

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Deschaine (arrived at 6:45 pm), Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway; Land Stewardship Coordinator Kelsey Dillion; Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Acting Chair McDonald called the work session to order at 6:04 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Add new number #6, Township Master Plan

Hearing no objections, Acting Chair McDonald accepted the agenda as amended.

**3. Beaver Lodge - HNC – Studio Intrigue Architects**

Local business owner and architect, David Vanderklok has offered to volunteer his skills to design and build the Beaver Lodge element of the Nature Exploration area at the Harris Nature Center.

David Vanderklok, Studio Intrigue, was first approached by a group of MSU students looking for help for a class project with regards to the beaver lodge amenity. Dave and his family are regular visitors to the Harris Nature Center and wanted to take the next step to design and build the Beaver Lodge. The lodge will include:

- An elevated glass platform with lily pads
- Reclaimed salvaged green wood and saplings to construct the structure and guardrail
- A large opening and ladder
- A slide
- The total size is 430 square feet

He has met with Director of Planning and Community Development Mark Kieselbach and Chief Building Inspector John Heckman in order to follow all of the Township rules, regulations and permitting process

Discussion:

- The green wood and saplings will be reclaimed from the wooded areas at the Harris Nature Center as much as possible
- These items will be put in place before they are dried out and may need to be replaced every three years
- Everything will comply with the Township's building code
- Working on obtaining the materials through donations or at a very reduced cost
- Volunteers will be needed for the different steps of construction
- Will provide a list of future maintenance items
- Mr. Vanderklok will present this project at the regular meeting

The Commissioners were very supportive of the project and thanked Mr. Vanderklok for volunteering his time and talents to the project.

**4. 2017 Budget**

Director Maisner distributed draft budget sheets showing:

	<u>2016 Budgeted</u>	<u>2017 Request</u>
Revenue	\$1,620,100	\$1,700,350
Expense:		
Park Administration	\$165,181	\$169,645
Harris Nature Center	\$203,469	\$192,514
Park Maintenance	\$244,185	\$249,482
Park Development	\$900,000	\$2,200,000

Only \$400,000 of the \$900,000 budgeted in 2016 Park Development is estimated to be spent this year. The 2.2 million proposed allocations in 2017 will fund installation of a new pavilion in North Meridian Road Park (\$100,000) and Towner Road Park development (\$2,100,000).

Projects remaining in 2016 include:

Doggie Playground, 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan update, Hillbrook Park tennis court renovation.

**5. September Meeting Date**

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled.

**6. Township Master Plan**

Director Maisner distributed a draft copy of the Township's Master Plan that was discussed by the Planning Commission on August 23, 2016. The goals and objectives that the Park Commission approved in 2015 were included in the plan as requested. The Plan also refers to the Parks and Recreation 5-year Master Plan.

**7. Comments**

None

**8. Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Acting Chair McDonald adjourned the work session at 7:05 pm.