



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Harris Nature Center
3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI 48864
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023 4:30 PM**

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:45 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. All park commissioners present, except for Vice-Chair Ami Van Antwerp.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PRESENTATIONS

NONE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Mary Nardo Farris Letter of Support Meridian Township Senior & Community Center
- B. LuAnn Maisner Letter of Support Meridian Township Senior & Community Center

Commissioner McDonald **MOVED TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS PRESENTED ON FILE**. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. **Resolution of Support for River Clearing Grant**

Minutes – Park Commission

May 9, 2023

Page 2

Commissioner Lick **MOVED TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RED CEDAR RIVER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CLEARING PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE INGHAM COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS MILLAGE PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTON, WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP AND MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP OFFERING NO LOCAL MATCH.**

Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
INGHAM COUNTY PARKS GRANT APPLICATION
RED CEDAR RIVER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CLEARING PROGRAM**

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Harris Nature Center on the 9th day of May, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald

ABSENT: Vice-Chair, Ami Van Antwerp

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Lick and supported by Commissioner McDonald.

WHEREAS, Ingham County collects a .5 millage to repair, rehabilitate, enhance and create trails within the County,

WHEREAS, the Red Cedar River is identified in the Red Cedar River Corridor Trail Plan prepared for the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and addresses the Red Cedar River as a blueway trail, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Charter Township of Meridian have expressed their desire to improve and enhance the experience for users of the Red Cedar River,

WHEREAS, the local rotary clubs continue to monitor the river and volunteer labor to help keep the river clear for users as well as dedicate funds for informational kiosk along the river; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared an application requesting \$500,000 to address eighteen miles of river from McCormick Park in Williamston to Hagedorn Road in East Lansing to monitor and clear log jams and debris for a period of up to three years with no local matching funds,

WHEREAS, the Meridian Charter Township Board, Williamstown Township Board and the Williamston City Council have committed to continue their support of the regional efforts of the Red Cedar River as a blueway trail to increase the recreational use of the river,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian along with the Charter Township of Meridian Township Board, Williamstown Township and the City of Williamston, in the County of Ingham, State of Michigan be authorized to submit an application to Ingham County Parks and Board of Commissioners for grant funds in the amount of \$500,000 to be used towards the clean out of log jams in the Red Cedar River over the next three years to maintain clear access for the continued recreational use of the Red Cedar River.

ADOPTED: YEAS: 4

NAYS: 0

B. Spark Grant Re-Submittal for Nancy Moore Park Accessibility Improvements

Commissioner Stephens **MOVED TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL SPARK GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, FOR PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF ACCESSIBLE PAVED LOOP TRAIL IN NANCY MOORE PARK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$700,000. THERE IS NO LOCAL MATCH REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM.** Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A GRANT APPLICATION FOR ACCESSIBILITY
IMPROVEMENTS IN NANCY MOORE PARK
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES FEDERAL SPARK GRANT PROGRAM**

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Harris Nature Center, in said Township on the 9th day of May, 2023 at 4:30 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald

ABSENT: Vice-Chair, Ami Van Antwerp

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Stephens and supported by Commissioner Lick.

WHEREAS, the Park Commission and Township Board are interested in the continued improvement of Meridian Township's Park system; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Moore Park located at 2100 Gaylord Smith Court in Haslett consists of two ball diamonds, two soccer and lacrosse fields, two sand volleyball courts, one basketball court, a dog park, natural trails, pavilion and restrooms and serves as Meridian Township's most highly visited and utilized park for organized sports; and

WHEREAS this park has not received any accessibility upgrades since its construction in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Moore Park is located in the centermost portion of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Meridian is interested in applying to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for Federal SPARK Grant assistance for accessibility improvements consisting of a paved, accessible loop walkway to access the soccer and lacrosse fields; and to replace an obsolete play structure in Nancy Moore Park located at 2100 Gaylord Smith Court,

WHEREAS, this project is outlined and justified in the 2022-2026 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 Park Commission unanimously supported this application request of \$700,000 for accessibility improvements in Nancy Moore Park consisting of an internal paved walkway to and around the soccer/lacrosse fields; and replacement of an obsolete

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Central Park Pavilion Replacement

10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens

11. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Love a Park Day April 19 -There were 46 volunteers working across 7 different parks (Nancy Moore, Marketplace on the Green, Hillbrook Park, Harris Nature Center and Central Park). The Forest Hills Neighborhood Assoc volunteers conducted a clean-up at Forest Hills Park on April 15; and the Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis conducted a clean-up activity at Orlando Park on Saturday, April 29.

Family Fun Guide distributed and digital Look-book available on the Township Website

May Playbook digital newsletter was sent out on Wednesday, May 3

- **Soccer 840 children; and baseball 400**
- **Farmers Market – Annual Vendor Meeting** in April with 90 vendors attending; spring season starts May 6 every Saturday 8-2pm
- **Earth Day Events**
- **MCC Events**
- **Dog Park Improvements** – divided large dog park into two sections.
- **MSU-LL Park** – Pathway completed on new Okemos Road parcel.
- **River Clearing Grant** - \$500,000 Williamston, Williamstown Twp, Meridian Twp
- **Spark Grant Resubmittal**
- **Will Goodale sign placement** – between pavilion and pickleball courts adjacent to future playground
- **AED machines are installed at Towner Rd Park and Hillbrook Park.** Training will be scheduled in the spring.
- **Celebrate Meridian Festival and Fireworks – June 24**
- **Meridian Pride Event** at Marketplace on the Green – August 26
- **Property Report**
- **Senior/Community Center Task Force**
- **Hillbrook resurfacing** – Same with the addition of pickleball lines added to the Tennis court for dual use.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

13. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **June 13, 2023** at the ~~Meridian Service Center~~, 4:30 pm. Due to renovations at the Meridian Service Center, the May Park Commission meeting place was amended to take place **June 13, 2023**, Meridian Township Central Fire Station Community Room, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, 4:30 pm.