

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioners Banas, Wilson

1. Call Meeting to Order

By consensus, Commissioner Jaramillo will Chair the meeting.

Acting Chair Jaramillo called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Under item #4, Other, add naming of Newton Road Park

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, ACTING CHAIR JARAMILLO
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion
passed.

3. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications

Director Maisner stated the Commissioners have discussed options for proceeding with the Central Park Master Plan planning process. Central Park covers over 279 acres with three main entrance points and staff had previously prepared maps with development zones (Active Recreation, Entertainment, Family Activity, Historic/Culture). During the budget process, \$16,000 was earmarked for the planning. During the September meeting, Chair Wilson suggested preparing a Request for Qualifications to assist with choosing a professional who is best qualified and experienced in park master planning.

Discussion/Questions:

- Should the proposal include a budget and the budget amount covered for planning?
- There is no real change to the layout of the Historical Village and Nancy Moore Park but we are looking at multi-use for Central Park, Central Park South and the Ledebuhr parcel
- Commissioner Stephens suggested we investigate the green, open space on the Mall site across from Central Park South and the cost.
- Great opportunity to develop a partnership with the Mall during this planning process
- Need design to match budget

- Identify what programs and activities are envisioned (Staff has prepared an inventory analysis)
- The site needs connecting walkways
- Create a destination/identity; suggest using fencing, archways, signage
- Conduct community meetings to learn what people are interested in
- Incorporate wetlands and universal access into the plan
- Combination of paved and natural trails with signage and kiosks

Possible program elements to incorporate into the design?

- Trails with signage, especially directional signage
- Create a brand
- Improve the wetland areas with trail system and amenities such as floating platforms; have information on website; include interpretative signage
- Trail enhancements; natural area element enhancements such as the Mudd Lake Drain, fishing
- Create public/private partnerships especially with the Meridian Mall
- Create a link to the Mall
- Fishing dock and boardwalks in, around and to Central Park South, but need to rehab the area first
- Create more fishing access and boardwalks around both ponds
- Floating island to enhance the water quality of both ponds
- Need to look at the site as a large piece, not just segments; it is open for greater use; make entrance points like a 20'+ footbridge into the Historical Village; new pavilion with separate restroom; winding paved sidewalks and trails connecting areas including picnic pods along the way;
- Improved pathways, trails, parking
- Promote as a family destination
- Like to add a splash pad, no chlorine needed, a fun water feature with water spouts flush to ground.
- Add Wi-Fi
- Suggest talking to bikers to see what they would like to see along the trails and pathways

4. Other
a. Naming Newton Road Park

Due to time constraints, this item will be moved to the regular meeting agenda.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Acting Chair Jaramillo adjourned the work session at 7:01 pm.