



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Location: Service Center Building
Okemos, MI 48864

DATE: March 12, 2019

PRESENT: Amanda Lick, Annika Schaetzl, Mark Stephens, Ami Van Antwerp

EXCUSED: Michael McDonald

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation, Kelsey Dillon, Park Naturalist

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Lick called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. WELCOME OF NEW PARK COMMISSIONER

Ami VanAntwerp was officially appointed to the vacant seat for the remainder of the term (2020). The Commissioners welcomed her to the board.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Maisner distributed the amended agenda which moved Approval of Agenda forward to item #3 and renumbered items #4, 5, and 6 and added a new item #11E, Actions Items, #E. Dog Park Fee Schedule.

Commissioner Schaetzl moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. PRESENTATIONS

None

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

6. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Vice Chair Lick declare the public hearing open at 6:45 pm.

B. Director Maisner provided an overview of the proposed acquisition request that would be placed under consideration for funding to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The parcel is located adjacent to Nancy Moore Park and would provide a dedicated direct entrance to the park. The parcel consists of 1.86 acres located at 5280 Okemos Road with a house structure that if acquired, would be removed. An appraisal was conducted by Meridian Township that identified a value of \$143,000. The property owner also had an

appraisal done with a value of \$158,000. Based on these values, we are recommending that the requested grant amount be \$170,000. We are proposing a 25% local match in the amount of \$42,500 from the Park Millage. The application is due on April 1, 2019 with a decision made in early December.

C. Staff acknowledge received items of communications
None

D. Public comment
None

E. Commissioners comment

- Supports the idea of a dedicated park entrance.
- The parcel is located along the proposed MSU to Lake Lansing trail and could serve as a trail head park for the pathway system as well as to enhance the park entrance.

F. Vice Chair Lick declared public hearing closed at 6:58 pm.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Stephens moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. Seconded by Commissioner Schaeztl.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Riley Millard; To: Ami Van Antwerp, RE: Meridian Township Park Commission welcome
2. From: Patrick Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, RE: Towar Garden Residents

B. Commission Information

1. Park Commission Membership List
2. Summary of Funds for Marketplace on the Green Campaign
3. Press Releases:
 - a. \$67,145 is Raised for the Marketplace on the Green Project! Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign Exceeds Fundraising Goal
 - b. MParks 2019 Outstanding Design Award Harris Nature Center Receives Award for Nature Exploration Area

C. Staff Inquiries/Response
None

Items distributed the meeting:

B. Commission Information

3. Press Releases:
 - A. Controlled Burn Planned Within Next Several Weeks

- B. Sign Up for Spring/Summer Adult Sports
- C. Photography Class at the Harris Nature Center
- D. Native Plants Make Gardening Easier
- 4. Harris Nature Center Foundation Minutes
 - A. December 10, 2018
 - B. January 14, 2019
 - C. February 11, 2019

Commissioner Stephens moved TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Maisner shared the site plans for expansion of the North Meridian Road Park parking lot and the proposed Marketplace on the Green projects. Other projects being worked on currently include the pavilion and restroom at Harris Nature Center, large and small dog parks in Central Park, Central Meridian Regional Trail connector and the Gateway footbridge and restroom in the Historical Village.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Dog Park Administration

Park Naturalist Kelsey Dillon presented proposed rules, applications and a fee schedule for implementation of the dog parks. This item will return to the next meeting for additional discussion.

11. ACTION ITEMS

A. Resolution of Declaration and Notice MDNR – North Meridian Road Park

The following resolution of Declaration and Notice was offered by Commissioner Schaetzl and supported by Commissioner Stephens:

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Meridian, governing body, hereinafter called Meridian Township, being the owner of all the property described as North Meridian Road Park:

The Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ and the West $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13, T4N, R1W, Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan.
Tax ID #33-02-02-13-426-001

Herein after referred to as the Property, attached hereto, located in the Township of Meridian, County of Ingham, Michigan, hereby makes the following declaration to which the Property may be put.

WITNESSETH:

This declaration contained herein is based on the following factual recitals:

- A. Meridian Township developed the Property, in part, through the grant money from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

- B. As a condition of the grant by the DNR, Meridian Township has agreed to impose certain restrictions on the developed portion of the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, HEREBY DECLARES THAT THE PORTION OF THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS THE PROJECT AREA IS AND SHALL BE HELD, TRANSFERRED, SOLD, CONVEYED, LEASED, OCCUPIED AND USED SUBJECT TO THE OBLIGATION HEREINAFTER SET FORTH, ALL OF WHICH SHALL RUN WITH THE LAND.

THE LANDS INCLUDED IN THIS DEED DEVELOPED BY MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP WITH FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND PURSUANT TO PROJECT AGREEMENT TF-15-0070, NORTH MERIDIAN ROAD PARK ACCESSIBLE PAVILION DEVELOPMENT, BETWEEN THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, EXECUTED ON MAY 3, 2016. THE PROJECT AGREEMENT DESCRIBES CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY AND ITS USE FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION. MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP IS PLACING THIS NOTICE ON RECORD AS CONFIRMATION OF ITS OBLIGATIONS AS SET FORTH IN THE PROJECT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE CONSENT OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE CONVEYANCE OF ANY RIGHTS OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY TO ANOTHER ENTITY, OR FOR THE USE OF THE PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN CONSERVATION OR PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Annika Schaetzl, Ami Van Antwerp, Amanda Lick

NAYS: None

Resolution passed.

B. Disposal of Equipment – Cross Country Ski Equipment

Director Maisner reported approximately fifteen years ago, Ingham County Parks donated their outdated and used cross-country skis, boots and poles to Meridian Township as they were replacing theirs with new. A ski rental program continues to exist at Lake Lansing North Park today.

Since that time, we have rented and stored this equipment at Harris Nature Center. The equipment has gotten to a point where it is extremely degraded. With the new restroom and pavilion scheduled for construction this summer, there will no longer be a space for storage, therefore staff is recommending that the skis and boots be removed from our equipment inventory. We plan to keep the poles as they can be utilized for walking programs.

Commissioner Stephens TO APPROVE DISPOSAL OF THE USED CROSS-COUNTRY SKIS AND BOOTS THAT ARE STORED IN THE POLE BARN AT HARRIS NATURE CENTER AS THEY ARE IN AN EXTREME DEGRADED CONDITION. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Disposal of Equipment – Pole Barn at Harris Nature Center

Director Maisner reported in preparation for the new restroom building and pavilion at the Harris Nature Center, the pole barn will need to be demolished. A Meridian Township staff member has expressed an interest in removing the structure at his own expense. The removal of this structure by “others” will reduce the overall cost of the pavilion construction project as the building demo will not be part of the bid. The pole barn was on the site long before the Township acquired the property.

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved TO APPROVE DISPOSAL OF THE POLE BARN AT HARRIS NATURE CENTER. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

D. Grant Application Submittal – MNRTF Acquisition

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Schaetzl and supported by Commissioner Stephens:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the development and acquisition of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 75% of the total project cost funded by the Natural Resources Trust Fund program; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for \$170,000 for the acquisition of 1.858 acres which will serve as the new entrance into Nancy Moore Park on Okemos Road; and

WHEREAS, this project is identified and supported in the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2017-2021 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park development and improvements are supported by Township Board Policy and 2018 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 12, 2019; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the acquisition of 1.858 acres for the new entrance into Nancy Moore

Park with a total project cost of \$170,000. The twenty-five (25%) percent local match of \$42,500 will be funded by the Park Millage, with the remaining seventy-five (75%) percent (\$127,500) funded by the MNRTF grant.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Ami Van Antwerp, Annika Schaetzl, Amanda Lick

NAYS: None

Resolution passed.

E. Dog Park Fee Administration

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

13. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Comments - None

B. Event Calendar:

1. Family Special: Lucky Shamrocks; Saturday, March 17, 2 pm; Harris Nature Center

C. Next Park Commission Meeting – Tuesday, April 6, 6:30 pm; non-televised; Meridian Service Center

14. CLOSED SESSION

None

15. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Lick adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

16. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 9, 2019**, in the Service Center Building; 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI, with the non-televised regular meeting at 6:30 pm.