



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 4:30pm
Town Hall Room

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
October 10, 2023 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. November Stewardship Calendar
 - B. November Snell-Towar Calendar
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Snell-Towar Recreation Center Planning Session
8. ACTION ITEMS
 - A. Marshall Park Playground Replacement Proposal
9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - A. 2023 Parks and Recreation Department Highlights
10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
11. PUBLIC COMMENTS
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
13. ADJOURNMENT

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: Meridian Township Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864



5. Approval of Minutes

October 10, 2023



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Service Center Meeting Room
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023 4:30 PM**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald arrival at 4:41 pm

ABSENT: None

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:32 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. All park commissioners present at time of roll call, except Commissioner, Mike McDonald - arrival at 4:41 pm.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 22, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Meridian Conservation Corps October Schedule
- B. Snell Towar Rec Center October Schedule

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS PRESENTED ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2024 Sign Project

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED TO RECOMMEND A 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT FROM THE PARK MILLAGE-PARK DEVELOPMENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 TO COMPLETE THE PARK IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE PROJECT.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

B. Proposed 2024 Park Commission Meeting Schedule

**Park Commission Meeting Dates
2024 Meeting Schedule**

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the 10th day of October 2023, at 4:30 p.m., Local Time.

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

ABSENT: None

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

WHEREAS, the Park Commission desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission deems the 2024 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board's Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board's Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that the Park Commission adopts its regular 2024 meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 9	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
February 13	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
March 12	Town Hall **	4:30 pm televised regular meeting
April 16	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
May 14	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
June 11	Town Hall **	4:30 pm televised regular meeting
July 9	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
August 13	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
September 10	Town Hall **	4:30 pm televised regular meeting
October 8	Service Center	4:30 pm regular meeting
November 12	Town Hall **	4:30 pm televised regular meeting
December 10	NO MEETING	NO MEETING

8. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

NONE

9. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens, Nothing additional to report.

Land Stewardship Update from Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator

- 2023 Deer Management Program started on October 1
- 44 Township Properties and 27 private properties; 67 Hunters
- Current Projects: Fall Stewardship, Invasive Shrub Removal and Seed Collection

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Deer Management -26
- Ingham Co Parks and Trails Grant amendment, Presentation on November 13
- Village Building Maintenance update. Painting of Chapel and School House
- New Park Sign Update – installing now at 8 parks
- HNC façade update – paint, stonework taking place now, siding in the spring
- Cricket Field usage update – Met with residents at Towner Road Park
- Senior/Community Center Update
- Ferguson Park Restroom Roof replacement
- Rotary interest in funding accessible launch
- Red Cedar Celebration on Saturday September 30
- Heritage Festival October 7
- Farmers Market 50th anniversary in 2024 – working on a logo
- Drainage work completed at Central Park pavilion – waiting on site restoration.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lick excited about potential cricket field in the township. She is also looking forward to strengthening the Park Commission's relationship with Nokomis. The commissioners are saddened to hear of the conflict overseas and their hearts go out to those affected.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo Farris adjourned the meeting at **6:18 pm.**

The next scheduled meeting is **November 14, 2023**, at Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. MI 48864, 4:30 pm, and will be televised.



6. Communications

- A. November Stewardship Calendar
- B. November Snell-Towar Activities Calendar

NOVEMBER



CONNECT
LEARN
CONSERVE



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- November 4th, Sander Farm Natural Area (park at the end of Sago Way in Okemos), Native seed collection
- November 18th, Tihart Preserve (Intersection of Tihart Road & Whitetail Circle in Okemos), Native seed sowing

WEEKDAY WARRIORS: Occurs every other Thursday

- November 9th, Davis Foster Preserve (5120 Van Atta Rd), Native seed collection
- November 21, Historical Village (5151 Marsh Road), Pond buffer management, invasive removal & native seed sowing

SEED PROCESSING PARTY 5 PM - 7 PM

- November 15th, Service Center (2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court), Seed Processing Party!
 - We will have cocoa, popcorn and a movie/music for a relaxing night of chatting and processing our native seeds

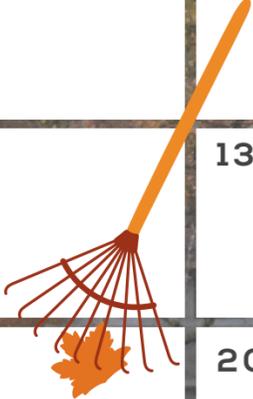


S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30 - 12 PM
5	6	7	8	9 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	10	11
12	13	14	15 SEED PROCESSING 5 - 7 PM	16	17	18 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
19	20	21 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	22	23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY ←	24 OFFICES CLOSED	25
26	27	28	29	30	1 DEC	2 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM

*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF

SNELL TOWAR

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
OCTOBER	30	31	1	2	3 	4
	6 	7 Center Open	8	9 Center Open	10	11
12	13	14 Center Open	15	16 Center Open	17	18
19	20	21 Center Open	22 	23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY 	24 OFFICES CLOSED	25
26	27 	28 Center Open	29	30 Center Open	1 December	2

*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF
CENTER HOURS OPEN FROM 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM



7. Discussion Items

A. Snell-Towar Recreation Center Planning Session



To: Park Commissioners

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

Date: November 9, 2023

Re: Snell-Towar Recreation Center Planning Meeting

The Snell-Towar Recreation Center located at 6146 Porter Ave., East Lansing, once served as an active drop-in recreation site for youth, adults and seniors in the Towar Gardens neighborhood. Over the last 8-10 years, programs were reduced and eventually eliminated.

Starting this year, Parks and Recreation Specialist, Nick Wing and Recreation Intern Alex Skinner began running after-school programs and small community events to re-activate the space with great success.

The Township has identified possible grant programs that may assist the Park Commission in funding renovation efforts, therefore, staff is recommending this topic be added to a future work session agenda to allow for greater in-depth discussion and action steps.

The Snell-Towar Recreation Center was constructed in 1972 and named after its first coordinator and neighborhood leader, Geraldine Snell.



8. Action Items

A. Marshall Park Playground Replacement Proposal



To: Park Commissioners

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

Date: October 31, 2023

Re: Marshall Park Playground Request

The Park Commission is responsible for the oversight and management of over 1,000 acres of parks in 33 locations consisting of nature trails, athletic fields, pavilions, playgrounds and natural areas. The utilization of Park Millage funds has made acquisition and development of these parks possible. As the Park Commission and staff plan and review conditions for maintenance and renovation needs regularly, it can be challenging to address all needs in a timely manner based on available funding.

Marshall Park, located at Marsh Road, Haslett, is the first park our residents and visitors see when entering our community from the north on Marsh Road. Due to damp soil conditions, park amenities are few and include only a basketball court, small parking lot and a 27-year-old play structure.

We are very excited that a new park identification sign will be installed in Spring of 2024 which will bring greater awareness to this space. Based on evaluation of the existing playground, this play structure is overdue for replacement. This park not only serves nearby neighbors, but the parking lot also welcomes visitors from greater distances.

Based on information received during a recent Township Board listening session in Haslett, the Township Board discussed a possible opportunity to work with the Park Commission to fund a replacement play structure in 2024 with a contribution from the General Fund.

Marshall Park was acquired in 1974 and named in honor of the Marshall Brothers, the first settlers in Meridian Township in 1836. The playground was added in 1996. Its replacement is indeed in the Capital Improvement Plan, but not until 2026.

MOTION FOR PARK COMMISSION CONSIDERATION:

MOVE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE TOWNSHIP BOARD TO REPLACE THE PLAY STRUCTURE IN MARSHALL PARK UTILIZING GENERAL FUND SUPPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000, FOR INSTALLATION IN SPRING, 2024.



9. Director's Report

2023 Parks and Recreation Highlights

2023

Parks and Recreation Highlights



A PRIME COMMUNITY

Presented to
Park Commission
November 14, 2023

Director's Report

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Parks and Recreation Director

Kati Adams, Parks/Land
Preservation Superintendent

Tom Cary, Farmers' Market
Manager

Allison Goodman, Park
Naturalist,
Harris Nature Center

Emma Campbell, Stewardship
Coordinator

Mike Devlin, Parks &
Recreation Specialist

Nick Wing, Parks & Recreation
Specialist

Bridget Cannon,
Administrative Assistant

Maintenance

Presented by: Kati Adams

Parks/Land Preservation Superintendent

Maintenance Updates

- Ongoing Maintenance
- Special Projects



Maintenance

- Upgrades to Historical Village buildings



Maintenance

- Upgrades to exterior of Harris Nature Center



Maintenance

- Success of windscreens at Marketplace on the Green



Farmers' Market

Presented by: Tom Cary
Farmers' Market Manager

- **Food Gleaning - Almost 12,000 pounds of food donated in last 2 years**
- **Over \$115,000 in food assistance distributed to customers over the last 3 years**



Farmers' Market

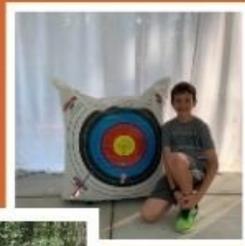
- Over 1/4 million market attendees over the last 3 years
- Over 145 unique vendors attending the Market from January-December



Harris Nature Center

Presented by: Allison Goodman
Park Naturalist

Summer Camp 2023



Harris Nature Center



**Kiwanis Donation
\$10,000**



**Meijer Donation
\$5,000**

Harris Nature Center



Annie's Big Nature Lesson



Land Stewardship

Presented by: Emma Campbell
Land Stewardship Coordinator

- 56 Meridian Conservation Corps Stewardship events held in 2023



Land Stewardship

- Cornell and Sweetwood Road land acquisition
- Land Preserve rule signage finalized

 Charter Township of Meridian 

Land Preserve Rules

Preserves are open to the public from dawn to dusk

Pets must be on a leash and feces picked up and discarded responsibly



THE FOLLOWING USES AND ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED:

Dumping of litter or yard waste	Hunting
Disturbing wildlife	Camping
Collecting mushrooms	Biking
Collecting vegetation	Motorized vehicles
	Draft animals



Scan this code for the Land Preservation Ordinance

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation 517.853.4600
Meridian Township Police Dispatch (non-emergency) 517.332.6526

Land Stewardship

- 3 Successful Prescribed Burns



Recreation Highlights & Special Events

Presented by: Mike Devlin
Parks and Recreation Specialist

- **489 Sporties for Shorties registrants**
\$24,450 revenue



Recreation Highlights & Special Events

- 14 sessions Summer Concert Series
June-October



Recreation Highlights & Special Events

- **Special Events**
 - Easter Egg Hunt - 432 registrants**
 - Halloween Spooktacular - 233 registrants**
 - 655 total registrants**



Youth Sports & Recreation

Presented by: Nick Wing
Parks and Recreation Specialist

- Completed one year with Meridian Township
November, 2023
- Youth Sports coordinator
(Youth Baseball/Softball/Tee-ball - 401 participants;
Youth Soccer - 645 participants; Youth Flag Football - 199
participants)



Youth Sports & Recreation

- Snell-Towar Recreation Center re-opening



Youth Sports & Recreation

- Meridian Township's first "Celebrate Meridian Teen Night"
- Wednesday night Farmers' Market & other special events - CADL involvement



Park Pavilion Rentals & Dog Parks

Presented by: Bridget Cannon
Administrative Assistant

Park Pavilion Rentals

\$15,680 Net Revenue

- **1st-Central Park** (46 paid and 125+ recreation program events, non-profit use)
- **2nd-Wonch Park** (46 paid)
- **3rd- Hartrick Park** (42 paid)

These statistics DO NOT include drop-in usage.



Park Pavilion Rentals & Dog Parks

Meridian Township Dog Parks

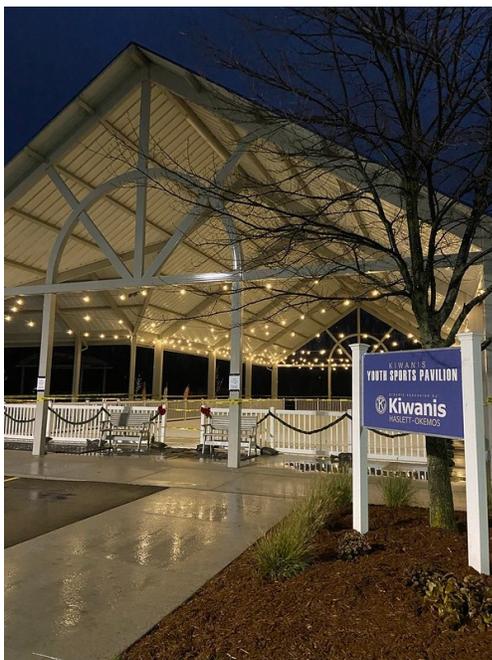
Small Dog Park - 149 current members

Large Dog Park - 203 current members

**352 total current members
registered for 2023**



Thank you for your 24 years of service, LuAnn Maisner!





10. Land Preservation Report

Presented by: Mark Stephens