



MINUTES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 4:30pm
Town Hall-Televised

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 1. Chair called meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL
 1. Present: Chair Farris, Commissioners Lick, McDonald, Rambo and Stephens were present at roll call.
 2. Staff present: Director Wisinski
 3. Guests present: Richard Miksicek, Environmental Commission liaison, and David Batten and Sue Ziara (Meridian Market Gleaning Program)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
 1. There was no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 1. Commissioner Lick moved to approve the agenda, Commissioner Rambo seconded.

VOICE VOTE: unanimous

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. April 8, 2025 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 1. Chair Farris moved to clarify that under Discussion Item 1. A. that language about August be removed with the millage renewal.
 2. Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the minutes, as amended. Commissioner Lick seconded.

6. PRESENTATIONS
 1. Farmer’s Markets Gleaning Program Presentation
 1. David Batten and Sue Ziara, members of the Meridian Market Gleaning Program, presented on how the program started, and where the program is headed in the upcoming outdoor season. The commissioners thanked Dave and Sue for their time, and commended them on their organization of the program.

7. COMMUNICATIONS
 1. May Stewardship Calendars
 1. Director Wisinski shared the May Stewardship calendar and that the land stewardship team currently in northern Michigan at an eastern Mississauga rattlesnake training.
 2. Parks and Recreation Playbook
 1. Director Wisinski updated the Park Commissioners on the monthly Parks and Recreation newsletter that is developed with the Communications department. One highlight of the Playbook included details about the Meridian Pride event.
 3. Commissioner Rambo moved to place the communications on file, Commissioner Lick seconded.

VOICE VOTE: unanimous

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Meridian Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan
 - a. Director Wisinski asked the members of the Park Commission how they would like to have this information presented. Chair Farris asked Director Wisinski to create a timeline with Township Manager Dempsey.
2. Red Cedar Watertrail Program – MDNR Water Trail Designation Application
 - a. Director Wisinski discussed the hiring process for a part-time employee focused on the Red Cedar Waterway and Land Preservation. Director Wisinski spoke about the work group made up of members of Williamston, Williamstown Township and Meridian Township, and how she has been working to apply for a Water Trails Designation through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Middle Grand and Grand Rivers have already applied for designation. Chair Farris brought up legislation that was proposed at the state level regarding the Michigan Recreation passport, and Commissioners Stephens and McDonald encouraged everyone to contact their elected officials regarding the legislation.

9. ACTION ITEMS

1. There were no action items.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Budget Updates

- a. Director Wisinski asked the commissioners to look at the April 2025 budget report, and shared progress on each of the projects. The first (5280 Okemos Road) project is part of the Phase II trailhead – part of the larger MSU to Lake Lansing trail – and the grant that was applied for in March, staff still has not heard back from NRTF. NRTF will likely make decisions in the fall.
- b. Director Wisinski has requested bids for both the Towner Road Inclusive Playground, and Ottawa Hills Playground. In the future, Director Wisinski would like to see all playgrounds have inclusive elements.
- c. The Marshall Park amenities include a shade structure. Chair Farris noted that when she visited Marshall Park, it was difficult to navigate because of the direct sun, and looks forward to improvements. The commission asked that future plans include neighborhood children in the participation process.
- d. Cricket field progress has stalled, as staff was waiting for the fields to dry out from the spring rain. The Towner Road baseball field restoration was completed in the spring.

B. Senior and Community Center Updates

- a. Director Wisinski shared the history of the task force and what the Township Board was contemplating regarding millage rates during their last board meeting. The commissioners asked a few questions of Director Wisinski, including the general cost of both the building and operations.

C. Miscellaneous

- a. There were no miscellaneous items.

11. COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS

1. Township Board Report – Chair Farris
 1. Chair Farris attended the Township Board meeting the previous week, and shared her thoughts on the Township Board's decision of a stand-alone senior center, or combined senior/community center.
2. Land Preservation Report – Commissioner Stephens
 1. Commissioner Stephens commented that field season was underway for the land preservation team.
3. Environmental Commission Report – Commissioner McDonald
 1. Commissioner McDonald asked that staff connect and introduce Commissioner McDonald to the Environmental Commission.
4. Historical Village Report – Commissioner Rambo
 1. Commissioner Rambo did not have an update.
5. Nokomis Cultural Center – Commissioner Lick

1. Commissioner Lick informed the other commissioners of the language classes and Saturday craft socials that the Nokomis staff and volunteers put on every week for the community. Commissioner Lick planned to attend a board meeting in the future.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Richard Miksicek, Environmental Commission liaison, reported on the EC's recent meeting, and decisions made there regarding a trail connector wetland use permit, and clarifications regarding the bioswale at Marshall Park. The Environmental Commission is also planning on tabling regarding Planting a Green Meridian.

13. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

1. Commissioner Stephens updated the commissioners on getting out in the community and having children fish. Commissioner McDonald raised the idea of naming part of Newton Road Park after a pillar in the Haslett lacrosse community. Commissioner Lick asked Director Wisinski if Director Wisinski could share a copy of the park naming rules at the next meeting. Commissioner Rambo commented that she recently visited Wonch, and it is a well-utilized park in the park system. Chair Farris noted that the next meeting would be Tuesday, June 10th at the Service Center.

14. ADJOURNMENT

1. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.

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, Courtney Wisinski: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840

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