

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Wilson  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

ABSENT: Mark Stephens - Excused

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Remove item 10. B. Kyle Nusdorfer Proposed Eagle Scout Project; add item 17. Closed Session for the purpose of property acquisition

COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**3. Presentations**

None

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Commissioner Reports and Comments**

**a. Friends of the Parks Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Recap**

The Commissioners discussed the 2013 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held on Monday, May 12 in Central Park. A total of 80 people attended the event to recognize residents who volunteered in the parks in 2013. Kelly Colflesh was named 2013 Park Friend of the Year for his contributions to improve fishing in the Historical Village pond and also for assisting with fishing classes and events held in Meridian Township.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

- a. April 8, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. April 8, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER ARONOFF MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2014 WORK SESSION AS AND

APRIL 8, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote.  
Motion passed.

**7. Communications**

**A. Items to/from the Public**

1. From: Barbara Bradford, Meridian Garden Club; RE: Invitation to National Arbor Day planting in Meridian Historical Village
2. To: Barbara Bradford, Meridian Garden Club; RE: Thank you for donation of a "River Birch" tree to the Historical Village
3. From: Drain Commissioners Office; RE: Controlled/Prescribed Burn in Towar Gardens Neighborhood
4. From: Jule Stafford, DNR Grant Coordinator; RE: Wonch Park Development
5. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Eastgate Park Report No. 2
6. From: Scooter Nowak, MSU Department of Entomology; To: Jane Greenway; RE: Permission to do research at Legg Park
7. From: Kristie Hannon, Howell Schools; To: Robin Faust; RE: Permission to release salmon in Ferguson Park
8. To: Roland Harmes, Jr.; RE: Welcome to Land Preservation Advisory Board

**B. Commission Information**

1. May Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Okemos Life Magazine: May issue

**C. Staff Inquiries/Response**

1. From: Martha Wyatt, Meridian Township Associate Planner/Landscape Architect; RE: Site Plan Review #14-07 (Meridian Township Parks & Recreation/Wonch Park proposed pathway)
2. From: Richard Brown, Meridian Township Associate Planner; RE: Special Use Permit (Meridian Township/Wonch Park proposed pathway)
3. From Richard Brown, Meridian Township Associate Planner; RE: Commission Review #14043 (Meridian Township) – Section 61 Review: Wonch Park Pathway

COMMISSIONER WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER BANAS SECONDED TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**8. Director's Report**

**1. Wonch Park Pathway**

**a. April 28, 2014: Planning Commission**

Received approval of Special Use Permit for work within 100-year floodplain. Also received approval of Section 61 Review of character and extent of proposed project.

**b. May 29, 2014: Zoning Board of Appeals**

Meeting for variance (variance is needed for work within a 50 foot water features setback from the Red Cedar River and for those areas where the proposed pathway enters the required 25 foot natural vegetation strip that is part of the setback from the river). May 28 mtg.

**c. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Permit**

Submitted revised plans to MDEQ for their review of our joint permit application for work within floodplain

**2. Legg Park Driveway Improvements**

**a. Design and Construction:**

Working with Engineering Department for design plans and specs. Plan to complete work this summer.

**3. Historical Village**

- a. Meridian Garden Club planted a multi-stemmed River Birch tree near the Historical Village pond on Arbor Day, which was April 25, 2014.
- b. Monarch Garden: On hold to 2015

**4. Newton Road Park**

Working on revised plans for Planning Department final review of gravel driveway. Waiting for Planning Dept. approval.

**5. Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony**

**a. May 12, 2014 at 6:15 pm at Central Park**

Ordered three trees from Van Atta's (two sugar maples and one willow) to honor 2013 park volunteers. Ordering plaques. *Gave three* small trees to volunteers (sugar maple, lilac, and oak).

**6. Park Clean Up Event - April 19, 2014**

40 volunteers helped clear branches and trash from Central Park and Ferguson Park. 12 bags of trash were removed from Central Park alone. Volunteers included scout troops, parents and children, etc. Everyone enjoyed pizza afterwards.

**7. Shade Structures**

Met with Carl Pietella, Superior Play representative. We visited Orlando, North Meridian, and Ferguson Parks. The structures are required to be 94" from the highest play element.

**8. Orlando Park Maintenance - April 28, 2014**

Sprayed weeds and perennials on east side of park. Planted a minimal amount of grass seed. Met with Alana from the Haslett Kiwanis and Teri Banas to discuss park maintenance. The Haslett Kiwanis are going to adopt the park. We reviewed the maintenance list that was developed in 2013. Need to have someone cut the large trees that have fallen over the path to Mud Lake. Need to turn on the water at the park. Alanna is going to bring in sensory plants and labels

**9. Controlled Burn at Snell-Towar Park**

Held on Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

10. **Scooter Nowak**  
Grad Entomology Student at MSU – request to collect mosquito larvae in Legg Park
  11. **Celebrate Downtown Okemos**  
Event scheduled for June 14, from 2-9 pm, at Okemos Road and Hamilton Road, with live music and beer/wine tent, children’s activities, 5K Race and more.
  12. **Farmers’ Market**  
Spring market opened May 3; it will be held on Saturdays from 8 am - 2 pm through June
  13. **Brush Pick-up**  
Collection sites are Wonch and Towner Road Parks; wood chips are going to MSU bio-fuel plant
9. **New Business** (pink)  
PUBLIC COMMENT
- a. **Peter Miklavcic, Eagle Scout Project Final Report**  
  
Mr. Miklavcic reported on his completed boardwalk construction project in Eastgate Park near the Harris Nature Center. His project engaged 20 volunteers for a total of 86.5 hours. He raised a total of \$510.06 which covered the cost of the project. The Commissioners congratulated and thanked Peter on his project.
  - b. **Kyle Nusdorfer – Proposed Eagle Scout project - North Meridian Road Park Boardwalk**  
  
This item was removed from agenda.
  - c. **PetSafe Dog Park Grant Contest**  
  
PetSafe Brand dog products is awarding five communities funds to build a dog park. The contest winners are determined by popular vote based on Facebook likes and comments. The five most enthusiastic communities will win either \$100,000 or \$25,000 toward construction of a dog park.  
  
COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF SECONDED, TO ENTER THE PETS SAFE DOG PARK GRANT CONTEST IN AN EFFORT TO WIN FUNDS TO BUILD A DOG PARK IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP. Voice vote. Motion approved unanimously.
10. **Unfinished Business** (green)

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. **Orlando Park Turf**

COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF SECONDED, TO POSTPONE SOD INSTALLATION AT ORLANDO PARK AND INSTEAD HYDRO-SEED THE LAWN TO IMPROVE FUNCTION AND APPEARANCE. Voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

**11. Other Business** (cherry)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**12. Discussion Items** (lilac)

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. **Park Millage Ballot Proposal**

The Commissioners discussed the documented need for additional funds to maintain and improve the Meridian Township Park System. A millage request of 2/3rds Mil will be on the August 5, 2014 ballot for voter consideration. The existing Park Millage of .317 will expire in 2016 creating a two year overlap which will assist with implementation of much needed park improvements.

**13. Final Comments**

None

**14. Announcements**

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 Town Hall
- b. Farmers' Market – Saturdays 8am-2 pm Central Park
- c. Van Atta Road closed from Grand River south to bridge; access to Harris Nature Center from Jolly Road
- d. Meridian Fishing Derby – Saturday, June 7, Central Park

**15. Public Remarks**

None

**16. Closed Session**

COMMISSION JARAMILLO MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Commissioners Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Wilson

NAYS: None

The Commission entered into closed session at 8:07 pm.

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF  
SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Commissioners Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Wilson

NAYS: None

The Commission returned to open session at 8:34 pm.

**17. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER ARONOFF MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO  
SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.