

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine (6:15 pm), Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioner McDonald

OTHERS: Ingham County Drain Commissioner (ICDC) Pat Lindeman; Ingham County Deputy Commissioner Paul Pratt; Water Woods Ecology Representative Blair Webster; LSG Engineers Representative Greg Lamkin PE

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Under item #6, Other, add new item #a. Ingham County Dog Park.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Hillbrook Park Drain Improvement Project

LSG Engineer Lamkin distributed a memorandum outlining the proposed stream channel in Hillbrook Park.

ICDC Lindemann outlined the proposal as follows:

- The current drain was constructed in 1920, is very old and in bad condition
- Due to the condition of the drain, a majority of the adjacent parcels are under water
- ICDC office is in discussions with the owner of the shopping center on Haslett Road to construct a detention pond but need additional measures to control the water flow and erosion to the drain
- Asking to rebuilt the current 60'foot easement in the Park with the revised layout creating an open stream channel that will be 54' wide and it will resemble the project in Red Cedar Natural Area but on a smaller scale
- an additional 24"tile drain pipe will be installed next to the existing 21" tile drain
- At the junction chamber, the tile drain will increase to 36" into the open stream channel

- In order to minimize tree removal, the open stream channel will meander through the Park into the Pine Lake Outlet Drain; the proposed trees for removal have been marked
- Request to enlarge the drain easement to 130"

Discussion:

- When asked for confirmation about retaining the existing pathway and constructing a pedestrian/walking bridge across the drain opening, ICDC Lindeman indicated that yes, they will construct it as part of the project.
- When asked about a drain assessment, ICDC Lindeman replied there is no assessment if the improvement is required to public health, safety and welfare and this improvement is necessary;
- When asked if the trees to be replaced due to removal could be placed elsewhere in the park such as by the playground area, ICDC Lindeman replied yes, as long as they are planted within the park.

ICDC Lindeman was asked to provide the legal description for the requested easement.

4. Eagle Scout Project Proposal Presentation

Eagle Scout Candidate Grant Porter presented his proposal to construct up to 8-10 Aldo Leopold Benches along the nature trails around the pond in Central Park and around the pond at Central Park South. His plans for fundraising include a pop can drive, Culver's 2 for 1 coupon sale and matching grant from Home Depot. According to calculations, each bench should cost approximately \$36 and plans to build 8-10 benches. He will call Miss Digg after the bench locations have been approved by staff.

Discussion:

- How many hours to complete your project (approximately 12 hours for fundraising and about 24 hours construct benches and a few more hours for placement)
- Who will be assisting with project (family, friends, members of Haslett Troop #109)
- Was reminded to talk with staff before installing benches
- Suggested replacing current benches in poor condition
- Suggested Candidate Porter be more of a manager/leader than a laborer (will be because it is a requirement of the Eagle Scout qualifications)
- Suggested he purchase plaques for each of his benches with name, Troop # and date
- What materials will be used (pressure treated lumber); suggested cedar which is more environmentally acceptable and to use hot dipped galvanized screws

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE GRANT PORTER'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT BENCHES FOR AROUND THE PONDS IN THE HISTORICAL VILLAGE AND CENTRAL PARK SOUTH OR AS DESIGNATED IN OTHER LOCATIONS BY STAFF. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Capital Improvements Program

Director Maisner summarized the list of the 2015 budgeted projects, 2015-2020 CIP Costs Summary and proposed 2016-2021 CIP Summary by Park/Year.

Director Maisner shared that the proposed millage revenue for 2016 is estimated at \$1,500,000. It is also estimated that \$600,000 is needed for annual operations leaving \$900,000 for capital projects in 2016. A total of \$224,000 was appropriated in 2015 toward the development of Towner Road Park. By dedicating the entire \$900,000 toward the project in 2016, a large portion of the park could be constructed with the rest managed through donations, fundraising and future budget allocations. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$2,000,000. The Commissioners agreed that with this strategy based on the fact that 2016 will be the final year of collecting both millages.

Based on this decision, all other projects will pushed back to later years. Proposed plan:

- **Central Park Improvements** – In the master plan design phase currently. Construction begin in 2018
- **Harris Nature Center** – Pavilion – 2017
- **Hartrick Park** – roof structure over players benches budgeted for completion in 2015. Other projects 2018 and 2019
- **Hillbrook Park** – Tennis court renovation 2017. Restroom and trail improvements 2018
- **Land Acquisition** – none planned currently
- **Legg Park** – before proceeding with the construction of parking area, dog park and stewardship, complete conversation with Ingham County.
- **Marshall Park** – no projects in 2016 and indicated the accessible playground needs to be a priority in 2017
- **Meridian Riverfront Park Improvement** – no projects in 2016; suggest researching the outside restroom options for 2017
- **Nancy Moore Park** – Playground replacement 2017 and pavilion in 2018
- **Newton Road Park** – playground 2017 and loop trail 2018
- **North Meridian Road Park** – pavilion - 2017
- **Orlando Park** – no projects in 2016
- **Ottawa Hills Park** – new playground 2017
- **Snell-Towar Recreation Center** – no projects in 2016
- **Wonch Park** – no projects in 2016

Discussion:

- Restroom buildings - suggest developing a building that could be used for branding the parks, something that fits consistently in the parks and has a canned cost, something that matches throughout the park system
- Snell Towar Recreation Center is only used for the summer playground program and needs some maintenance; since Edgewood Village built their facility, children have been playing there and not coming to the Center
- Our playgrounds need attention
- Suggested that the Towner Road project might be better served with a construction manager who would come on board at the beginning of the project and help keep the project on budget. Chair Wilson will work with staff to research.

6. Other

a. Proposed Ingham County Dog Park Discussion

- Heard that before the County proceeds with planning, the project needs to be included in their 5-Year plan and budgeted;
- Ingham County Parks Board will make final decision
- County Parks Board asking for a meeting to discuss a dog park in Meridian Township
- Believes this would be a good joint inter-governmental project for Ingham County Parks and Meridian Township.
- May need to look into a temporary solution before proceeding with a permanent solution if Ingham County Parks takes up to two years or more

b. Central Park Master Plan

Director Maisner reported staff is gathering information for the kickoff meeting and site visit next week. Commissioners asked to have the schedule of meeting dates sent to them.

c. Central Park Pond Dock Repairs

Director Maisner reported that the company who installed the dock is coming down to look at and repair the dock. Commissioner Stephens questioned whether the pilings were installed correctly. This was the first winter without using the bubbler system.

d. Adopt a Park Program

Commissioner Deschaine reported he will be meeting with Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway next week on the development of this program and getting groups and organizations involved in adopting parks.

e. Proposed trail project

When asked about the proposed trail project referenced by Board Member Veenstra at the last Township Board Meeting, Director Maisner replied it is the proposal the Engineering Department developed and submitted for the new Ingham County Parks and Pathway Millage. Staff was asked for forward a copy of the information to Commissioners.

f. Salmon Release

Commissioner Stephens reported 154 salmon were released in Ferguson Park today as part of the "Salmon in the Classroom" program.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjourn

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.