

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners Baker, Lick (arrived 6:45pm), McDonald, Schaetzl, Stephens

EXCUSED: None

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Agenda item #3 was removed from the agenda.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Approved unanimously.

**3. Marshall Park Playground**

This item was removed from the agenda and will be added to May 9, 2017 agenda

**4. Farmers' Market Relocation Update**

As part of the Central Park Master Plan implementation, Director Maisner reported on the progress of relocating the Farmers' Market to the Meridian Mall parking lot. Groups and organizations such as the Okemos and Haslett Kiwanis Clubs, Capital Region Community Foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, Meridian Economic Development Corporation have expressed interest cost sharing as well as CBP Properties. Details to follow soon.

**5. Universal Access Playground Project**

Fundraising efforts are being considered for building a boundless playground in Central Park. A large donor is being sought to fund a majority of the playground.

**6. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2018-2023**

Director Maisner shared that the Park millage funds generate approximately \$1,000,000 annually for the next nine years. General operating expense for parks is approximately \$700,000/per year which leaves \$300,000 for improvements and renovations to park facilities. Based on recent grant awards, it was recommended that the following projects received funding for 2018: Restroom and Gateway Footbridge in Meridian Historical Village - \$150,000; Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector \$127,500; sculpture Garden clearing

in Central Park– \$25,000; Farmers’ Market Relocation Project \$25,000. Total: \$327,500. Project planning for future years will be discussed at the May 9 Work Session.

7. **Sculpture**

Development of the proposed sculpture garden in Central Park has the opportunity to incorporate a combination of professional art down to art pieces from elementary school children. There may be a sculpture created by Rick Luke from Luke Landscaping that could serve as the “anchor” for our project. Further discussions are needed to determine the future home of this two-story sculpture.

8. **Other**

The Meridian Downtown Development Authority donated three ceramic tile “disco fish” to be installed at Wonch Park. Staff is currently having them renovated for a target re-dedication date of May 31 during the Senior Health and Fitness Day event.

9. **Comments**

None

10. **Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Chair McDonald adjourned 7:40 pm.