



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

PARK COMMISSION TELEVISED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Township Hall Room

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 4:30 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald
ABSENT: Commissioner, Amanda Lick - Excused
STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant; Kati Adams, Parks & Land Superintendent; Tom Cary, Farmers Market Manager; Allison Goodman, Park Naturalist; Mike Devlin, Parks and Recreation Specialist; Nick Wing, Parks and Recreation Specialist; 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. All park commissioners present, except Commissioner, Amanda Lick.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**.
Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 10, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. November Stewardship Calendar
- B. November Snell-Towar Calendar

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS PRESENTED ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Snell-Towar Recreation Center Planning Session

The Township has identified possible grant programs that may assist the Park Commission in funding renovation efforts, therefore, staff is recommending this topic be added to a future work session agenda to allow for greater in-depth discussion and action steps. The commissioners agreed the future discussion was a great idea and recognize the opportunity at the center.

Commissioners are happy to see programming taking place at Snell-Towar Rec Center. The center is open to the public most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, so there is opportunity for the park commissioners to view the center. Commissioner McDonald suggested directional signs similar to those installed by the road commission be installed by the township to direct to Snell-Towar Recreation Center.

The meeting minutes have been corrected as approved at the January 9, 2024 Park Commission meeting.

8. MARSHALL PARK PLAYGROUND REQUEST

Based on information received during a recent Township Board listening session in Haslett, the Township Board discussed a possible opportunity to work with the Park Commission to fund a replacement play structure in 2024 with a contribution from the General Fund.

Commissioners would like to see an ADA accessible playground at Marshall Park and also suggested asking if Ingham County Parks would be interested in partnering for the upgraded playground, due to its proximity to Lake Lansing Park South.

Commissioner Stephens **MOVED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE TOWNSHIP BOARD TO REPLACE THE PLAY STRUCTURE IN MARSHALL PARK UTILIZING GENERAL FUND SUPPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000, FOR INSTALLATION IN SPRING, 2024.** Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2023 Parks and Recreation Highlights

The Parks staff shared various highlights from their perspective areas of expertise. Staff thanks LuAnn Maisner for her 24 years of service to the township. This is Director Maisner's final Park Commission meeting.

10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens

Recent Land Preservation Advisory Board items were discussed in the 2023 Parks and Recreation Highlights with Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioners shared personal stories and reminisced with Director Maisner on her personal accomplishments in the township over the last 24 years.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo Farris adjourned the meeting at **6:30 pm.**

The next scheduled meeting is **January 9, 2023**, at the Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840, 4:30 pm.