



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY JUNE 9, 2015
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL



WORK SESSION 6 PM
(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Love a Park Day – June 20, 2015, 9 am – 12 Noon**
4. **Central Park Master Plan Update**
5. **2016-2021 Capital Improvement Plan**
6. **Other**
7. **Comment**
8. **Adjournment**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations** (goldenrod)
 - a. Tim Wilson, USDA – Chronic Wasting Disease
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. April 28, 2015 Work Session Minutes
 - b. April 28, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - c. May 19, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)
8. **Director's Report** (yellow)
9. **New Business** (pink)
PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Park Commission by writing or calling the following: Township Manager Frank Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-853-4250) - Ten days notice required.

10. Unfinished Business (green)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Plan

11. Other Business (cherry)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a.

12. Discussion Items (lilac)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Central Park Master Plan

13. Final Comments

- a.

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2015, Town Hall Room
- b. Farmers' Market:
 - Spring Market – Saturdays, May – June 8 am- 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
 - Summer Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays, July 1-October, 8 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
- c. Celebrate Downtown Okemos, Saturday, June 13, 10 am – 11 pm
- d. Meridian Fishing Derby, Sunday, June 14, 9 am – 12 noon, Central Park Pond
- e. Music in the Village Concert Series starts Wednesday, June 17 at 7 pm, Meridian Historical Village
- f. Love a Park Day, Saturday, June 20, 9 am – 12 noon; Ferguson Park, Harris Nature Center, Hillbrook Park, Meridian Historical Village, Marshall Park, Newton Road Park, Orlando Park, Sander Farm Natural Area,
- g. Lake Lansing Band Shell Concert Series starts Friday, June 6, at 7 pm, Lake Lansing South
- h. Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, Sunday, June 28, 11 am – 4 pm, Central Park Pavilion

15. Public Remarks

16. Closed Session

17. Adjournment

Park Commission Meeting
June 9, 2015

WORK SESSION

- 3. Love a Park Day**
- 4. Central Park Master Plan Update**
- 5. 2016-2021 Capital Improvements Plan**

LOVE A PARK DAY

Bringing out the best in Meridian!



PARK CLEAN-UP INFORMATION SESSION

Friday, June 19, 2015; 4 pm

Meridian Township Service Center (Nancy Moore Park)

2100 Gaylord Smith Court, Haslett

- Please join us on the day prior to the event (Friday, June 19) to learn more about the Love A Park Day .
- Staff will have yard waste bags, wheelbarrows, and other equipment available to lend out to volunteers
- Staff will be available to provide additional details on work tasks



For More Information, Contact Jane Greenway
517-853-4610 or 517-388-3917, greenway@meridian.mi.us

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

June 3, 2015

Mr. Bill Gohier
President, Haslett Kiwanis

RE: LOVE A PARK DAY – BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN MERIDIAN!

Dear Mr. Gohier:

As we kick off the summer season we realize that there is much to do to get our community's parks in ship-shape and we are hoping that you will join us in our effort to make our community as beautiful as it can be. Once a park has been adopted, we will install a plaque acknowledging the group's commitment.

The Meridian Township park system consists of over 900-acres of land in 29 park facilities throughout our community, together with over 70 miles of pedestrian/bicycle pathway and 750 acres of land preserves. Proper maintenance and safety of these properties is of primary concern to us, and assistance from community-minded people, such as you, will positively influence our overall quality of service.

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Each volunteer group that steps up to adopt a park offers a new resource, perspective and skill from which the Parks and Recreation Department, Park Commission and the community can all benefit. Please contact Jane Greenway at 517-853-4610 or greenway@meridian.mi.us for additional information.

Sincerely,

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

"Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs"

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

www.meridian.mi.us



**LOVE A
PARK DAY**

Bringing out the best in Meridian!



HASLETT KIWANIS

Orlando Park

1275 Orlando Drive, Haslett

Saturday, June 20, 2015; 9 am

- 9:00 Gather Time – coffee/juice and pastries
- 9:15 Start Work: Projects including maintaining flower beds; pulling weeds and other invasive species; spreading mulch; litter clean up; and generally making sure the park is in order
- 12:45 Wrap Up



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Frank L. Walsh

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Treasurer
Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

June 3, 2015

Mr. Jim Hershiser
Red Cedar Republicans

RE: LOVE A PARK DAY – BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN MERIDIAN!

Dear Mr. Hershiser:

As we kick off the summer season we realize that there is much to do to get our community's parks in ship-shape and we are hoping that you will join us in our effort to make our community as beautiful as it can be. Once a park has been adopted, we will install a plaque acknowledging the group's commitment.

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Sincerely,

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LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

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**LOVE A
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Meridian Republicans

Meridian Historical Village

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

Saturday, June 20, 2015; 9 am

- 9:00 Gather Time – coffee/juice and pastries
- 9:15 Start Work: Projects including maintaining flower beds; pulling weeds and other invasive species; spreading mulch; litter clean up; and generally making sure the park is in order
- 12:45 Wrap Up



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Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
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Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
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Trustee

June 3, 2015

Mr. John Hess
Boy Scout Troop 97, Haslett

RE: LOVE A PARK DAY – BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN MERIDIAN!

Dear Mr. Hess:

As we kick off the summer season we realize that there is much to do to get our community's parks in ship-shape and we are hoping that you will join us in our effort to make our community as beautiful as it can be. Once a park has been adopted, we will install a plaque acknowledging the group's commitment.

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LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

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**LOVE A
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Boy Scouts, Troop 97

NEWTON ROAD PARK

North-east corner of Newton & Lake Lansing Roads

Saturday, June 20, 2015; 9 am

- 9:00 Gather Time – coffee/juice and pastries
- 9:15 Start Work: Projects including maintaining flower beds; pulling weeds and other invasive species; spreading mulch; litter clean up; and generally making sure the park is in order
- 12:45 Wrap Up



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John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
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June 3, 2015

Ms. Teri Banas
Haslett Beautification Association

RE: LOVE A PARK DAY – BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN MERIDIAN!

Dear Ms. Banas:

As we kick off the summer season we realize that there is much to do to get our community's parks in ship-shape and we are hoping that you will join us in our effort to make our community as beautiful as it can be. Once a park has been adopted, we will install a plaque acknowledging the group's commitment.

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Sincerely,

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Director of Parks and Recreation

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**LOVE A
PARK DAY**

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Haslett Beautification Association

Marshall Park

6105 Marsh Road, Okemos

Saturday, June 20, 2015; 9 am

- 9:00 Gather Time – coffee/juice and pastries
- 9:15 Start Work: Projects including maintaining natural trails; pulling weeds and other invasive species; litter clean up; and generally making sure the park is in order
- 12:45 Wrap Up



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Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

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Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

June 3, 2015

Mr. Milton Scales
Meridian Township Democratic Party

RE: LOVE A PARK DAY – BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN MERIDIAN!

Dear Mr. Scales:

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**LOVE A
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The Meridian Democratic Club

Hillbrook Park

1747 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett

Saturday, June 20, 2015; 9 am

- 9:00 Gather Time – coffee/juice and pastries
- 9:15 Start Work: Projects including maintaining natural trails; pulling weeds and other invasive species; litter clean up; and generally making sure the park is in order
- 12:45 Wrap Up



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Angela Wilson

Trustee
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Trustee

June 3, 2015

Ms. Angela Wilson
Troop Leader, Okemos Girl Scouts

RE: LOVE A PARK DAY – BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN MERIDIAN!

Dear Ms. Wilson:

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**LOVE A
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Bringing out the best in Meridian!



Okemos Girl Scouts

Ferguson Park

4540 Okemos Road, Okemos

Saturday, June 20, 2015; 9 am

- 9:00 Gather Time – coffee/juice and pastries
- 9:15 Start Work: Projects including maintaining flower beds; pulling weeds and other invasive species; spreading mulch; litter clean up; and generally making sure the park is in order
- 12:45 Wrap Up



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Angela Wilson

Trustee
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June 3, 2015

Mr. Larry Hennessey
Boy Scout Troop 163, Okemos

RE: LOVE A PARK DAY – BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN MERIDIAN!

Dear Mr. Hennessey:

As we kick off the summer season we realize that there is much to do to get our community's parks in ship-shape and we are hoping that you will join us in our effort to make our community as beautiful as it can be. Once a park has been adopted, we will install a plaque acknowledging the group's commitment.

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**LOVE A
PARK DAY**

Bringing out the best in Meridian!



Boy Scouts, Troop 163

Sander Farm Preserve

4344 Dobie Road, Okemos

Saturday, June 20, 2015; 9 am

- 9:00 Gather Time – coffee/juice and pastries
- 9:15 Start Work: Projects including maintaining natural trails; pulling weeds and other invasive species; litter clean up; and generally making sure the park is in order
- 12:45 Wrap Up



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Angela Wilson

Trustee
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June 3, 2015

Ms. Julie Brixie
Okemos/Haslett Rotary Club

RE: LOVE A PARK DAY – BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN MERIDIAN!

Dear Ms. Brixie:

As we kick off the summer season we realize that there is much to do to get our community's parks in ship-shape and we are hoping that you will join us in our effort to make our community as beautiful as it can be. Once a park has been adopted, we will install a plaque acknowledging the group's commitment.

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**LOVE
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Haslett-Okemos Rotary

Harris Nature Center

3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos

Saturday, June 20, 2015; 9 am

- 9:00 Gather Time – coffee/juice and pastries
- 9:15 Start Work: Projects including maintaining flower beds; pulling weeds and other invasive species; spreading mulch; litter clean up; and generally making sure the park is in order
- 12:45 Wrap Up



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Park Commission Meeting
June 9, 2015

6. MINUTES

- a. April 28, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. April 28, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. May 19, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Under item #6, add new item a. 2016-2020 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the Work Session Agenda as amended.

3. Central Park Master Plan Discussion

Director Maisner reported the proposed scope of the work has been established and the contract was signed today. Staff will be assembling the information with the kickoff meeting being scheduled for late May; the charrette will be scheduled in July and a final proposal presented in August. Site plans can be drafted both with and without the Farmers' Market at its current location.

4. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Event Plan

Commissioners reviewed the proposed 2014 Park Volunteers list and after a brief discussion, Bobbi DuByne was chosen as the 2014 Park Friend of the Year.

It was decided that the ceremony would be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, from 6-8 pm in the Central Park Pavilion. Invitations will be mailed out this week and one tree will be planted along the sidewalk in the Historical Village with a plaque and QR code leading to the Township webpage listing all 2014 Park Volunteers. The gift will be a pocket pouch for phone and keys that clips to a belt loop.

5. Ingham County Parks Dog Park Proposal

Chair Wilson reported he, along with Commissioners McDonald and Stephens attended the walk with Ingham County Parks Director Tim Morgan and Park Manager Pat Witte through Lake Lansing North Park. Director Maisner stated she met with Pat Witte for a walk-through earlier in the week. Based on preliminary site maps prepared by Pat, there are options for three varying sizes

of park up to 35-acres. The site contains an area that is not currently open for general use, has natural trails, ample parking and restroom facilities.

- The Commissioners agreed to not move forward with the Legg Park plan until the possibility of a partnership can be explored.
- Chair Wilson will draft a letter to Ingham County Parks Board expressing the Commission's interest in exploring the idea of developing a partnership with regards to creating a dog park in our community and locating it at Lake Lansing North Park

6. Other

a. 2016-2020 CIP

Director Maisner reported the deadline for Capital Improvements Projects program has been moved forward because this tool is used during the Township Board's budget process. She distributed the 2015-2019 CIP costs summary and 2015-2020 CIP project information outlines. Since an approved CIP needs to be turned in by June 12st and the Commission's May meeting is the Friends of the Park Ceremony, she is suggesting holding a special meeting in May to discuss and approve the CIP. After a brief discussion, Staff was asked to send out an email with proposed meeting dates for a special meeting at the end of May.

7. Comment

None

8. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the Work Session at 7:07 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Under item #5, add Adopt a Park by Commissioner Deschaine
Under item #10, remove item #a, Hillbrook Park Drain Improvements, this item
will be presented at the June meeting.

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

3. Presentations

None

4. Public Comment

None

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

- a. **Adopt a Park** – Commissioner Deschaine stated he would like to identify service groups, organizations and residents to take “ownership” of the Township parks. He would like to pick a date in June and have everyone go to their parks and clean them up or work on a project needed for the park. Last year, the Haslett Kiwanis Club adopted Orlando Park and had a great time cleaning up the park. Last Saturday, a spring cleanup event was held in Central and Nancy Moore Parks. 30 volunteers cleaned park areas, mulch around the trees, planted flowers, etc. He would like to repeat this activity in other parks.
- b. **Salmon in the Classroom** – Commissioner Stephens reported 6th, 7th and 8th graders have raised and will release salmon in Ferguson Park and in Sloan Creek on May 6th, 7th and 8th.

- c. **Haslett Robotics** – Chair Wilson reported the group won in Louisville
- d. **Central Park Pond picture** – Commissioner Stephens stated there are some great pictures on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 10, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. March 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MARCH 10, 2015 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

- 1. From: Lawrence Hennessey; 2013 and 2014
- 2. From members of the Universal Access Advisory Board; RE: Letters of Support for the 2015 Grant Submissions
 - Donna Rose
 - Judy Linn
 - Chris M Wolfe
 - William Cleary

B. Commission Information

- 1. April Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
- 2. Parks and Recreation Department Quarterly Report
- 3. Earth Week Community Clean-Up on April 25
- 4. Towne Courier: **March 1:** 2015 DNR Grant Application Public Hearing Notice; **March 8:** Nature center hosts Chinese exercise classes; Joint Harris Nature Center for skunk cabbage; 2015 DNR Grant Application Public Hearing Notice; **March 15:** Harris Nature Center celebrates vernal equinox; Kids can make Nature Connection this summer; **March 22:** Nature Center hosts hands-on science April 2; Kids can make Nature Connection this summer; **March 29:** Learn how to design, maintain native plants; Nature Center to host nesting boxes seminar; Harris Center offers three-week photo class; Nature Center hosts hands-on science April 2; Kids can make Nature Connection this summer
- 5. 2014/2015 Deer Management Program Year Four Summary

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO RECEIVE AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

8. Director's Report

- **Nancy Moore Park**
 - ✓ Parking lot striped
 - ✓ Safety fence on ball fields completed
 - ✓ Foul poles installed on ball fields
 - ✓ New plaque ordered
 - ✓ New sand volleyball poles installed
 - ✓ New siding on pavilion scheduled for June completion
 - ✓ MSU is donating \$1000 worth of trees to be planted in a Meridian Township Park. This program is facilitated by the Arbor Day Foundation. We have selected eight dwarf flowering crabs to be planted in Nancy Moore Park by MSUFCU employees on May 20.
- **North Meridian Road Park**
 - ✓ Construction of two new Sand Volleyball Courts was completed. Leagues are set to begin May 18
- **Meridian Historical Village**
 - ✓ Maintenance staff has been working with the Meridian Garden Club on garden prep in the Historical Village. Spring planting is scheduled for May 19.
 - ✓ New picket fence was installed in the vegetable garden behind the Farm House by our staff.
 - ✓ This past winter we did not install the bubbler system and experienced some problems with the fishing dock during the spring thaw. The company who installed the dock has been contacted to complete the repairs.
- **Newton Road Park**
 - ✓ Up and running with Haslett Lacrosse Club utilizing it for youth practices.
 - ✓ We may have an opportunity this summer to pave the lot as there is a plan to pave Newton Road in August.
- **Earth Day Park clean-up**
 - ✓ 30 volunteers picked up trash and beautified the park on Saturday, April 23. Central Park, Ferguson Park, and the roadway behind Best Buy.
- **Ingham County Trail Millage**
 - ✓ The Engineering Department submitted over 8 million dollars in potential trail projects in Meridian Township including the Meridian Riverfront Trail Project.
- **Harris Nature Center** – Native Plant sale Saturday, May 2 from 9am-1pm
- **Outdoor Farmers' Market** opens this Saturday, May 2 from 8am-2pm in Central Park. Wednesday market opens July 1 – Lunch time activities include live music and food truck from 11:30am-1:30pm
- **Central Park Master Plan** – The contract has been signed and our kickoff meeting is in the process of being scheduled for the last week of May. I will share more information as it becomes available.
- **Welcome New full-time** parks and grounds maintenance staff member Alex Zegerziewski

9. New Business
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

10. Unfinished Business
PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Hillbrook Park Drain Improvements

This item was removed from the agenda.

11. Other Business
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. Discussion Items
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. Final Comments

Commissioner McDonald stated he appreciated the letters of support for the grants from the Universal Access Advisory Board.

Chair Wilson reported Ken Dawson, an avid hiker and friend, began a fundraiser, Continental Divide Thru-Hike – A Journey for the Kids from Crazy Cook, New Mexico to Waterton, Canada. You can follow his progress and make donations at www.cdtjourneyforthekids.com

Director Maisner reported the Recreation Intern Alex Zegerziewski was recently inducted into his High School Hall of Fame. Alex played in many sports and recently became engaged. He is a great addition to the Department. She also recognized Rob McKenzie for his outstanding leadership and great work he and the crew are doing in the parks.

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2015, Central Park Pavilion, Friend of the Park Ceremony
- b. Spring Cleanup, Saturday, April 25, at 9 am – 12 Noon, in Central Park and Nancy Moore Park – held last week with 30 volunteers attending
- c. Farmers' Market:
 - Winter Market – last one at Meridian Mall on Saturday, April 18 from 10 am – 2 pm
 - Spring Market – Saturdays, May – June 8 am- 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
 - Summer Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays, July-October, 8 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion

- d. Recycling Event at Chippewa Middle School Saturday, April 25, 9 am – 2 pm
– was held last week and was a great day for recycling
- e. Harris Nature Center Native Plants Day and Sale, Saturday, May 2, 9 am – 1 pm
- f. Meridian Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, Friday, May 15, 9 am – 2 pm,
Central Park Pavilion
- g. Celebrate Downtown Okemos, Saturday, June 13, 10 am – 11 pm
- h. Meridian Fishing Derby, Saturday, June 13, 9 am – 12 noon, Central Park
Pond
- i. Music in the Village Concert Series starts Wednesday, June 17 at 7 pm,
Meridian Historical Village
- j. Lake Lansing Band Shell Concert Series starts Friday, June 6, at 7 pm, Lake
Lansing South
- k. Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, Sunday, June 28, 11 am – 4 pm,
Central Park Pavilion
- l. 2014 Friend of the Park Ceremony – Tuesday, May 12, 6-8 pm, Central Park
Pavilion, everyone is invited

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

None

17. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DESCHAINED MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS
SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

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
- Chair Wilson said he would draft a letter from Park Commission to Ingham 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.

Park Commission Meeting

June 9, 2015

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Township Master Plan and Friend of the Park Program/Central Park Report
2. From: Therese Poland PhD, Research Entomologist, Forest Service; RE: Emerald Ash Borer Studies approval in Township Parks

B. Commission Information

1. May and June Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Towne Courier: **April 5:** Meridian organizes communitywide park clean-up; Meridian accepting adult softball team registrations; **April 12:** Meridian Parks Commission appoints replacement member; Meridian organizes communitywide park clean-up; Meridian accepting adult softball team registrations; **April 19:** Campfire program on animal babies; Meridian Township now registering adult softball teams; **April 26:** Nature camps offered at Harris Nature Center; Meridian Farmers Market will open May 2; Meridian Township now registering adult softball teams; **May 24:** Nature camps offered at Harris Nature Center
3. Lansing State Journal: **April 11:** Paddlers Race 160 Miles from MSU (Wonch Park) to Lake Michigan
4. Meridian Summer Monitor 2015

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

Robin Faust

From: Jane Greenway
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Robin Faust
Subject: FW: Twp. Master Plan

From: Eckhart Dersch [<mailto:dersch@anr.msu.edu>]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 10:04 PM
To: LuAnn Maisner; Jane Greenway; Wilson, Todd
Subject: Twp. Master Plan

Hi LuAnn, Jane, and Todd,

Please share this message with Park Commissioners:

Last night (Thursday, May 21), the Planning Commission held its public input session on Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for the next Master Plan. The town hall room was packed with a broad cross-section of residents, many of whom I had never seen before. They were divided into seven breakout groups corresponding to the seven pre-determined Goals, and were instructed to identify the top three needs or concerns for their particular Goal. Then each participant was given eight red dots to paste on their choice for top needs and concerns. The outcome was very interesting.

Among the top needs/concerns where the most red dots were clustered:

- We need a complete natural features inventory for remaining green and open spaces in the Township and then implement ways to protect these areas with mechanisms such as conservation easements, overlay zoning, stronger ordinances, and grant fewer variances and encroachments into wetlands and floodplains.
- We need more looped trails in parks and pathways that connect our parks.

I suspect that you will receive a more complete report from the Planning Department after they completed their compilation of the results.

I can see where this information will be very helpful to the Park Commission in determining its priorities.

Eckhart

**FRIEND-OF-THE-PARK
OCCASIONAL REPORT
TO THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION**

DATE: May 24, 2015

SUBMITTED BY: Eckhart Dersch

PARK VISITED: Central Park: Report # 3 (in bold type)

OBSERVATIONS AND/OR ACTIONS:

1. High-density garlic mustard populations continue to be a major problem throughout the park. **Condition worsened since 10/17/14 report. Suggest that scattering of GM plants around central trail loop be pulled as soon as possible before seed pods develop and larger colonies take hold. Also suggest that Nick Sanchez map the heavy infestations around the east loop for spraying early next year.**
2. Buckthorn infestation is especially heavy in the vicinity of trailhead near Service Center and along the east loop trail and west loop trail. Systematic removal must be initiated soon or this invasive plant will continue to crowd-out native plants. **No improvement.**
3. Autumn olive populations are also advancing throughout the park, and must be controlled soon. **No improvement. Honeysuckle is also rampant around the east loop trail.**
4. Removed some fallen branches and trash from trails. (Dog owners seem to have been especially conscientious about picking up after their dogs this year). **Fewer problems than last year.**
5. Trail restoration is impressive between south pond and Okemos Road and north of the middle Mud Lake foot bridge.

PROBLEMS:

1. The north part of the west loop trail has not been maintained and is now impassable. **Trail remains impassable.** With the recent north/south gas line mowing, it would seem to be an easy matter to begin using that as our trail and reconnecting it to the north side of the loop trail. **The Wolverine right-of-way continues the best way to reconnect with the overgrown north section of this loop trail.**
2. The north side of the boardwalk north of the east-most bridge over the Mud Lake Drain needs either a board walk extension or gravel "hardening" to reduce the muddy trail condition there. **No change, still a mess.**
3. Map box at "Lake Catherine" overlook is still not functional. **No change.**
4. It would be good to add gravel and possibly a culvert where mowers bog down on the trail between the south pond and the soccer field. **No change.**

5. The east/west trails along the Mud Lake drain are problematical. On the south side the foot bridge is out and the north side is not mowed. **No change. Park visitors have installed their own “bridge” with a jumble of logs which are hazardous to traverse.**
6. The east loop trail has not been mowed in a long time. **This once beautiful trail is now very uninviting, with weeds knee to waist high. The “lunch room” of the health care facility at the east end of the east loop has been significantly cleaned-up.**
7. Although the trail is very nice now between Okemos Road and the south pond, there is no longer access control at Okemos Road. (The gate is gone).
8. **The abutment undercutting of the east footbridge across the Mud Lake Drain continues to worsen and requires repair before the abutment shifts and damages or destroys the bridge.**
9. **Bank erosion a few feet upstream of the south abutment of the middle footbridge will eventually undermine that abutment. A simple repair using riprap now could prevent an expensive repair later.**
10. The north east loop trail is no longer used due to a stretch of deep mud. It would be easy to fix this by installing corduroy using the many 5 to 6 foot sections of ash tree logs scattered throughout the park.
11. **The trail north of, and parallel to the Mud Lake Drain needs mowing and corduroy in a couple of wet and/or muddy stretches.**

Robin Faust

From: LuAnn Maisner
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 4:21 PM
To: Kit Rich; Kati Adams; Robin Faust; Jane Greenway; Dennis Antone; Rob MacKenzie
Subject: FW: permission to continue our emerald ash borer research studies in Meridian Township Parks

FYI

From: Poland, Therese -FS [mailto:tpoland@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 4:16 PM
To: LuAnn Maisner
Cc: Bauer, Leah -FS
Subject: RE: permission to continue our emerald ash borer research studies in Meridian Township Parks

Thanks very much! I will send you a progress report summarizing some of our past trapping experiments.



Therese M. Poland, Ph.D.
Research Entomologist

Forest Service
Northern Research Station, Research Work Unit NRS-03 Ecology & Management of Invasive Species and Forest Ecosystems

p: 517-884-8062
c: 517-449-2640
f: 517-355-5121
tpoland@fs.fed.us

3101 Technology Blvd., Suite F
Lansing, MI 48910
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: LuAnn Maisner [mailto:maisner@meridian.mi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 4:11 PM
To: Poland, Therese -FS
Subject: RE: permission to continue our emerald ash borer research studies in Meridian Township Parks

Yes, please continue. Good luck with your research. Please keep us posted of your findings.

LuAnn

From: Poland, Therese -FS [mailto:tpoland@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2015 3:44 PM
To: LuAnn Maisner
Subject: RE: permission to continue our emerald ash borer research studies in Meridian Township Parks

Hi LuAnn,

We are planning to continue our research on emerald ash borer in Meridian Township Parks again this year, and just wanted to confirm that it is okay to monitor EAB, biological control agents, and ash health at Central Park, Nancy Moore Park, Legg Park and Riverfront Park. Our monitoring will involve scraping outer bark scales from trees to look for emerald ash borer eggs and parasitoids, measuring trees, and setting up EAB traps at Legg and Riverfront Parks. There will be about 40-60 traps similar to the traps we have set up the past 3-4 years.

Thanks very much for your continued support of our research!

Cheers,
Therese



Therese M. Poland, Ph.D.
Research Entomologist

Forest Service

Northern Research Station, Research Work Unit NRS-03 Ecology & Management of Invasive Species and Forest Ecosystems

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tpoland@fs.fed.us

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Lansing, MI 48910

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: LuAnn Maisner [<mailto:maisner@meridian.mi.us>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:00 PM

To: Poland, Therese -FS

Cc: Bauer, Leah -FS

Subject: RE: permission to continue our emerald ash borer research studies in Meridian Township Parks

Hi Therese,

Of course you may continue your research and also include Wonch and Ferguson Parks. Any amazing results to report? At some point this year it would be great if you and Leah made a brief presentation to the Park Commission about your work and findings. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

Thank you.

From: Poland, Therese -FS [<mailto:tpoland@fs.fed.us>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 4:30 PM

To: LuAnn Maisner

Cc: Bauer, Leah -FS

Subject: FW: permission to continue our emerald ash borer research studies in Meridian Township Parks

Hi LuAnn,

I was just wondering if you received my message (below) and if it is okay for Leah Bauer and I to proceed with our on-going emerald ash borer in the Meridian Township parks again this year.

Thanks very much for your continued support of our research!

Therese

Therese M. Poland
Research Entomologist
USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station
3101 Technology Blvd., Suite F
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 884-8062
tpoland@fs.fed.us

From: Poland, Therese -FS
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 4:45 PM
To: 'maisner@meridian.mi.us'
Cc: Bauer, Leah -FS
Subject: permission to continue our emerald ash borer research studies in Meridian Township Parks

Dear LuAnn,

For almost a decade now, Dr. Leah Bauer and I have been studying emerald ash borer (EAB) at four Meridian Township parks (we are both long residents of Okemos). In the past, we coordinated this work with our former Park Commissioner, Dr. Eckhart Dersch. Last year, you kindly granted permission for us to continue our research in the parks.

Our studies involve monitoring population densities of EAB and their natural enemies, as well as tracking the health of ash trees and ash tree regeneration in the parks. These studies are located in Central Park/Nancy Moore Parks and Legg/Riverfront Parks. This year we would also like to include some traps at Wonch/Ferguson Parks. The only visible signs of our work in these parks are purple and green insect traps during the summer months only. Throughout the year, metal tree tags and tree flagging of various colors may be seen on some ash saplings and trees. These tags and flagging allow us to return to specific surviving ash trees to monitor their health, which is done in summer and fall. Each fall, we take four small-diameter (<5-inch), heavily EAB-infested ash trees at each park to determine EAB and natural enemy population densities. Each winter and spring, we take small bark samples from several ash trees to estimate the number of EAB eggs and egg parasitoids on the trees. These are unique, long-term studies of ash tree health following the invasion of EAB and its subsequent management using biological control. The work is funded by several federal agencies and is carried out by researchers, faculty, and staff from these agencies and several US universities. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with Meridian Township on this vital research.

Thank you so much for considering our request, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need more information.

Leah

Leah S. Bauer, Ph.D.
Research Entomologist and Adjunct Associate Professor
USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and
Department of Entomology, Michigan State University
3101 Technology Blvd., Ste. F
Lansing, MI 48910
lbauer@fs.fed.us or lsbauer@msu.edu
517-884-8059 (off) or 517-256-0623 (cell)

and

Therese

Therese M. Poland, Ph.D.

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Meridian Township Parks & Recreation May Calendar of Events

May 1 – Howl at the Moon at Harris Nature Center

May 1 – Weekday Science Program/Aquatic Herps

May 1 – Ladies “Night Out” Clinics and Golf at Meridian Sun registration deadline

May 2 – Spring Farmers Market begins

May 2 – Native Plants Day and Sale at Harris Nature Center

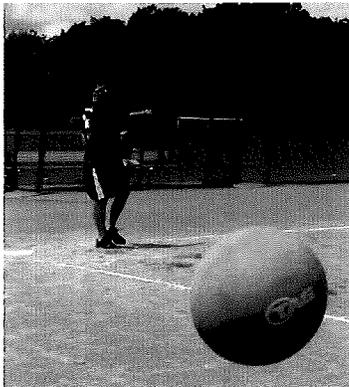
May 3 – Bird Watching in Our Parks/HNC & Legg Park

May 5 – Collage for the Outdoor Soul: Spring Flowers

May 5 – Weekday Wildflower Walks

May 7 – Preschool Science Exploration/Fantastic Frogs

May 8 – 4 on 4 Sand Volleyball Spring/Summer Leagues registration deadline



May 8 – Co-ed Kickball Leagues registration deadline

May 9 – HNC Stewardship Mornings

May 9 – Woodland Fairy Party

May 10 – Sunday Wildflower Walks

May 14 – Chipmunk Story Time/Jump Frog Jump

May 15 – Meridian Garden Club Annual Plant Sale,

May 17 – Bird Watching in Our Parks/Davis-Foster Preserve

May 18 – Couples Golf Clinic at Meridian Sun registration deadline

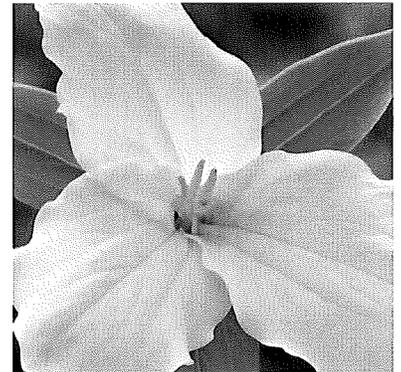
May 22 – Couples “Night Out” Golf Weekly Drop-in League at Meridian Sun

May 28 – FHM Lecture Series

May 30 – Be a Tourist in Your Own Town “In the Village”



May 31 – Bird Watching in Our Parks/North Meridian Road Park



Questions,
call Meridian Township
Parks & Recreation
at (517) 853-4600

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation

June Calendar of Events



- June 2 – Weekday Wildflower Walks
- June 4 – Preschool Science Exploration/Critter Cradles
- June 5 – Howl at the Moon at Harris Nature Center
- June 5 – Music at Lake Lansing Band Shell – North Country Flyers
- June 8 – Summer Sporties for Shorties Camps
- June 8 – Junior and Adult Golf Clinics at Hawk Hollow registration deadline
- June 8 – Tee Fore Toddlers Parent-Child Clinics
- June 10 – Middle School/High School Golf League at Meridian Sun
- June 11 – Chipmunk Story Time/Summer Woods
- June 11 – Elementary School Golf League at Meridian Sun
- June 11 – Tee Fore Toddlers Parent-Child Clinics
- June 12 – Music at Lake Lansing Band Shell – Avon Bomb

- June 13 – Celebrate Downtown Okemos
- June 13 – Meridian Fishing Derby
- June 15 – Meridian Summer Playground Program
- June 15 – Competitive Junior Golf League at Meridian Sun
- June 15 – Summer Sporties for Shorties Camps
- June 15 – Junior Academy Golf Camp at Meridian Sun
- June 16 – My Cub and I Summer Camps
- June 16 – Timber Tots Summer Camps
- June 16 – Cool Critters Camps
- June 16 – Feathery Friends Camps
- June 16 – Grossology Camps
- June 16 – Earth Friends Camps
- June 17 – Music in the Village Concert Series – Gracewood Singers & Heartland Kiezmorim Band
- June 18 – Nature's Artists Camps
- June 18 – Nature's Artists II Camps
- June 18 – CSI: Critter Scene investigation Camps
- June 19 – Ladies "Night Out" Clinics and Golf at Meridian Sun registration deadline
- June 19 – Music at Lake Lansing Band Shell – SPERSQS/Water Wonderland
- June 20 – HNC Stewardship Mornings
- June 21 – Insect Safari with Dad in Legg Park
- June 22 – Outdoor Adventures Camp
- June 23 – Fur, Feathers, Scales and Slime Camp
- June 23 – Amazing Animals Camps
- June 23 – Wet and Wild Camps,
- June 23 – Things with Wings Camps
- June 23 – Reptiles and Amphibians Camps
- June 24 – Music in the Village Concert – Meridian Community Band
- June 26 – Lake Lansing Band Shell - Soul Town Band
- June 27 – Spring Farmers Market last day
- June 27 – Summer Campfire Series,
- June 28 – Meridian Arts & Crafts Marketplace
- June 30 – Sense-ational Nature Camps
- June 30 – Following Tracks and Traces Camps,
- June 30 – Treasure Hunters Camps

Celebrate

Saturday, June 13
10 am – 11 pm

Downtown
Okemos
...imagine the possibilities



Questions,
call Meridian Township
Parks & Recreation
at (517) 853-4600

Meridian organizes community-wide park clean-up

The Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department is organizing a community-wide clean-up event to encourage residents to help clean-up local parks. The event will be held on Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed to pick-up litter and stack branches in lawn areas or remove litter and branches obstructing trails in Meridian Township Parks. Volunteers can assist clean-up efforts at the Central Park Farmers' Market Pavilion (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864), or go to the park they have been assigned.

Those interested in volunteering can contact Jane Greenway, Meridian Township Parks & Land Management Coordinator, at 517-853-4610 or Alex Zegarzewski at 517-853-4600, to be assigned a park. Pizza will be provided

ed to all volunteers.

Meridian accepting adult softball team registrations

The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the summer adult softball leagues. Coed league nights are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Tuesday nights is the ASA Class F Men's League. All teams will be registered with ASA and will be eligible to participate in ASA state tournaments. Registration deadline is Friday, April 10. Games will begin the week of April 27 and go until the week of July 21. The entry fee is \$295 per team in addition to umpire and player fees.

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Meridian Parks commission appoints replacement member

MERIDIAN TWP. — Meridian Township Board of Trustees has voted to appoint Okemos resident Phil Deschaine to the Township Park Commission.

He replaces Teri Banas who resigned her seat in January of 2015 to serve her four-year term as County Commissioner, District 11, which includes Haslett and parts of the Okemos School District.

Park commissioners are elected every four years by township residents.

"I have very big shoes to fill. There is no one I know who has been a more dedicated volunteer and steward of Meridian Township Parks than has Teri Banas been for many, many years," Deschaine said.

He added: "One of my goals as a Park Commissioner would be to help organize a Meridian Township Parks



Phil Deschaine

Day. This would be a coming together of community groups, service clubs, scouts, neighborhood associations and individuals to adopt a park and donate a few hours to maintain and improve our parks.

"It would be based on the Meridian Recycling Day model to involve our community in helping to preserve and improve our many great parks in Meridian Township."

Deschaine is a past president of the Haslett Kiwanis Club and long-time adult leader with Haslett Boy Scout Troop 97.

He also had served many years on the Ingham County Housing Commission.

Nature camps offered at Harris Nature Center

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road is offering a camps for toddlers through eighth graders beginning June 16 and running through Aug. 7. This year there will be one-day camps, two-day camps and four-day camps. The fees vary, depending on the length of the camp, but all campers will receive a camp T-shirt. Participants can receive an "early bird" discount by registering before June 1. Families can choose between 1-day, 2-day or 4-day as fits into their personal schedule. Many camps include lunch with the counselors. Each week there are different camp topics available for preschool through 6th grade campers. A full description of the Nature Connection Camp is available at www.meridian.mi.us or people can call the nature center at 517-349-3866 to receive a camp brochure. For a registration form or more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Towne Courier • Sunday, April 26, 2015 •

Meridian Farmers Market will open May 2

Meridian Township's Spring Farmers' Market opens on Saturday, May 2. More than 30 vendors will be on hand to sell their produce, baked goods, flowers, and plants. The market runs on Saturdays through June 27. Hours are from 8 a.m.-2p.m. The market is located in the Meridian Township Pavilion in Central Park on the northwest corner of Marsh Road and Central Park Drive. For more information contact Christine Miller, Market Manager at 517.712.2395 or farmers.market.manager@gmail.com.

• Sunday, April 26, 2015 • Towne Courier

Meridian Township now registering adult softball teams

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• Sunday, April 19, 2015 • Towne Courier

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• Sunday, April 26, 2015 • Towne Courier

Campfire program on animal babies

For many people, the best part of spring is the arrival of all the animal babies. On Saturday April 25 at 7 p.m., participants will enjoy a campfire and program about animal babies at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866. An optional guided walk will take place near the end of the program. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 517-349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us

Towne Courier • Sunday, April 19, 2015 • 3A

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Towne Courier • Sunday, May 24, 2015 •

RDAY
1, 2015

Lansing State Journal

LOCAL & STATE

EDITOR: AL WILSON | METRO@LSJ.COM | 377-1154 | WWW.LSJ.COM



Racers in Wave 1 of the Campus to Coast race are seen downriver Friday at Wonch Park in Okemos.

DAVE WASINGER/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

PADDLERS RACE 160 MILES FROM MSU TO LAKE MICHIGAN

By Kate DuHadway
kduhadway@lsj.com

Not even the wind or a spattering of cold rain could dampen the spirits of the 85 people who lined up at Wonch Park in Okemos Friday morning for the start of a one-of-its-kind race along the Red Cedar and Grand rivers.

Over the next two and a half days, they'll attempt to paddle 160 miles from Okemos to Lake Michigan, a trip that would normally take a week.

The race is called Campus to Coast. It's the biggest event of the year organized by the Michigan State University Outdoor Club and now in

See RACE, Page 5A

Racers set off on the Red Cedar River Friday from Wonch Park in Okemos as they start the Campus to Coast race that will take them all the way to Grand Ha

Race

Continued from Page 3A

its third year as an official, club-sanctioned event. Friday's start was the biggest yet with 44 teams, said event organizer Luke Rookus.

Finishing the race "is a pretty big bragging right among our club," Rookus said. "It's finding out what you're made of in a way that a lot of people haven't tested before."

Each team of two to four racers has up to 57 hours to get as far as they can before the cutoff time Sunday at 6 p.m., Rookus said. Most racers carry their own camping and emergency gear in their boats, along with a map of portages and campsites provided by race organizers.

Volunteers are stationed at each portage and campsite along the way to hand out water, make sure all racers are accounted for and provide emergency support, Rookus said.

The original Campus

to Coast trip was the idea of MSU graduate Tim Muhick, who did the trip when he was a student at MSU's Lyman Briggs College. Following his grandfather's motto to "have the adventure of your life, every year of your life," Muhick convinced two of his friends to paddle from East Lansing to Lake Michigan with him in November 2010.

"I told my friends, 'I'm going to paddle to Lake Michigan,'" Muhick said. "They said, 'You're not going to succeed, but if you do and I don't come, I'll feel like an idiot.'"

Muhick and two of his friends set out in the snow and made it as far as Grand Rapids. Muhick attempted the trip again in the spring of 2012 with 12 others, five of whom made it all the way to Lake Michigan.

In 2013, Muhick and other MSU outdoor club members decided to make the trip an official club event. They contacted Pat Harrington, a veteran member of the mid-Michigan paddling

community, for help and advice.

"It just scared the hell out of me," Harrington said.

To his amazement, the students were able to secure the right liability forms, permission to travel on private property, emergency safety measures, information on portages and campsites and round up the volunteers to pull it off — all within a matter of days.

"They earned the respect of the river community," Harrington said, "and earned our support."

Muhick said the hardest part of the race is the mental challenge. In order to make it before the cutoff time, teams often get very little sleep. Muhick said 80 percent of racers don't make it to Lake Michigan in time.

"A challenge this large takes an awful lot of self-confidence," Harrington said, as he watched the collegiate division racers push off into the water. "And they're about to test their own."



Leona Komesu, a senior and member of the MSU Outdoors Club, packs her gear into her boat as she prepares to take off on the Campus to Coast event Friday at Wonch Park in Okemos.

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CAMPUS TO COAST BY THE NUMBERS

The Campus to Coast race is organized by the Michigan State University Outdoor Club, but is not affiliated with or sponsored by MSU itself. Some figures:

Total miles: 160

Cut-off time: 57 hours

Fastest times: 36-40

hours

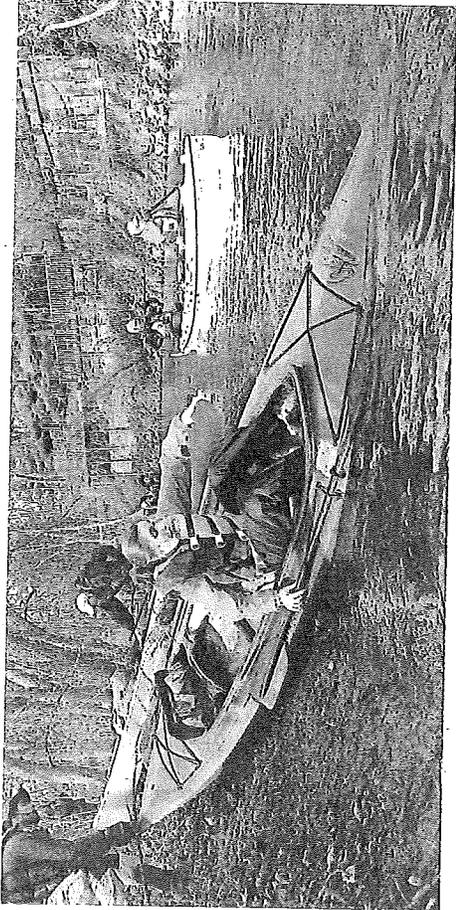
Number of portages: 7

Number of racers this

year: 85

Number of teams this

year: 44



PHOTOS BY DAVE WASSINGER/LANSING STATE JOURNAL
One racer tries to steady herself as she enters the water Friday at Wonch Park in Okemos. The team was launching their boat for the Campus to Coast race that follows the Red Cedar and Grand rivers to Grand Haven.



Mike Smith, left, and Sandy Krueger, of team Wet Paddles, put in supports to their canoe so they can slip on a cover to keep things dry Friday before taking part in the Campus to Coast race.





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