



## AGENDA

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION TELEVISED  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 4:30pm  
Township Hall Room  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

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### REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. PRESENTATIONS
  - A. Barn of the Year Award – Brad Brogren, President, Friends of Historic Meridian
  - B. Green Burial Presentation – Environmental Commission
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
8. COMMUNICATIONS
  - A. Meeting notes from February 14, 2023
  - B. Letter from Hillbrook Park Pickleball Players
9. ACTION ITEMS
10. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - A. Park Projects for 2023
11. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
12. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
13. PUBLIC COMMENTS
14. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS
15. **CLOSED SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION DISCUSSION**
16. ADJOURNMENT

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All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Parks & Recreation Director, LuAnn Maisner:  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: Township Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864



### **3. Approval of Agenda**

**March 14, 2023**



## 5. Presentations

- A. Barn of the Year Award - Brad Brogren,  
President, Friends of Historic Meridian**
- B. Green Burial Presentation - Environmental  
Commission**



## 7. Approval of Minutes

**January 10, 2023**



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
 PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
 Meridian Service Center  
 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840  
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023 4:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant; Dan Opsommer, Assistant Township Manager/Director of DPW

**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. All park commissioners present.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Dan Opsommer – Update on the Okemos Road Bridge Project and MSU to Lake Lansing Trail  
 Dan distributed two memos outlining updates on both projects.

B. Shane Goodale – Tower Road Park Plaque

Will Goodale passed away on November 2, 2015. His family and friends had a plaque made to memorialize Will and would like it placed at a township park, as Will loved visiting the parks. Two main factors Will's family would like the Park Commission to consider for plaque placement are 1.) Visibility and 2.) Ease of access, preferably towards the front of a park or in a high traffic area. Shane displayed pictures of several options for the Park Commission to consider at Towner Road Park. He would like to have a dedication ceremony May 20, 2023. He is asking the Park Commission to have placement of the plaque finalized by this date.

The commissioners were moved by the Goodale family's courage and grateful they came to the meeting to share Will's story. Director Maisner suggests the commission discuss further and come up with 2-3 options for the plaque placement. She will also work with the township's maintenance department to find proper placement.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Nardo-Farris opened Public Comments.

Pete Govorchin, 1903 Oneida Drive, Okemos, spoke about Hillbrook Park pickleball courts and the desire for additional courts to meet the demand.

Beth Young, 6282 Porter Avenue, East Lansing, spoke about the need for programs at Snell Towar Recreation Center. She and other area residents are willing to volunteer and assist staff.

Chair Nardo-Farris closed Public Comments.

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2022 REGULAR MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

Director Maisner requested Communications items to be integrated with Discussion Item 8A.

None to be placed in Communications file by Commission.

**8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Pickleball Courts at Hillbrook Park**

Director Maisner opened discussion by stating she loves the support, excitement and enthusiasm the pickleball players have for the game and she understands the need for additional courts in our community. However, she feels the facility is not desirable to expand on as the parking is already insufficient at Hillbrook Park. There is no room to expand and build additional courts and the wet soil is not optimal at the location. There are no restrooms at Hillbrook Park. Additionally, Hillbrook Park is the only township park with a tennis court. There is a sufficient budget to fill cracks and re-paint the existing courts, only. She suggests looking at other township parks for possible sites for additional pickleball courts.

The commission discussed and agreed a facility that allows for expansion and growth would be better. They also discussed fundraising efforts by the pickleball players, different court design ideas, and the current safety issue that is created by the excess people at Hillbrook Park.

Sandy Sweckard, 1715 Maple Ridge Rd, Towner Road Park pickleball instructor explained the pickleball schedule, the popularity of the sport, the varying intensity levels of play at Towner Road Park versus Hilbrook Park and the fundraising efforts by the pickleball community.

Anne Hansknecht, 2011 Lac du Mont, Haslett, plays regularly at Hilbrook Park and agreed a different facility would be optimal for additional pickleball courts.

Beth Hubbell, 1158 Woodside Drive, Haslett, is a proponent for the tennis court at Hillbrook Park. She emphasizes it is the only tennis court option in the township, as the courts at the schools are locked and not open to the public. She would like to see an additional tennis court at Hillbrook Park.

There was a five minute break. **Commissioner Lick excused from meeting at 6:38 pm.**

**B. Snell Towar Recreation Center**

The Parks and Recreation Department has been contacted recently requesting the return of programs for youth. The center has remained vacant for a number of years, but Director Maisner feels that some programming could return. At some point in the future, the park commission would like to engage with the neighborhood through a survey and on-site meetings to discuss future improvements.

**C. Spark and Ingham Co Parks and Trails Grant Applications**

The first round of SPARK grant applications took place in 2022 with two more rounds occurring in 2023. Also, the Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage Grant program announced that they will accept applications due May 1. The Commissioners will discuss this topic in-depth during their next regular meeting.

**9. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT** – Commissioner Stephens reported that the Land Preservation is reviewing a new parcel for acquisition.

**10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- **Off leash dogs in parks** – Receiving numerous complaints. We are posting additional signage along nature trails and starting a new media campaign.
- **Architectural Review of Historical Village Structures** – Underway with a report expected by the end of January. The report will document necessary maintenance and repair items.
- **Celebrate Meridian Festival June 24, 2023**
- **Spark Grant Application submitted for the Loop trail and playground replacement project.** We should receive notification in February.
- **Farmers Market moved to the Mall for January - March** – J.C. Penney corridor from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on the first and third Saturdays in January - March.
- **Working with Commissioner Stephens to stock both ponds this spring. Estimated cost: \$5,000.**

- **Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis Club donation for dragonfly play element in Nature Exploration area \$9,760.**
- **Donation for Summer Concert Series \$500 – School of Rock**
- **Volunteer Archery Program September – December -- 156 deer. Police cull underway to fill 200 tags.**
- **Rec Pro Program Registration Program started on January 3.**
- **Chinese New Year – January 29 Meridian Mall**

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Chair Nardo-Farris would like the Approval of Agenda to be moved to Item 3, directly after Roll Call. Presentations to follow Approval of Agenda at future Park Commission meetings.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm



## 8. Communications

**A. Meeting Notes from February 14, 2023**

**B. Letter from Hillbrook Park Pickleball Players**



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION [INFORMAL] MEETING NOTES  
Meridian Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 4:30 PM**

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

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:31 pm**.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Due to Park Commissioners Amanda Lick, Mike McDonald and Ami Van Antwerp being absent, no quorum was reached. Meeting declared an informal meeting of discussion only with commissioners and staff present.

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. HISTORICAL VILLAGE BUILDING REVIEW**

In 2022, we contracted with Lindhout Architects to conduct a formal assessment of each building in the historical village and provide a priority list and cost estimates of necessary repairs. Cost estimates were provided by O'Neal Construction. Commissioners reviewed the summary of findings. Discussion of possible volunteer groups that might be able to tackle some of the smaller projects, possibly Oldsmobile Outdoor Club (GM Club), Habitat for Humanity, the Friends of Historic Meridian applying to grant with 100 Women Who Care trying to get some funding for these projects.

**B. 2023 GRANT DISCUSSION**

In 2022, the Park Commission applied for a grant to the Federal SPARK program for accessibility improvements in Nancy Moore Park. We learned recently that this project was not selected for funding. There are two more funding cycles remaining in 2023. The Engineering Department would like to apply for a Grand River Avenue to Haslett Road trail project in the next funding round. Plans are to resubmit the request for Nancy Moore in the third round. Commissioner Stephens pointed out that while only \$15 million in grant monies are available from the State of Michigan, there were over \$280 million in requests with the first round of applicants.

**C. NEW PARK SIGNAGE**

As noted in the memo from Director Maisner, some new signs ordered in 2022 are scheduled for installation on March 1, including signs at Central Park/Meridian Township Campus, Marketplace on the Green, Central Park South, Newton Road Park and Towner Road Park. Funding is in place to continue with other park sites in 2023. The new signs will have to

follow current and updated sign ordinances, setback requirements. Chair Farris shared her experience with signage when working for the DNR and offered to participate in the identifying locations.

**4. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT** – Commissioner Stephens reported that the Land Preservation Advisory Board is reviewing a new parcel for acquisition.

## **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Monthly Parks and Recreation Newsletter is in the works utilizing Constant Contact.
- Family Fun Guide – out by the end of March, will be mailed to all residents and businesses in the township.
- Celebrate Meridian Festival– June 23, 2023 – Celebrate Teen Night at Marketplace on the Green, band “dogsneeze” will perform from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm.  
June 24, 2023 – Central Park Drive closed 11:00 am – 11:00 pm. Activities scheduled at Marketplace on the Green, food trucks on Central Park Drive and Children’s activities and historical village tours at Central Park. New this year, is the Celebrate Meridian Business Week from June 17-24, \$150 sponsorship and a selfie station at participating businesses.
- Annual report
- Farmers’ Market indoors at Meridian Mall is a success!
- RecPro registration program went live January 3, 2023. Moving to all online registration for sports, paid recreation activities, dog park memberships and pavilion rentals.
- Nick Wing, Parks and Recreation Specialist working with Mike Devlin, focusing on youth sports and special events.
- Summer Concert Series – Wednesdays June through September, live musical acts at Marketplace on the Green are booked for the season.

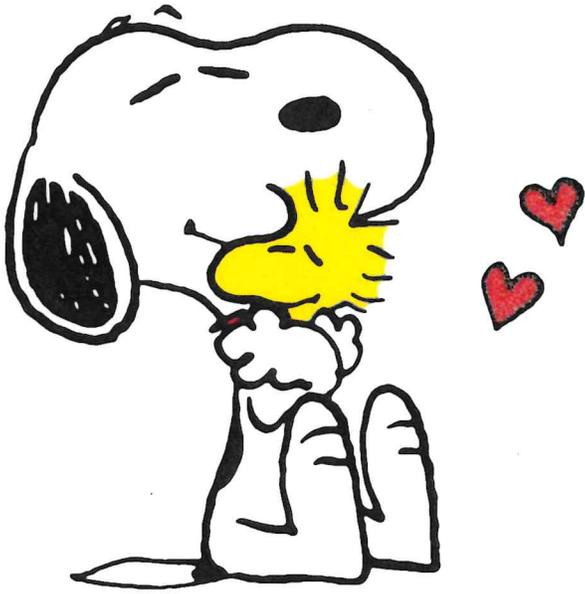
## **6. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Chair Nardo-Farris would like Park Commissioners pictures taken and put on township website under Boards and Commissions, Park Commission.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:06 pm.

8.B.



Parks & Rec Crew,  
with many thanks for all you  
do to keep Hillbrook Park such a  
great park to play pickleball.  
And we appreciate your efforts  
to have an AED installed to help  
keep us safe!

Beth Steadman  
the Hillbrook Park  
pickleball players



## 10. Discussion Items

### A. Park Projects for 2023



**10.A.**

**To: Park Commissioners**

**From: LuAnn Maisner, Director  
Parks and Recreation**

**Date: March 10, 2023**

**Re: 2023 Park Projects**

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There are a number of projects planned throughout the park system this year wanted to provide a recap and update for discussion.

1. Windscreens and trees at Marketplace on the Green
2. Exterior Upgrades at Harris Nature Center
3. Site Design for the newly acquired parcel on Okemos Road at Nancy Moore Park
4. Site engineering for upgrades to the Wonch Park canoe landing
5. Okemos Road under-bridge walkway – connections to pathway at Wonch and Ferguson Parks
6. Paint the cross-walk on Central Park Drive near Marketplace on the Green
7. New park identification signs in all parks
8. Renovation of the pavilion in Central Park
9. Building repair and maintenance at the Meridian Historical Village



## **11. Land Preservation Report**

**Presented by: Commissioner Stephens**



## 12. Director's Report



## **15. Closed Session**

### **Land Acquisition Discussion**