

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land  
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation  
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:14 pm

**2. Roll Call**

The following Commissioners were present: Marilyn Aronoff, Teri Banas, Melanie Jaramillo, Mark Stephens, Todd Wilson

**3. Approval of Agenda**

New item #5, add Presentation by Haslett Kiwanis Club.

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

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Presentations**

Haslett Kiwanis Club members Alana Harvey and Phil Deschaine stated the Haslett Kiwanis Club supports children, families and the community, have volunteered and donated to park activities and will be adopting Orlando Park this year. For Ms. Banas' years of dedication and exceptional volunteer efforts to improve our community, the Haslett Kiwanis Club presented Commissioner Teri Banas with their "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" Award.

Chair Wilson stated the Park Commission concurs that Commissioner Banas has a passion and drive in so many efforts to improve the community and also appreciates the Haslett Kiwanis Club for their many efforts to improve the Township.

Commission Banas thanked and supports the Haslett Kiwanis Club. They are a wonderful, fun group.

Phil Deschaine stated the Haslett Kiwanis are currently working on the community room at the Haslett Library and invited everyone to come and see it.

Chair Wilson stated the Haslett Kiwanis have been very supportive of the Haslett Robotics Club, in addition to other Haslett community events.

Commissioner Stephens suggested the Club reach out to the Haslett High School students, especially the previous 5<sup>th</sup> graders who originally planted in Orlando Park. It would be a great way for them to reconnect with Orlando Park.

## 6. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Banas stated she recently attended the Meridian Leadership Group breakfast meeting which is comprised of Township Board Trustees with Chairs and Vice Chairs of each of the Boards and Commissions. This group has previously met once or twice a year during Township Board meetings but is now meeting monthly. At the April meeting, she and Director Maisner presented on the Park Millage Ballot. She thanked EDC Chair Marsha Madle for starting these meetings and for Township Manager Walsh for taking the leadership role with this group to help improve services and programs in the Township.

Commissioner Stephens stated he recently attended the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association Community Service Award banquet where resident Kelly Colflesh was honored for his community service in Meridian Township.

## 7. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 11, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes: Page 2, second bullet; change website to [www.yesformeridianparks.com](http://www.yesformeridianparks.com); and under #8, change "Okemos" to "Haslett"
- b. March 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes – no changes

COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MARCH 11, 2014 WORK SESSION AS AMENDED AND MARCH 11, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

## 8. Communications

### A. Items to/from the Public

1. To: Michigan Recreation and Park Association, RE: Community Service Awards Ceremony booklet - Kelly Colflesh to receive MRPA Community Service Award at ceremony on March 19

### B. Commission Information

1. April Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Towne Courier: **March 16:** Native garden program at HNC; Campfire program to be held at HNC; Native plants pre-orders taken; Discover Walking at HNC; HNC offers Scouts badge programs; Qigong class to be held Saturdays; Okemos Boy Scout headed trail project; earns Eagle; **March 23:** Okemos snowman wins township contest; **March 30:** Meridian

Twp to host community clean-up; Harris Nature Center offers native plants; Meridian Twp plan to conduct controlled burns in natural areas

3. Okemos Life Magazine: March issue
4. Okemos Life Magazine: April issue

C. Staff Inquiries/Response  
None

D. Distributed at Meeting

1. Legal Notice for Commission Review #14043 (Meridian Township); paved pathway in Wonch Park

Chair Wilson stated the Okemos Life Magazine is very impressive and covers a good mix of community events. Director Maisner reported she just received communication from the editor that Hibu will no longer be publishing this magazine.

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

## 9. Director's Report

- **Wonch Park Pathway Progress** – submitted material for site plan review; Section 61 Review and Special Use Permit to the Planning Department; it goes to the Planning Commission on Monday, April 28 at 7 pm.
- **Fourth of July Celebration** - Staff is exploring partnership with Ingham County Parks to cross promote concert and activities with our fireworks program.
- **Legg Park Entry Drive** – working with engineering department on spec development for paving the entry drive. Once approved, the project will go to bid; re-paving is a necessary maintenance issue; will have a paved apron entry and will add landscaping to improve entrance.
- **Newton Road Parking Lot** – submitted entry drive and parking area plans to Planning Department for review; once approved it will go out to bid for construction in late summer.
- **Multi-Cultural Heritage Festival** – the event is scheduled for Saturday, September 20; have been partnering with the Friends of Historic Meridian and Nokomis Learning Center for the past 17 years; adding new cultures this year.
- **Friend of the Park Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony** – we value our volunteers and will be bringing them together for a picnic in Central Park on Monday, May 12; trees will be planted in their honor.
- **2014 Family Fun Guide** – was recently mailed out to residents; this issue covers activities until the end of December; the guide takes a lot of time and effort by staff and will become a once a year publication; next issue will be going out to residents the second week in January 2015; received positive feedback on this issue

- **Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt** – will held be held in Nancy Moore Park on Saturday, April 19; entry gate opens at 7 pm and the egg hunt will begin at 9:20 pm
- **Van Atta Road Bridge** – due to the weather, the work is six weeks behind but when it is complete there will be a new canoe launch at Harris Nature Center; the Nature Center is open and can be accessed from Jolly Road; thanks to Road Commission for the signage
- **Township Brush Pick Up** – ice storm brush pick up is scheduled to begin on April 14; Township has been split in half with Grand River Avenue as the dividing line; pick up in the northern portion begins April 14 and the southern portion May 5; information is available in the Meridian Monitor and on the Township website
- **Farmers Market** – the last Winter Farmers Market in the Meridian Mall is this month; the Spring Farmers Market to begin on Saturday, May 3 in the Central Park Pavilion; Spring Market is Saturdays in May through June from 8 am to 2 pm
- **Seasonal Maintenance Crew Positions** – please apply online on the Township website.
- **Meridian Recycling Event** – the event will take place at Chippewa Middle School on Saturday, April 26 from 9 am to 2 pm; LeRoy Harvey is the Coordinator and information is on the Township website.
- **Earth Week Activities** – the Township is hosting activities during Earth Week to include park clean-up day on Saturday, April 19; please post pictures to our Facebook page.
- **Michigan Recreation and Park Association Community Service Award** – Meridian Township submitted Kelly Colflesh to receive the MRPA Community Service Award for his dedicated volunteer service including monitoring Central Park pond, the fishing equipment box, volunteers at the annual fishing derbies and sharing his love of fishing with visitors to our park.

**10. Unfinished Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**11. New Business** (pink)

PUBLIC COMMENT

**a. Natural Buffer Project – Historical Village Pond**

Coordinator Greenway stated the Central Park fishing dock was two years ago and has been very popular. With the recent article in the Lansing State Journal about Monarch butterflies and their habitats, the Meridian Garden Club has suggested planting garden area for the butterflies by the pond in the Historical Village. Jane met with Garden Club representative Mary Lou Hatfield and Vern Stephens, Designs by Nature, LLC, to design a buffer to deter the geese and the area would flower from spring to fall to attract the butterflies. The area would be approximately 6000 square feet total, with 15 feet butter area surrounding the pond's edge. The project would include children from Haslett Schools. Cost estimates are being determined together

with possible donations to identify final costs. She will also be working with Commissioner Stephens to designate fishing areas into the plan. The final plan will be presented at a future meeting before proceeding.

**b. Park Clean-up Day – April 19, 2014 9-noon**

Coordinator Greenway reported a park clean-up day has been scheduled as part of the Earth Week activities on Saturday, April 19. Volunteers will be beginning at 9 am at various locations and end with pizza at Central Park pavilion at noon. We are asking volunteers to collect debris, trash, brush, etc. and bring to the roadside for pick up. Please post pictures on our Facebook page and we hope that everyone will get out and help us and your neighbors.

Director Maisner asked volunteers to rsvp to the Parks Office so we know which parks people are working at and we will provide trash bags if requested. If you come across any big trees down, please call the office and let us know.

**12. Other Business** (green)  
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**13. Discussion Items** (lilac)  
PUBLIC COMMENT

**a. Park Millage Ballot Proposal Update**

The new Park Millage Ballot Proposal is scheduled for a vote on August 5. The request is for 2/3rds mill to continue operations and also support park renovation and development projects. The Park Commissioners offered an update on the Park Millage Ballot Proposal.

**14. Final Comments**

Commissioner Stephens reported on the salmon release by Haslett, East Lansing and Laingsburg schools. He encouraged everyone to come out and watch children in waders release their fish and to visit [www.projectfish.com](http://www.projectfish.com) to check on the dates of the fish releases.

Chair Wilson thanked HOM-TV staff for the new mugs and pens.

**15. Announcements**

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 Town Hall
- b. Farmers' Market – J C Penney Corridor of Meridian Mall, Saturday, April 19 and opening day outside May 3 8am-2 pm
- c. Van Atta Road Closed from Grand River south to bridge; access to Harris Nature Center from Jolly Road
- d. Park Clean-up – April 19, 2014 9-noon

- e. Friends of the Parks Volunteer Recognition Ceremony – Monday, May 12, 2014 at Central Park.

**16. Public Remarks**

None

**17. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.