

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners Baker, McDonald, Schaetzel, Stephens

EXCUSED: Commissioner Lick

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair McDonald called the work session to order at 6:05 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER BAKER MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Dog Park/Playground

Staff is preparing plans for the construction of a Doggie Playground in the space across from the Meridian Service Center on Gaylord Smith Court. Spring construction is planned. The playground will include a loop trail consisting of stone dust which is firm and stable for accessibility while also being pervious, agility equipment, and fencing. This will serve as a "first step" in building dog parks in our community.

Staff is also reviewing land adjacent to the Central Fire Station as a possible location to allow off-leash dog walking. Farm fencing would be installed for safety. Many dog owners currently walk their pets off-leash in our parks which is prohibited by park ordinance. Complaints have been many and enforcement has been difficult.

4. 2017 Potential Grant Projects

Director Maisner reviewed the recommended projects for the 2017 grant cycle:

1. **The Harris Nature Center** hosts hundreds of school children each year as well as numerous outdoor special events. The Center is located along the Meridian Riverfront trail that extends from Eastgate Park to Legg Park on the west and on through the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve to Dobie Road. Harris Nature Center staff have been requesting an outdoor restroom for a number of years to accommodate the large number of visitors. Park

restrooms are also identified and supported in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

2. Construction of **Towner Road Park** will take place in 2017 and will be ready for active play in 2019. Staff is recommending that a grant be pursued for construction of six pickleball courts, native plantings and stormwater management, a playground and the north-west parking lot. It was recommended that Staff discuss development of a bike lane with the Ingham County Road Department.

5. **5 - Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update**

Director Maisner reported that the draft version of the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021 has been available the month of January for public review in hard copy version at the Parks and Recreation Department Office and the Township Clerk's Office as well as on-line on the Township's website.

During this time, staff has also re-reviewed the document and identified a few corrections to the draft. The pages included in the meeting packet indicate the proposed changes. During the open review time, Staff received input from the community which was also included in the meeting packet.

The public hearing for the master plan will take place during the Park Commission meeting on February 14, 2017 at 7 pm and will be followed with a resolution of recommendation.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Baker shared minor corrections

6. **Comments**

None

7. **Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Chair McDonald adjourned the work session at 7 pm.