



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Service Center Meeting Room
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024 4:30 PM**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner Ami Van Antwerp
ABSENT: Commissioner, Mark Stephens – absent/excused; Commissioner Mike McDonald- absent
STAFF: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:40 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Commissioner, Mark Stephens – excused/absent; Commissioner Mike McDonald- absent.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lick requested to postpone #5 approval of March 12, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED**. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of March 12, 2024 minutes will be included in May 14, 2024 meeting.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. March Stewardship Calendar - discussed

Stewardship activities continue Wednesdays and every other Saturday. Three seasonal staff were hired to assist with spring/summer activities.

B. March Snell-Towar Calendar - discussed

Tuesday and Thursday drop-in days are increasing participants weekly.

COMMISSIONER LICK REQUESTED TO SEND COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS VIA EMAIL TO CHAIR AND ALL COMMISSIONERS AND MOVED TO PLACE THE ITEMS ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

North Meridian Road Park Hours

Director Wisinski shared some recent reports of vandalism at the park during night hours. The current protocol is to leave the park open until 11 pm each night for Night Sky Viewing. There was discussion about surveying the community and possibly limiting hours and/or dates to weekends only.

MSU Deer Fawn Study

Director Wisinski discussed the request for MSU Deer Targeted Anti-Tick Project to continue fawn tick research for 2024. Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department and MSU have a long-standing relationship partnering on this project. The request is an extension of the current project. Commissioner Lick supported the well-thought-out plan. Commissioner Van Antwerp added that the research data will help with future deer management activities. Chair Farris concurred.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Celebrate Meridian planning is going well. There will be celebrations for the 50th anniversaries of the Farmer's Market and historical Village, music, fireworks, children's play area, food trucks, Marketplace on the Green and Central Park Pavilion beer tents, Nokomis educational activities and Indian, Chinese and Irish dancers are planned.

Renovations to Central Park Pavilion

The roof and bathroom tile begin this week and the soffit, fascia, gutter, ceilings, and lights to be completed next week. We are waiting for approval of engineering plans for the wall and sliding barn doors. The renovation project is anticipated to be completed by the Celebrate Meridian Festival, June 28-29, 2024. The pavilion is closed for the month of May except for the Garden Club Sale.

Red Cedar Waterway Project

Ingham County Parks and Trails Commission and the Board of Commissioners approved Round 8 of grants which allows for Meridian Township to borrow against the match funds allocated with the grant budget.

Community Center

Update on the site selection and proposed programming for the community center, including secluded senior space.

Cricket

Director Wisinski is working with representatives from the Cricket community to identify a location to install a cricket field. There is difficulty in finding a park large enough to accommodate the field. Director Wisinski will reach out to Delta Township and Lansing Parks and Recreation to discuss a regional approach. Commissioners shared interest in continuing to find space within Meridian.

Marshal Park play structure will begin excavation Monday April 22, 2024, the structure will be installed the following week, and the turf will be installed 2-3 weeks after structure installation.

Okemos Rd./Gaylord C. Smith Court parcel. Commissioner Van Antwerp requested an update on plans for the parcel and expressed her interest in pursuing a trailhead at the site. Director Wisinski will work with the Department of Engineering to develop a plan for the parcel.

9. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens excused/absent

No report

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo Farris adjourned the meeting at **5:40 pm.**

The next scheduled meeting is **May 14, 2024**, at the Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840, 4:30 pm.