

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Under #3, 2015 Budget, add Capital Improvements Program

Under #5, Other, add, #a. ZBA Variance Request for the Wonch Park Pathway project and #b. Harris Nature Center Nature Exploration Area

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the agenda as amended.

**3. 2015 Budget and Capital Improvements Program**

Director Maisner distributed draft budget information for both Park Millage and General Fund with a list of proposed projects for 2015. She also distributed the 2014-2019 CIP.

She stated these documents illustrate how the revenues have gone down in the last three (3) years primarily due to lower property values. For the next meeting, the Commissioners asked to have the projected SEV for 2014 and 2015. Director Maisner stated currently the expenditures are primarily staff salaries and benefits with not much left for capital improvements or large maintenance items. She suggested a special meeting be called to discuss the proposed 2015 budget and 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program projects. When the CIP projects are prioritized, this information will be used to develop the 2015 proposed budget.

**Park Millage Update**

Director Maisner distributed an email from Dawn Parker asking for responses to four (4) questions for an upcoming Towne Courier article in advance of the August 5 election. After a brief discussion, Chair Wilson agreed to contact Ms. Parker to obtain more information about the article and communicate with Commissioners. He also asked Commissioners to forward their answers to him.

Director Maisner reported she had a communication from Communications Director Guthrie about hosting an interview show with the Park Commissioners

regarding the upcoming Millage. She will forward the email to the Commissioners and asked them to communicate directly with Director Guthrie.

Director Maisner reported the next Leadership Breakfast is Thursday, July 10 and the main topic will be the Park Millage. She asked which Park Commissioners would be able to attend. Without looking at calendar, it was indicated that none of the Commissioners present could attend. Director Maisner stated she will call new Park Commissioner McDonald to see if he is available.

Commissioner Banas asked Commissioners to send in more information to post to the Facebook page. She would like to set up items into the future so that something is posted every day or so.

**4. Other**

**a. ZBA Variance Request for the Wonch Park Pathway Project**

Director Maisner summarized the variance requests for the Wonch Park Pathway project. All eight (8) criteria need to be met in order to obtain approval for the project. She has met with Township staff regarding the upcoming request on Wednesday, July 9 and offered additional information to a ZBA member seeking additional information. Commissioners indicated they would be attending the ZBA meeting on Wednesday.

**b. Harris Nature Center Nature Exploration Area**

HNC Coordinator Rich stated the HNC Foundation has been hard at work obtaining grants and continuing their fundraising plans. There is a lot of excitement about this project. Commissioners discussed the tree surfing component, use of wood for the bridge; the water feature; how the tree house will connect to all the elements; how this project can be phased in and the design is somewhat flexible. Commissioners asked to have the HNC Foundation Meeting Minutes sent to them.

**5. Public Comment**

None

**6. Adjournment**

Hearing no objection, Chair Wilson adjourned the Work Session at 7:08 pm.