

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Jaramillo

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

- New item #9, Partnership with MSU Sailing Club and renumber remaining agenda items

Hearing no objection, Chair Wilson approved the agenda as amended.

3. Boundary Correction – Braemoor Subdivision

Director Maisner reported a 5.09 acre parcel along the Red Cedar River was acquired through a State of Michigan tax foreclosure sale in 2005. The parcel is located off Grand River Avenue, adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive. It was recently discovered that a portion of the driveway for 4444 River Glen Drive goes through the parcel and a boundary correction of .09 acres is required. Since the parcel was purchased under a tax foreclosure, the Township is only allowed to receive \$106.29 for the .09 acre.

4. Towner Road Park Plan Revisions

With the acquisition of the parcel adjacent to Towner Road Park, Director Maisner distributed and reported on the re-designed plans and costs provided by the project architect, Viridis Design Group. The 2012 proposed project cost was approximately \$2 million but with the re-design the cost will increase to about \$2.6 million. The updated plan includes additional parking, sidewalks, and replacing sand volleyball courts with four pickleball courts, (since additional sand volleyball courts have recently been developed at North Meridian Road Park).

The Commissioners discussed phasing the project or building it all at once. By consensus, they unanimously agreed to construct the entire project and borrow necessary funds from the Township. If possible, it is preferred to bid the project in January to receive the best contractor prices.

5. Dog Rules – Doggie Playground

Earlier this year, the Commission discussed the developing a dog park in partnership with Ingham County Parks at Lake Lansing North Park. A formal correspondence was sent to the Ingham County Parks Board with no response received. During this time, the department has continued to receive complaints about the number of dogs off-leash in the parks. To address the issue, our Parks staff is working with the Police Department encouraging greater enforcement of the leash Ordinance and with the Communication Department on increased promotion.

As a way on beginning to build areas for dogs and their owners, she suggested building a “doggie playground” in the open area across from the Service Center building. It would consist of a .25 acre fenced area for small dogs and approximately 1.75 acres for a large dog area. It would contain dog agility amenities and walking paths. The cost would be approximately \$60,000-\$80,000 for the fencing and amenities. There are no nearby residences and parking could be managed on the Service Center site or along Gaylord Smith Court. This area could serve as a source of engaging local dog owners to help drive future development of other managed areas for pets and people.

The Commissioners discussed this topic and shared comments and questions. It was determined that a work session be scheduled in the near future to discuss this topic in depth to determine the best direction and action.

6. Central Park Master Plan

Director Maisner reported that the Commission had not formally adopted the Central Park Master Plan. At a future meeting, the Commission should discuss how to prioritization and plan implementation. The Friends of Historic Meridian are interested in moving forward with improved signage, but the Township is undertaking a branding program in 2016. It was suggested to wait until that process is complete before deciding on signage. The Commission can discuss this further at the December meeting when reviewing possible grant projects such as the pedestrian bridge into the Historical Village or a pavilion in the Historical Village. She is also working with the Meridian Mall representatives about the future relocation of the Farmers Market onto their site. We could get started with the development of the promenades and installation of kiosks.

7. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Director Maisner reported that the current plan expires at the end of 2016. Our current plan was completed in-house and has solid base information. The update will mainly consist of public input and goal setting to determine/update our capital improvement program. There was discussion about hiring a consultant to assist with the plan update.

8. Strider Park Trails

Commissioner Deschaine stated there will be a presentation on this topic during the regular meeting. Strider bikes are bikes with no peddles.

9. Partnership with MSU Sailing Club

Commissioner Stephens reported on discussions he has had with MSU Sailing Club regarding sharing opportunities such as fishing, environmental learning, etc. He asked their representative to give Director Maisner a call about exploring new endeavors with them.

10. Comment

- Solar Powered Picnic Tables – Director Maisner reported staff researched the product and the cost is approximately \$10,000 each
- Outdoor Fitness Grant – Director Maisner received a call to verify the Township was still interested and hope to hear the results soon. The grant suggested installing equipment in Wonch and Central Parks

11. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 7:05 pm.