



3. Agenda

January 11, 2022



AGENDA

3.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday January 11, 2022 4:30pm
Meridian Service Center
2100 Gaylord Smith Ct, Haslett 48840

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
5. COMMUNICATIONS
6. ACTION ITEMS
 - a. 5 -Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
9. PUBLIC COMMENTS
10. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Location: Meridian Service Center , 2100 Gaylord Smith Ct. Haslett, MI 48840

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



A PRIME COMMUNITY
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4. Minutes

December 14, 2021



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Virtual via Zoom Meeting
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 4:30 PM

PRESENT: Amanda Lick attended from Okemos; Ami Van Antwerp attended from East Lansing; Mark Stephens attended from Haslett; Mary Nardo-Farris attended from Haslett; Mike McDonald attended from Haslett at 4:36 pm.

EXCUSED: None

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation, attended from Haslett; Jane Greenway, Senior Parks & Land Management Coordinator, attended from Haslett.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Lick called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. Attendance was taken.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – FIVE YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2022-2026

Chair Farris opened the Public Hearing at 4:34 p.m.

Director Maisner presented the elements of the draft plan including the Community Description; Administrative Structure; Parks and Recreation Inventory and Evaluation; Major Projects Completed since the last plan; Public Input; Trends; Goals and Objectives and Action Plan. Director Maisner concluded with thanking Parks and Land Management Coordinator, Jane Greenway, for all of her work on the plan, and also to Administrative Assistant, Bridget Cannon, for her efforts as well. Input on the plan can continue up until January 4, 2022. The Park Commission will take formal action to adopt the plan during their January 11, 2022 regular meeting. The Plan is due to the DNR by February 1, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Commission discussion of Master Plan.

Chair Farris closed the Public Hearing at 5:31 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER STEPHENS, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER VAN ANTWERP TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Chair Farris requested a correction to the 2022 meeting calendar December date from December 8, 2022 to December 13, 2022. MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MCDONALD, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LICK TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026 -- Chair Farris expressed her support of the plan and stated that she supports reinstating the Parks and Recreation Specialist position as the need is greater now more than ever for additional programs and events. Commissioner Lick added that she would like to see a children's market where they could make and sell items. Commissioner Van Antwerp asked to clarify our listed recreation uses of the Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks and Recreation Department Work Plan Update – Director Maisner included the work plan and accomplishments in the packet for Commissioner Review. A formal year-end report will be made in January, 2022.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

8. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held Tuesday, January 11, 2022, Meridian Township Service Center, 4:30 p.m.



5. Communications



'Tis the season to be jolly

Luanne + Staff,

*we want to thank you for all
you do making this the best
Township.*

*Warmest greetings and good wishes
for the holiday season.*

*Your support for the Pickleball
Community, deer management*

*Program and the many
other wonderful things*

you provide, is next to none!

Have a Blessed New Year.

Sandy + Kenton Sweehead





6. Action Items

a. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026



6.a.

To: Park Commission
From: LuAnn Maisner, CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: January 6, 2022
Re: Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026 DRAFT edits

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026 DRAFT has been available for public input through the month of December, 2021. The hard copy version was available to the public at the Parks and Recreation Office and on-line on Meridian Township's website. During this time, staff has also reviewed the document and identified a few necessary changes to the draft. The following indicate the proposed changes:

1. Page 12 – Administrative Structure was updated with the following to the Role of the Environmental Commission:

D. Role of the Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission advises the Township Board, officials, and staff on matters pertaining to environmental protection, management of natural resources, water conservation and preservation of open space. The commission is also responsible for the duties of the wetland board; thus it serves in an advisory role in setting policy guidelines on wetland issues, reviews wetland use permits, and develops and promotes wetland education and stewardship.

2. Page 70 -- Commissioner Van Antwerp asked to clarify our listed recreation uses of the Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area during the December 14, 2021 virtual Park Commission meeting. In response to her inquiry and further information obtained from Chad Fedewa, Rose Lake State Wildlife Area, the official name of the wildlife area was changed in the plan to read:

Rose Lake State Wildlife Area, State of Michigan.

The description of recreational activities at this location now reads "... Existing facilities provide activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching and nature observation..."

3. Page 84 – Land Preserve Inventory acreage was edited to 956 acres.
4. Page 97 – Deer Management photo was edited to show hunter with harvested does.

5. Page 113 – Goals and Objectives

Continue to focus on Environmental Sustainability, Education and Land Stewardship.

Added:

- i. Support the Environmental Commission's "Protect Our Wetlands" initiative including "Build Back the Buffer", education, community outreach, marketing and restoration projects, in an effort to mitigate negative impacts of flooding.*

6. Page 118 – Quality of Life Initiatives - "Climate Sustainability Plan" – Adopted by Meridian Township Board was edited to include adoption date of 10.24.2017.

7. Page 118 – Quality of Life Initiatives

Added:

Protecting Our Wetlands - Environmental Commission initiative

Motion for Park Commission consideration:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTERPLAN 2022-2026 AS AMENDED. FOLLOWING TOWNSHIP BOARD ADOPTION ON JANUARY, 25, 2022, THE PLAN WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND ALSO TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT ELIGIBILITY.



8. Director's Report

Director's Report – Parks

January 6, 2022

- **Okemos Road Parcel** – We closed on the property in late December! Working now on filing for grant reimbursement.
 - The Fire Department would like to use the house for a smoke training.
 - Per grant requirement, we must demo the house structure within three months following closing.
 - Plan to reach out to Habitat for Humanity to see if there is anything they would like to salvage.
 - We preliminarily plan to keep the existing pole barn for storage.
 - Jane Greenway is working on developing a few site plans for Commission review.
- **Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2027** – The plan is complete and after Park Commission approval, the Township Board will adopt the plan at their January 25th regular meeting. Staff will then submit it the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources by the February 1st deadline.
- **The Harris Nature Center is celebrating its 25th Anniversary** this year. Let's talk about ideas to celebrate and acknowledge the Centers' accomplishments. I also have an idea to make this years' celebration more encompassing to include HNC Foundation, Land Preservation Advisory Board, Environmental Commission, the Township's Sustainability Plan, solar, recycling, composting, Meridian Conservation Corp, Deer Management, land stewardship, non-motorized transportation plan, with projects goals that reflect our community's culture of Environmental awareness, education and stewardship. Also a fundraising campaign to update the Nature Exploration Area at HNC.
- **Deer Management Program** – The volunteer Archery Deer Management program ended with a total of 128 deer. The Police Cull began on January 2 with 44 deer culled the first week. The goal of the supplemental program is 200.

- **Consumers Energy Easement Request – Wonch Park** – Their easement requests were executed and check for \$1,000 received. This money is set to fund two new benches in Ferguson Park.

- **Projects we are working on for 2022 include:**
 - Labyrinth in Central Park
 - New Trail and Pathway Map
 - Expand parking lot at North Meridian Road Park
 - Repave Central Park South entry drive
 - Install two floating islands in Central Park South pond for water purification
 - Begin replacing park signs
 - Renew Community Services Millage for Recreation, Senior Center and Human Services.