

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
 PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
 TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Banas, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens (6:01 pm),
 Wilson
 Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
 Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
 Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and congratulated everyone on the passage of the Park Millage Renewal.

2. Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the agenda as presented

3. 2015 Budget & CIP 2015-2020

Director Maisner distributed and summarized proposed 2015 Budget and Capital Improvements Program 2015 projects as follows:

General Fund:

• Parks and Recreation Administration	\$146,139	
• Park Maintenance	<u>\$204,972</u>	
		\$351,111

Park Millage:

• Parks and Recreation Administration	\$154,675	
• Park Maintenance (add 1 utility worker)	\$233,891	
• Harris Nature Center	\$188,632	
• Park Development	<u>\$899,000</u>	
		\$1,476,198

2015 CIP Projects

• Wonch Park Pavilion (Grant)	\$250,000	
• Wonch Parking Lot	\$100,000	
• Orlando Park Play Equipment	\$ 35,000	
• Legg Park Parking, Dog Park, Stewardship	\$170,000	
• Hillbrook Park Accessible Playground	\$ 90,000	
• Towner Road Park Phase I	\$224,000	
• Dugout structures at Hartrick Park	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	
		\$873,000

- The proposed 2015 Budget and Capital Improvements Program projects were drafted from discussions at the Park Commission's July 15, 2014 Special Meeting
- Noted the Wonch Park Pavilion project total is \$250,000. \$187,500 will be reimbursed once the project is completed.
- The only change in the Park Millage Park Maintenance salaries line item is the inclusion of an additional utility worker

Discussion:

- Now that the Van Atta bridge is completed and the platform/canoe launch is built at the Nature Center, our next step is to seek funding to improve the dock for handicap access.
- Director Maisner shared that the canoe launch at Ferguson is deteriorating and needs renovating. This area was improved in 2001 with DNR Grant Funds. Park and Land Management Coordinator Greenway will research project.
- General Fund Park Maintenance: Township will continue to support maintenance effort for pre-1984 parks but future development projects for all parks will be funded through the Park Millage.
- Need to re-evaluate phases of Towner Road Park development. Maybe combine 1, 2 & 3 if possible.
- The Wonch Park pavilion grant results will be known in December.

4. Other

a. Park Millage Ballot Results

Director Maisner distributed the election results for the Park Millage Ballot proposal. It was noted there are 29,687 registered voters in the Township, a total of 7,445 voted which is approximately 25.08% of the population; the votes were 4,644 for the proposal and 2,653 against the proposal.

b. Parks and Ground Maintenance Lead Worker Scot Stillman's Retirement Party

Director Maisner invited the Park Commissioners to attend the retirement party for Scot Stillman on Thursday, August 14, at Nancy Moore Park Pavilion at 1 pm.

c. New Lead Worker

With the retirement of Scot Stillman, the Township interviewed for the open position and Robert MacKenzie was chosen. Mr. MacKenzie had previously

worked with Parks and Grounds and the Engineering Department. He was with the Water and Sewer Division before accepting the lead worker position. Welcome Rob.

d. Patriarch Park

Director Maisner conducted a site visit to the new playground at Patriarch Park and reported it was very well done. She recommended the Commissioners check it out as well. It is 1.5 acres with sidewalks, poured in place rubber safety surfacing, rain garden, interpretive signage, picnic areas and benches.

e. Meridian Township Deer Program

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway reported the 2014-2015 Deer Program will be same as last year.

f. Wildlife Habitat Grant Submission

Park Coordinator Greenway reported the \$50,000 grant proposal has been prepared and on the agenda for approval. There is a 10% match of \$5,000. The recommendations from the plan prepared by Fishbeck were incorporated into the grant proposal. This proposal is due August 12 and will be awarded October 1. The grant focus is on habitat for sustainable wildlife populations in a changing environment. The deer management program in Township parks will help with the scoring on the grant proposal. The funding source is from the hunting and fishing license fees.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Chair Wilson adjourned the Work Session at 6:32 pm.