch Garden at Hartrick Park

**Ellen Passage and Mary Ann Peterson**—Cleaned and maintained the Paul Peterson Memorial at Nancy Moore Park

**Steve Thomas & Sower Woods Neighbors**—Regularly maintained Sower Woods Land Preserve by removing invasive species and planting native forbs

**Frank Hatfield & Sylvan Glen Neighbors**—Removed invasive Autumn Olive from Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve

**Gene Wasserman**—Maintenance, monitoring and reporting of Bluebird boxes in Meridian Riverfront Park and Hartrick Park

**Friends of the Red Cedar River**—Stewards and advocates for the Red Cedar River

**Friends of Meridian Township Pathways**—Stewards and advocates for non-motorized transportation in Meridian

**Kaden Bartlett**—Completed his Eagle Scout project by building a split rail fence around the east and south sides of the Nature Exploration Area at the Harris nature Center (Boy Scout Troop 96)

**Steve Wilson, Ron Elowski, Bob Reszck**- Raised funds and organized the Boulder Garden Exhibit

**Studio [intrigue] Architects**—David Vanderklok, Anna Breithaupt, Mackenzie Parsons - Raised funds, designed and built Beaver Lodge Playhouse

**Capital Area Audubon Association** - Clara Bratton and Bruce Cohen volunteered as leaders for bird walks

**Rosemary Buscetta**—Volunteer instructor, prepared and taught the Magic of Fairy House

Building event

**Gerry and Gaelen McNamara**- Long time generous donors and supporters of the Harris Nature Center

**Steve DeBrabander**—Cleared and maintained trail at Brattin Woods Park

**Robert and Nancy Smith**—Trails and pathways trash removal in Central Park

**Towar Woods Preserve**—Cleared invasive plants, planted 175 trees, conducted activities to reduce deer damage to trees and cleaned up trash: Dave Caszatt, Donald Dickman, Nick Sanchez, Sandy Davis, Bobbie Davis, Cathie and Max Lindquist, Dave Wearsch, Jim Kielbaso, Margo Smith, Rick Loftus, Matt and Leah Jones with three kids, Mary, Maria & Adriana Flores, Mary Fielding, Mark and Paula Frantz with two sons, Shelby Schueller, Tom and David W., Andy Tobias with daughter, and Tammy Black

**Haslett Boy Scout Troop 265**—Scouts and parents planted trees at the Northridge Land Preserve, participated in Love A Park Day and ran the bike valet at the Celebrate Meridian

**Bennett Woods Elementary School**—90 first grade students extended the certified Monarch garden at Hartrick Park by adding new forbs

**Chippewa Middle School**—Hartrick Park: students grew flowers in their greenhouse and donated them to be planted in the Monarch garden

**Murphy Elementary School**—Davis Foster Seed Ball Project: fifth grade students enhanced the grassland at Davis Foster by creating native seed balls; Lake Lansing North tree planting: students planted 32 native hardwood trees on Arbor Day

**Brian Van Order (Michigan Demolition and Excavation, Inc.)** —Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many park projects including the boulder project at the Harris Nature Center

**Joe Pennoni (Rapid Tree Removal)**—Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many park projects

**Outdoor Expressions**—Staff and their families helped with the annual Arbor Day tree planting; went above and beyond on work in Towar Woods land preserve

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objection, Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm.

**6. NEXT MEETINGS:**

The February 13, 2018 has been canceled and the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 13, 2018** in the Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI. Work Session at 6 pm and Regular Meeting at 7 pm.