



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
Meridian Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 4:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick  
**ABSENT:** Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald  
**STAFF:** LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:30 pm**.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission.  
Commissioner Stephens and Commissioner McDonald excused absent.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

A. NATIVE PLANT GUIDE: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator, shared the draft of the Planting a Native Meridian Guide she and intern, Rebecca Fisher, created to assist residents in native gardening.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LAND PRESERVATION REPORT BEING MOVED TO THE OCTOBER AGENDA**. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2022 REGULAR MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

A. HNC By-Law Update

**MOVE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES OF THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER FOUNDATION WITH THE ADDITION OF THE CHANGE TO THE “HISTORY” PARAGRAPH ON PAGE ONE TO NOW READ:**

*The Harris Nature Center began operations in 1997, and became an immediate success by serving visitors with a broad variety of environmental education programs that enrich lives and help instill an appreciation and stewardship of our increasingly vulnerable natural world. The Nature Center is situated in the 48-acre Meridian Riverfront Park on the bank of the Red Cedar River and is generously endowed with a combination of beautiful wooded uplands and wetlands. Funding for the Center is provided primarily through the Meridian Township Park Millage with additional support from program fees and charges. Support from the HNCF is vital to further promote and improve current operations and facility upgrades.*

**COMMISSIONER LICK MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED HNC BY-LAW CHANGES AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VAN ANTWERP.**

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Goals and Objectives Roundtable Discussion – Director Maisner presented the approved Capital Improvement Plan for 2023 to 2027 for discussion and also requested the Park Commissioners to visit each of the parks to create a list of improvements and small touches that would enhance each facility. The Commission will discuss this further at their October regular meeting.

**10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT**

Commissioner Stephens absent, agenda item moved to October regular meeting.

**11. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

1. **Meridian Heritage Festival** scheduled for Saturday, October 1 in the Historical Village
2. Working on **identification signage** for Lake Lansing Marsh and Spengler’s Marsh
3. **2022 Deer Management program** October 1-January 1. Same properties as last year.
4. **Farmers Market** continues to be a strong program for our department. The Wednesday market this year is breaking all attendance records for vendors and visitors. The **Summer Concert Series** has played a significant role in the overall program. The Wednesday Market and Concerts will continue through the month of October. Ring road of the Mall is in the process of being repaved.
5. **Fall youth and Adult sports** are underway including Soccer, flag football, kickball and volleyball.

6. **Entered into an agreement with Able Eyes** to video and post the Harris Nature Center on their site. We will also be able to add to our website as well.
7. **Currently in the process of hiring a new Parks and Recreation Specialist.** This position is replacing the Sr. Parks and Land Management Coordinator, Jane Greenway who resigned from the Township recently.
8. **HNCF Turtle Toast fundraiser is taking place on Saturday, Sept 17 from 7-10pm.**
9. **Day of Service volunteer program** is scheduled for Saturday, September 17 that engages members of local service organizations and includes the following projects:
  - i. **Rake safety surface** under the swings and at the end of the slide beds at Central Park.
  - ii. **Rake the safety** surface in the Marketplace on the Green playground.
  - iii. Carefully brush sealant on the **top hand-rails** only of the Historical Village
  - iv. Repair **the fishing pole-lending box** with new hinges, new wood where needed, and repaint.
  - v. **Topsoil, seed and straw** the edges of the walkway down to the fishing dock in the Village.
  - vi. **Pick up trash** along Central Park Drive (both sides of the street from Okemos Road to Grand River Ave.
  - vii. **Plant Mums** in front of the Central Park Pavilion, and around the sign at the Large Dog Park.
  - viii. On a non-Saturday or Wednesday, **Paint the restroom building exterior** at Marketplace on the Green (white).
  - ix. **Add mulch** around base of trees in Central Park South.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**13. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

None

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is October 11, 2022 at the Meridian Service Center, 4:30 pm.