



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
Meridian Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 4:30 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald
ABSENT: Commissioner, Amanda Lick
STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jane Greenway, Senior Parks & Land Management Coordinator; Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:47 pm.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clerk Guthrie thanked staff for all of the work on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and for their work in the township parks. She views the parks as community 'gems.' She is on the Universal Access Advisory Board and is willing to help the department in any way.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Van Antwerp moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.** Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Nardo-Farris asked to have Item 1 corrected to read "Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm."

Commissioner McDonald moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF December 14, 2021, AS AMENDED.**

Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Thank you letter

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved **TO PLACE COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE.** Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AMENDMENTS TO
FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026**

MOVE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026:

- Page 12 – Administrative Structure was updated with the following to the Role of the Environmental Commission:

D. Role of the Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission advises the Township Board, officials, and staff on matters pertaining to environmental protection, management of natural resources, water conservation and preservation of open space. The commission is also responsible for the duties of the wetland board; thus it serves in an advisory role in setting policy guidelines on wetland issues, reviews wetland use permits, and develops and promotes wetland education and stewardship.

- Page 70 -- Commissioner Van Antwerp asked to clarify our listed recreation uses of the Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area during the December 14, 2021 virtual Park Commission meeting. In response to her inquiry and further information obtained from Chad Fedewa, Rose Lake State Wildlife Area, the official name of the wildlife area was changed in the plan to read:

Rose Lake State Wildlife Area, State of Michigan.

The description of recreational activities at this location now reads "...Existing facilities provide activities such as hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching and nature observation."

- Page 84 – Land Preserve Inventory acreage was edited to 956 acres.
- Page 97 – Deer Management photo was edited to show hunter with harvested does.
- Page 113 – Goals and Objectives
Continue to focus on Environmental Sustainability, Education and Land Stewardship.

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Added:

i. Support the Environmental Commission’s “Protect Our Wetlands” initiative including “Build Back the Buffer”, education, community outreach, marketing and restoration projects, in an effort to mitigate negative impacts offlooding.

- Page 118 – Quality of Life Initiatives - “Climate Sustainability Plan” – Adopted by Meridian Township Board was edited to include adoption date of 10.24.2017. <https://www.meridian.mi.us/home/showpublisheddocument?id=12317>

- Page 118 – Quality of Life Initiatives Added:

Protecting Our Wetlands

Environmental Commission Initiative

***Also added: Appendix A. VII. Wetland Outreach & Restoration Plan**

FOLLOWING TOWNSHIP BOARD ADOPTION ON JANUARY, 25, 2022, THE PLAN WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND ALSO TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT ELIGIBILITY.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER STEPHENS AND COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED THE MOTION.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Ami Van Antwerp, Mary Nardo-Farris

NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) ss:

COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chair of the Park Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Commission on the 11th of January, 2022.

Mary Nardo-Farris

Mary Nardo-Farris, Chair

Meridian Township Park Commission



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840, in said Township on the 11th day of January, 2022 at 4:30 pm, Local Time.

PRESENT: Mary Nardo-Farris, Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Ami Van Antwerp

ABSENT: Amanda Lick

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Van Antwerp and supported by Commissioner McDonald.

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Park Commission has undertaken a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan update which describes the physical features, existing parks and recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain parks and recreation facilities during the period between 2022 to 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Park Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Meridian Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource plan, and

WHEREAS, the community was given a well-advertised opportunity to review the final draft plan for at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 virtual via Zoom, to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan draft, and

WHEREAS, This 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan describes the park and recreation opportunities in Meridian Township and establishes goals, objectives and an overall vision for our community's parks and recreation future. It is intended to be a planning tool and guide for future decision making and application of resources.

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WHEREAS, the Plan once approved will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment to meet eligibility requirements for state and federal grants administered by the MDNR from 2022-2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PARK COMMISSION OF MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP HEREBY RECOMMENDS ADOPTION OF THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026 AS A GUIDELINE FOR IMPROVING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Ami Van Antwerp, Mary Nardo-Farris

NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) ss:

COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chair of the Park Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Commission on the 11th of January, 2022.

Mary Nardo-Farris

Mary Nardo-Farris, Chair

Meridian Township Park Commission

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

10. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner McDonald advocates for accessibility at township parks and facilities. Commissioner McDonald is hopeful Senate Bill 704 Covid Recovery Act appropriates federal funds towards Michigan parks and we are able to utilize monies in local parks.

Chair Nardo-Farris emphasized the commission's support to reinstate a Recreation Specialist position within the department.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **February 8, 2022** at the Meridian Service Center, 4:30 pm.