



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Service Center Meeting Room
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 4:30 PM**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner Mike McDonald
ABSENT: Commissioner, Amanda Lick
STAFF: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation and Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:30 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Commissioner, Amanda Lick – excused/absent.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner McDonald proposes to add Additional Parking at Hillbrook Park as a Discussion Item. Commissioner Stephens 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

Commissioner McDonald moved **TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2024 AND APRIL 16, 2024 PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. April Stewardship Calendar
- B. April Snell Towar Calendar
- C. May Stewardship Calendar
- D. May Snell Towar Calendar

Exciting to see momentum building at Snell Towar Rec Center programming. Commissioner Stephens suggests more posts on social media regarding Snell Towar programs. These posts and marketing efforts should be shared with the entire township, not just the Towar Gardens neighborhood residents. After reviewing Stewardship items, Commissioner Stephens added that Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator, is efficient, cheerful and very informative.

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS ON FILE**. Seconded by Commissioner VanAntwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 5280 Okemos Road Parcel Planning

In accordance with the 2024 Parks and Recreation goals, Park Commissioners discussed potential uses of parcel at 5280 Okemos Road. Potential trail head, utilization as new entrance in to Nancy Moore Park, potential bike fix-it station with some type of seating and water source, additional parking area all discussed. Commissioners are interested in what landscape architects and engineers propose for the parcel. Commissioner Van Antwerp proposes a red light for pedestrians to safely cross from the MSU to Lake Lansing trail head across Okemos Road.

Commissioner McDonald moved **FOR STAFF TO PROCEED WITH SECURING A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT TO ASSESS THE SITE FOR DEVELOPMENT**. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Cricket Program

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.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to proceed with pursuing a permanent Cricket field in Meridian Township.

C. Additional Parking at Hillbrook Park

Director Wisinski explains the lack of parking at Hillbrook Park is a continuing issue and visitors are parking on the grass and creating ruts. The parking on grass is also disrupting the park mowing schedule and also the mosquito application schedule. The grass area is extremely wet and visitors get their feet soaked when attempting to park on the street and walk across the grass to get to courts, etc. Estimation of 40 cars need daily parking at the park, and we currently only have 16 parking spaces. Director Wisinski is looking in to a long term solution for additional parking. She will talk to Facilities. In the interim, she will also look in to the pathway suggestion leading from Montebello Avenue to the park to help with the water issue.

8. ACTION ITEMS

NONE

9. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Summer Concert Series at Marketplace on the Green–Opening Wednesday, June 5 with a performance from the SeaCruisers (6:00 pm – 8:30 pm)
- Songwriter Showcase–Friday, May 17 at Marketplace on the Green (6:00 pm – 10:00 pm)
- Farmers’ Market-2024 is the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Planning Committee is in process of planning different activities, a community mural, and finding sponsors.
- Central Park pavilion remodel – estimated completion is June 7.
- Marshall Park playground structure has been installed. Turf will be installed within one week of estimated delivery date. So far, construction has been well received by both pedestrians and the general public. The park project will continue with different enhancements to the park over the next several years.

10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens reported that Land Preservation Board appreciated the Park Commission discussion in March regarding Pike Crossing Preserve. However, trade of the parcel is not in the long term plan of the Land Preservation Board.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

None

Commissioner Van Antwerp left the meeting at 6:29 pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo Farris adjourned the meeting at **6:30 pm**.

The next scheduled meeting is **June 11, 2024**, at the newly remodeled Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, 4:30 pm.