



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING
Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 4:30pm
Service Center

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 1. Chair called meeting to order at 4:35 PM
2. ROLL CALL
 1. Present: Chair Farris, Commissioners Lick, Rambo and Stephens were present at roll call.
 2. Commissioner McDonald arrived at 4:40 PM
 3. Staff present: Director Wisinski
 4. Guest present: Richard Miksicek, Environmental Commission liaison
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
 1. There was no public comment.
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 1. Chair Farris moved to place the action item – 8.1 Meridian Historical Village Memorandum of Understanding – to 7.2, underneath the discussion items.
 2. Commissioner Rambo moved to approve the agenda, as amended, Commissioner Lick seconded.

VOICE VOTE: unanimous
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. March 11, 2025 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 2. Commissioner Rambo moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Lick seconded.

VOICE VOTE: unanimous
6. COMMUNICATIONS
 1. April Stewardship Calendars
 1. Director Wisinski shared the April Stewardship calendar and noted that Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator, is out in the field nearly every weekend. Amongst the other events on the calendar, Director Wisinski highlighted the upcoming Timberdoodle Walk on April 9th from 7:30-9:00 PM.
 2. Director Wisinski also mentioned that she received a call from a resident about downed trees/brush at Hillbrook Park. The resident was concerned about a potential fire hazard, so Director Wisinski asked the Meridian Township Fire Inspector for input. There was no fire hazard determined. Commissioners Stephens and McDonald then brought up that neighbors to the parks and preserves can sometimes bring brush from their yards to the public spaces. Commissioner Stephens reminded the Park Commission that the responsibility is on everyone in the community to keep an eye out for dumping.
 2. April Harris Nature Center Calendars
 1. Director Wisinski shared at Kati Adams, Parks & Land Superintendent, interviewed and selected two naturalists for the upcoming summer season. The week of April 7th, Harris Nature Center is running Annie's Big Nature Lesson for a local school group.
 2. Friday, April 11th is the second Sensory Friendly night that Harris Nature Center is hosting. Commissioner McDonald thought that the marketing notice for the sensory-friendly night was well written. Commissioner Lick asked if Able Eyes would be willing to share social media posts about the event.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Meridian Township Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

- a. Director Wisinski met with Township Manager Dempsey to begin the process, and outline a timeline for the new five-year plan for the Parks and Recreation department. Even though the plan extends into 2026, the process starts early to place it on the ballot in August of 2026.
- b. Commissioners Stephens and McDonald then shared some of the history of the previous millage renewal. Director Wisinski shared that her intention was to start working heavily on the five year plan in February of 2026. Chair Farris hoped that the plan would include a more broad perspective – opportunities for participation from all residents, not just a few special interest groups. Director Wisinski intends to continue to keep this item on the agenda for the Park Commissioners to go through each part piece-by-piece. The commissioners suggested that, based on current nationwide economic issues, the millage should stay consistent, and not support an increase.
- c. Commissioner Stephens asked when the Land Preservation millage would come up, and Director Wisinski responded that it would in 2028.

2. Meridian Historical Village Memorandum of Understanding

- a. Director Wisinski shared that there was no changes from the last meeting, but shared a reminder that Friends of Historical Meridian are responsible for interior upkeep, and that Meridian Township Parks and Recreation would be responsible for exterior upkeep, HVAC, and electrical. Commissioner Lick suggested to update some of the named positions in the document like Township Clerk and Board President. Director Wisinski highlighted the change in terms to a five-year lease, and that updating the MOU was proactive, with the membership of the Friends of Historical Meridian changing, and aging.

8. ACTION ITEMS

1. There were no action items.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Budget Updates

- a. Director Wisinski referenced the budget report, and pointed out that nothing had been encumbered in 2025. Commissioner Lick suggested that a spent column be added into the budget report for clarity, and Chair Farris and Commissioner Rambo agreed.

B. Upcoming Events

- a. Indoor Farmer's Market
 - i. April 19
- b. Outdoor Farmer's Market
 - i. Begins May 3
- c. Wednesdays Farmer's Market
 - i. Begins June 4
 1. Director Wisinski stated that the first outdoor Farmers' Market would be May 3rd, and most of the entertainment was lined up for the Summer Concert Series. The commissioners shared their experience at the summer concert series in 2024, and recommendations about the food trucks potentially staying open later, vendors not packing up early, and potentially an acoustic set playing before another band later in the evening. Director Wisinski said she would share the concerns with Tom Cary, the Farmers' Market manager to get some of the concerns resolved.

C. Miscellaneous

- a. Sponsorship for events update
 - i. Director Wisinski discussed that CATA provided \$10,000 as a sponsor for our events, which brings the total sponsorship raised so far to over \$50,000.
- b. Celebrate Meridian update
 - i. Director Wisinski issued a Request for Bid (RFP) for the drone show, since the quotes may be over \$25,000. She shared that due to an incident with a drone show vendor in another state, she would be looking extensively at safety protocols.

- c. Cricket update
 - i. Director Wisinski informed the commission that due to the weather, she was not able to visit the parks like she had planned. She did set up a meeting with members of the cricket community to discuss the tentative plan, and to solicit feedback. Parks and Recreation Specialist, Mike Devlin, suggested purchasing cricket batting cages in addition to the field.
 - d. Marshall Park update
 - i. Director Wisinski reminded the park commission of the drainage issues at Marshall Park, and shared that she was approached by Dan Opsommer, Deputy Township Supervisor and Director of Public Works, with an idea to place a bioswale at Marshall Park to improve drainage and eventually replace the road, in partnership with the Environmental Commission, Department of Public Works, and Roads program. Director Wisinski noted that this was a conceptual discussion, and she would update the group as it came up.
- 10. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT – Chair Farris
 - 1. Chair Farris attended the board meeting on April 3rd, and highlighted the continuing discussion on the senior/community center and that a rezoning issue passed.
- 11. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
 - 1. Commissioner Stephens did not have anything to report to the Commission. Director Wisinski did mention that because Land Preservation Advisory Board meets the day after the Park Commission in most months, it may feel out of sync with the rest of the Commission's updates.
- 12. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT – Commissioner McDonald
 - 1. Commissioner McDonald did not have anything to report to the Commission. Environmental Commission liaison Miksicek shared about applications for Green Grants, potential funding from the environmental commission for a bioswale at Marshall Park, and reported on the solar program.
- 13. HISTORICAL VILLAGE REPORT – Commissioner Rambo
 - 1. Commissioner Rambo shared that she went to the Volunteer Open House held by the Historical Village. She discussed the difficulty that the group has with recruiting volunteers and shared some ideas with the group about marketing. The group reported to her that they were pleased with the Township's communication efforts, but were not ready to digitize fully yet.
- 14. NOKOMIS CULTURAL CENTER REPORT – Commissioner Lick
 - 1. Commissioner Lick shared that she had not meet with Nokomi's staff yet, and hoped that Director Wisinski could help her with a warm hand-off and introductions. She also requested that when paying a utility bill online, the Historical Village and Nokomis be added alongside Meridian Cares as a place to donate to. Chair Farris commented that she attended a presentation by Nokomis that was vibrant and informative, but there was only six participants.
- 15. SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT – Chair Farris
 - 1. Senior and Community Center Concept, Staffing, and Operations Plan
 - 1. Chair Farris shared that task force has completed their work, and the recommendation to the Township Board was to pass one millage for either a stand-alone senior center, or a combined senior and community center. The five million dollars that the township has access to has to be encumbered by the end of 2025. Without the middle school, or support from the school district, there is no way to duplicate what the community has now. Commissioner McDonald shared about his tour of Grand Traverse County's Senior Center during the MParks conference in March.
- 16. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - 1. There was no public comment.

17. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

1. Chair Farris reminded the commissioners' that the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at 4:30 PM would be televised.

18. ADJOURNMENT at 7:02 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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