



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING
Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 4:30pm
Town Hall - Televised

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
4. PRESENTATION
 - A. Parks and Recreation Land Management and Maintenance
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. August 11, 2025 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
7. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. September Stewardship Calendars
8. DISCUSSION ITEMS
9. ACTION ITEMS
10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - A. Budget Updates
 - B. Senior and Community Center Updates
 - C. Red Cedar Water Trail Updates
 - D. Famer's Market Gleaning Program Updates
 - E. Staff Updates
 - F. Volunteer Thankquet – September 26, 2025
11. PUBLIC COMMENT
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS
13. 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, Courtney Wisinski: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.



MINUTES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING
Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 4:30pm
Service Center

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 1. Chair called meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

2. ROLL CALL
 1. Present: Chair Nardo-Farris, Commissioners McDonald, Rambo and Stephens were present at roll call.
 2. Absent: Commissioner Lick – excused
 3. Staff present: Director Wisinski
 4. Guests: Richard Miksicek, Environmental Commission liaison and Ben Borashko, Red Cedar Waterway and Land Preservation Intern

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
 1. There was no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 1. Director Wisinski introduced a memo to Agenda item 8.A – 2026 CIP Budget Proposal.
 2. Commissioner Rambo motioned to approve the agenda, as amended. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. July 8, 2025 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 1. Commissioner Rambo moved to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025 meeting as presented, Commissioner McDonald seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. August Stewardship Calendars
 1. Director Wisinski highlighted the invasive species workshop at the end of the month, and the on-going Weekday Warriors and Stewardship Saturdays events for the month of August. The commissioners commented that even though the field season is winding down, the fall and winter seasons are just as busy with activities.
 - B. Friends of Historic Meridian Advisory Board minutes
 1. Director Wisinski reviewed the Responsibility of Parties section in the Friends of Historic Meridian MOU and noted that the Friends of Historic Meridian Advisory Board shall provide meeting minutes, and that she would include those minutes in future Park Commission packets.
 2. Commissioner McDonald asked to consider including Meridian Senior Center reports in addition to the Historical Village reports, and Chair Nardo-Farris asked some programming questions, including the use of the gazebo. Commissioner McDonald suggested highlighting rentals more prominently on the website.
 - C. Commissioner Rambo moved to place the communications on file, Commissioner McDonald seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Park and Open Space Naming Policy

- a. Director Wisinski presented the memo that she included in the Park Commission packet, and shared that in preparation for the memo she reviewed several other municipal policies, and consulted with the Community Development department. The memo focused on the process, and the participation of the Park Commission by voting. At this time, she recommended no changes to the current policy.
- b. The commissioners discussed the current policy, and came to an agreement to proceed with the current naming policy for now, and to revisit it again in six months. Commissioner Stephens asked that the current policy be placed somewhere on the Parks and Recreation website so that it is publicly accessible, and Chair Nardo-Farris commented that the current request to rename a park is a good cause and effort; the Park Commission needs to review the application once it is submitted.

8. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2026 CIP Budget Proposal

1. Director Wisinski presented the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget Proposal for 2026. Chair Nardo-Farris suggested that the Park Commission revisit the CIP every few months, and Director Wisinski clarified a few questions from the commissioners about the difference between the CIP Budget and the regular budget updates in the Director's reports.
2. The commissioners and the director then went line-by-line for each project included in the CIP. It was proposed to move Wonch Park Kayak Launch and the Harris Nature Center Kayak Launch projects to 2026 due to both location selection and supply chain issues. The commissioners discussed some technicalities with the Wonch Park Kayak Launch, including the ability to winterize, and Commissioner Stephens provided some background on the wetland mitigation at Wonch and Ferguson Parks.
3. The Okemos Road Trail Head project is dependent on applicable grant-funding, and may need to be moved to 2026. Director Wisinski noted that this was a placeholder until a decision is made by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRFT).
4. The next project discussed was the barrier-free playgrounds, and Director Wisinski suggested moving this line item to future years to fund future playground replacements.
5. The last project discussed was moving Nancy Moore Park Improvements from 2028 to 2026 to complete some desperately needed repairs to the bathroom structure, including updating the drinking fountain and foot wash station.
6. Commissioner Rambo motioned to approve the updated capital improvement plan for 2026, Commissioner McDonald seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Budget Updates

- a. Director Wisinski reported on the July 2025 Budget report for the department. In October, the department should hear back from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund on the grant. Towner Road and Ottawa Hills inclusive playground has been delivered, and it will be installed in the fall. The Red Cedar Waterways Project includes the kayak launches that were previously discussed earlier in the meeting. The Marshall Park amenities are awaiting a decision from the Environmental Commission regarding the bioswale. Cricket field engineering/site prep is slow, but moving forward. Director Wisinski will summarize the report for the next meeting from the consultant. There are more wetlands that originally thought in the space selected. Chair Nardo-Farris suggested providing more practice fields again in 2026. Commissioner Stephens suggested looking at a location like Fun Time on Jolly Road, it already has a flat field and batting cages. Towner Road Baseball Field restoration is complete.

- B. Cricket field update
 - a. The cricket field update was included in the budget update.
- C. Senior and Community Center Updates
 - a. The senior and community center ballot proposal that was placed on the ballot for the August 2025 election did not pass. The Township Board asked staff to come up with four options. Option one was new construction, that would require a new millage. Option two was continuing to pursue a partnership with Okemos Public Schools. Option three was pursuing a partnership with another agency. Option four was putting the project on pause and reassessing in future years. The Township Board decided to direct staff to investigate option two and three. The commissioners agreed to proceed cautiously, as the Meridian Township Park Millage renewal will be on the ballot in 2026. Director Wisinski agreed to continue to keep the Park Commission informed.
- D. Red Cedar Water Trail Updates
 - a. The Red Cedar Water Trail updates were included in the Capital Improvement Plan update and the budget update.
- E. Meridian Mall Parking Lot Repairs
 - a. Director Wisinski shared the history of the ask from Meridian Mall – the Parks and Recreation department has a good relationship with the management, and Meridian Mall asked if the Township would consider helping to pay for some of the parking lot spots. The Township negotiated with Meridian Mall management, and the Township Board approved at their last meeting to pay for part of the parking lot repairs from their own capital improvement project funds.
- F. Deer Management Program
 - a. Director Wisinski updated the Park Commission on the underway Deer Management season, the planning team had decided to increase the amount of tags from 300 in the previous year to 350 for the 2025-2026 season. The commissioners discussed the community engagement efforts to inform the public. Director Wisinski agreed to share the 2024-2025 report with the Park Commission.
- G. Towner/Ottawa Parks Play Structures
 - a. The Towner/Ottawa Parks Play Structure update was included in the budget update.
- H. Farmers Market – Repairs/Upgrades
 - a. The Farmers’ Market reported four problematic areas in regards to electricity at the Market. Director Wisinski met with a contractor who quoted around \$30,000 to fix all of the issues. However, there is not room in the budget to complete these repairs this year. In the interim, Director Wisinski and Tom Cary, the Farmers’ Market Manager will take a tiered approach, by redistributing vendors and restricting a max amperage. The sun screens also suffered significant damage due to high winds, and will take \$10,000 to repair. Director Wisinski shared that the department will revisit these costs in 2026. Additionally, there was two fire extinguishers installed at Marketplace on the Green.
- I. Recreation Specialist update
 - a. Director Wisinski announced to the Park Commissioners that a Parks and Recreation Specialist has been hired for the open position. Alex Zegarzewski is a former Meridian Township employee, and will begin his first day on Monday, August 18th.

10. COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Township Board Report – Chair Farris
 - 1. Chair Nardo-Farris shared that the latest Township Board focused strongly on the senior/community center, and that there was nothing additional to share.
- B. Land Preservation Report – Commissioner Stephens
 - 1. Commissioner Stephens shared about tick research, and that the Land Preservation Advisory Board would be at a site visit tomorrow for a possible land acquisition.
- C. Environmental Commission Report – Commissioner McDonald
 - 1. Commissioner McDonald did not have anything to report about the environmental commission. He did reach out to Township Manager Dempsey about the five million dollar grant agreement.

- D. Historical Village Report – Commissioner Rambo
 - 1. Commissioner Rambo was recently added to the Historical Village’s newsletter list.
- E. Nokomis Cultural Center – Commissioner Lick
 - 1. Commissioner Lick was absent; therefore, she was not able to provide an update.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Richard Miksicek, Environmental Commission liaison, spoke about the Environmental Commissioner, and commented that the bioswale for Marshall Park has not been on the agenda in recent meetings. Township staff need to bring proposal back to commission, and the Environmental Commissioners are supportive.

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

- 1. Chair Nardo-Farris reminded the commissioners that the next regular meeting for the Park Commission would be on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025 at 4:30 PM

13. ADJOURNMENT

- 1. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained.

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SEPTEMBER

CONNECT
LEARN
CONSERVE



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- September 6th, Red Cedar Glen (end of Sylvan Drive), native planting
- September 20th, Davis Foster Preserve (5120 Van Atta Road, Okemos)

Join us to celebrate the start of fall with cider donuts and & native seed collection!

WEEKDAY WARRIORS: Occurs every other Thursday

- September 11th, Forest Hills Park, Native meadow seeding (4652 Northview Dr., Okemos),
- September 25th, Heron Creek Preserve (End of Creekstone Trail, Okemos), native seed collection

VOLUNTEER THANKQUET | 6 PM - 8 PM

A celebration of our hardworking community!

- Join us at the Central Park Pavilion (5151 Marsh Rd.) for a night of food, refreshments, lawn games, and good conversation! BYOB; alcohol is allowed in the park, just no glass please. RSVP here:

<https://forms.gle/FfomK8SREB8CfHmu8>

FALL VIBES



***ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30 - 12 PM
7	8	9	10	11 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30 - 12 PM
21	22 FALL	23	24	25 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	26 VOLUNTEER THANKQUET 6 - 8 PM	27
28	29	30				

PLEASE CONTACT EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.853.4614

Save the Date

VOLUNTEER THANKQUET

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SEPTEMBER 2025

A CELEBRATION OF OUR
HARD WORKING COMMUNITY

**CENTRAL PARK
PAVILION 6 PM - 8 PM**

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS

**JOIN US FOR FOOD,
*REFRESHMENTS, GAMES, RAFFLES
& GOOD CONVERSATION!**

*ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BYOB
(NO GLASS CONTAINERS ALLOWED)

