



MINUTES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 4:30pm
Service Center

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 - A. Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.
2. ROLL CALL
 - A. Present: Chair Nardo-Farris, Commissioners Lick, Phelps, and Stephens
 - B. Commissioner McDonald arrived at 4:40 PM.
 - C. Staff present: Director Wisinski and Administrative Assistant Pachucki
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - A. Kathy Peterson, 1673 Haslett Rd #339, expressed her support for a three-sided shelter at the Small Dog Park.
 - B. Don Frank, 5277 Cornell Rd, expressed his support for a year-round shelter at the Small Dog Park.
4. PRESENTATION
 - A. Eagle Scout Presentation – Raptor Wing Span Exhibit at Harris Nature Center
 1. Nickolas Liddick, a member of BSA Troop 97 presented on a planned raptor wingspan exhibit at Harris Nature Center. The commissioners asked Mr. Liddick about the project materials, fundraising plan, and volunteers for the project. The commission also provided advice, including potential funding partners to Mr. Liddick.
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - A. Commissioner Phelps motioned to approve the agenda, as is. Commissioner Lick seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. October 14, 2025 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 1. Commissioner Phelps motioned to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2025 regular meeting. Commissioner Lick seconded the motion.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
7. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. November Stewardship Calendars
 1. Director Wisinski gave an overview of the stewardship calendar for November, and highlighted upcoming seed sorting parties.
 2. Commissioner McDonald asked if the stewardship team is seeing an increase in off-leash dogs in preserves. Director Wisinski indicated that it is an on-going battle and that stewardship staff is reporting cases to Meridian Township Police Department so that citizens can be cited. Chair Nardo-Farris noted that the public doesn't always realize how dangerous it is.
 - B. Nancy Moore Traffic Signs Request
 1. Director Wisinski shared an email exchange between a frequent Nancy Moore park user and herself regarding speeding around the curve at the entrance to Nancy Moore Park. A week after the email exchange, Superintendent Adams had new signs installed, encouraging motorists to slow down and obey posted speed limits.

- C. Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan – Request for Proposals
 - 1. Director Wisinski posted a request for proposal on the Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan on the Meridian Township website. The proposals are due by the end of November, and as of the Park Commission meeting, she has already fielded a few inquiries from interested companies. Commissioner Stephens and Chair Nardo-Farris noted that it is easier for consultants or companies to reach the public better, and to make it relevant for residents. Chair Nardo-Farris asked Director Wisinski to notify the Park Commission when a selection has been made. Commissioner Lick asked if the online document could be more searchable or incorporate bookmarks.
- D. Eagle Scout Project Proposal
 - 1. Commissioner Phelps moved to place communication item 7.D. to 9.B. Commissioner McDonald seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Proposed 2026 Park Commission Meeting Dates
 - 1. Commissioner Phelps motioned to move discussion item 8.A. to 9.C. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Possible Cricket Field Locations Summary

- 1. Director Wisinski summarized the work that staff and the Park Commission has done on the project so far. Director Wisinski provided a list of possible locations that staff has evaluated for placement.
- 2. Chair Nardo-Farris recognized the challenge for location and cost, but noted that it was worth pursuing. She also asked Director Wisinski to provide the number of potential cricket players, number of youth sport participants that are waitlisted each season, and number of fields per sport at a future meeting.

At 6:00 PM, the Chair called for a recess. The Park Commission reconvened at 6:05 PM.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Election for 2026 Park Commission Officers
 - 1. Commissioner Lick moved to nominate Chair Nardo-Farris as chair. Commissioner Stephens seconded. Chair Nardo-Farris accepted the nomination. Hearing no other nominations, Chair Nardo-Farris closed the floor to nominations for Chair.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chair Nardo-Farris, Commissioner Lick, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Phelps and Commissioner Stephens

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

- 2. Commissioner Phelps moved to nominate Commissioner Lick as vice-chair. Chair Nardo-Farris seconded. Commissioner Lick accepted the nomination.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Chair Nardo-Farris, Commissioner Lick, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Phelps and Commissioner Stephens

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

B. Eagle Scout Project Proposal

1. Commissioner Stephens inquired about a scenario where the funds for the project were not fully raised when it came time to construct. Director Wisinski shared that the candidate will circle back with staff, and staff will work with the candidate on alternatives.
2. Commissioner McDonald motioned to approve the Eagle Scout Project Proposal, as presented. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Proposed 2026 Park Commission Meeting Dates

1. Commissioner Stephens asked about potential work sessions, and Director Wisinski said that she would follow up with the Clerk's Office. Chair Nardo-Farris commented that she would like to have a few meetings in the future at park pavilions.
2. Commissioner Lick moved to adopt the resolution of the 2026 Park Commission meeting schedule. Commissioner Rambo seconded.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Chair Nardo-Farris, Commissioner Lick, Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Phelps, and Commissioner Stephens

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Fair Food Network and Meridian Farmer's Market Temporary Food Assistance Program

- a. Director Wisinski explained the Fair Food Network grant to the Park Commissioners, and how the Double Up Food Bucks program works. She then reviewed the amendment to the current agreement that modifies the program until the end of 2025. Fair Food Network expanded the program in response to the federal government shut down, and the increased need among food insecure people across the state. SNAP recipients typically are limited to \$20 and are eligible for "Bonus Bucks" through this program.
- b. Commissioner Phelps inquired about the number of people that participate in SNAP at the Farmer's Market during the season, and how many more people were using Bonus Bucks over the next two months. Director Wisinski agreed to share that information with the Park Commission once the Farmer's Market had it compiled.

B. Sylvan Glen Homeowner's Association Meeting Update

- a. Director Wisinski recently attended the Sylvan Glen Homeowner's Association Meeting, and updated the HOA on significant events, changes, and challenges that the department is experiencing. She has also directed staff to create a one-page flyer that she can bring to community meetings that explain the department and different functions.

C. Senior and Community Center Updates

- a. Director Wisinski shared that township staff is still working on identifying new sites. One of the sites explored was Kellie's Estate Sales, Auction, Resale and Thrift, who was considering selling. Township staff noted that the site would take a lot to bring to ADA compliance. The township is continuing to work with Nokomis through the appraisal process. Staff will update the Township Board towards the end of the year with progress made.

D. Budget Updates

- a. Director Wisinski reviewed the budget updates for November 2025, including the NRTF grant for the Okemos Road Trailhead. There has been no movement from the Department of Natural Resources, but an award should be made by the end of the year.

- b. Director Wisinski reported on the progress of the Ottawa Hills and Towner Road inclusive playgrounds and shared that installation was happening now to be completed before the winter.
- c. For the Red Cedar Water Trail, Director Wisinski highlighted that kiosks have been purchased for Ferguson Park. The ADA launch will be installed at Ferguson in 2026.
- d. Director Wisinski shared that new picnic tables have been delivered at Marshall Park and are placed at the park. Chair Nardo-Farris asked if the tables are handicap accessible, and Director Wisinski will verify with Parks and Land Superintendent Adams.
- e. The remaining items have been encumbered, and there are no updates to provide.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Richard Miksicek, Environmental Commission liaison, spoke about the resignation of Environmental Commissioner John Sarver, and the vacancy. The term expires at the end of 2026, and the commission welcomes nominations. The environmental commission also heard a presentation about Bird City Michigan, and is proposing a resolution in support. He encouraged the Park Commission to consider doing the same in the future.

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Chair Nardo-Farris had a small update regarding the township board meetings, noting recognition of the Meridian Township Volunteers of the Year: David and Missy Foran, who volunteer at the Meridian Township Farmer's Market. She also noted that the Township Treasurer has been going through some health-related challenges. Chair Nardo-Farris reminded the commissioners that the next regular meeting for the Park Commission would be on Tuesday, January 13th, 2026 at 4:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall meeting room, and will be televised.

13. ADJOURNMENT

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

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.