

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens

ABSENT: Commissioner Wilson

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Administrative Assistant II  
Robin Faust

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Acting Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm and welcomed residents, friends and family members to the 2015 annual Friends of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

**2. Presentations – Friends of the Park Volunteer Recognition BBQ**

The Commission presented awards to the following volunteers:

**Layne Cameron**—Stewardship activities Red Cedar Natural Area and Meridian Riverfront Park

**Haslett Beautification Association**—Planted and maintained the Marshall Park and Welcome to Meridian Township signs; planted and maintained flowers on street corners and at local businesses.

**Meridian Garden Club**—Planted and maintained gardens in the Historical Village, the gardens in front of the Municipal Building and Claire Twohy Memorial Garden in Central Park; donated and planted an Arbor Day tree in Village near the pond.

**Martha Hentz/Chris Buck Family**—Hartrick Park (Martha, Chris, Evan, & Phillip) – donated and planted flowers at Hartrick Park around flagpole and sign, trash pick-up

**Eckhart Dersch**—Provided reports on Ferguson, Central Park, Meridian Riverfront Park, Wonch Park, North Meridian Road Parks to identify needed maintenance

**Eagle Scout Steve Harrelson**—Constructed split-rail fence in Historical Village

**Eagle Scout Grant Porter**—Constructed Aldo Leopold benches in

Central Park

**Eagle Scout Jacob Conklin**—Constructed gaga ball court at Nancy Moore Park

**Earth Day Clean-Up**—Boy Scout Troop #164 (Ellen Passage); Girl Scout Troop (Angie Wilson); Forsberg Co. (Gina); Robert Morrison; Jim Patterson; Jane Bobay

**Love A Park Day, June 20**—North Meridian Road Park – Haslett Scouts Troops #30045 and #265; Hillbrook Park – Meridian Democrats and HBA; Orlando Park – Haslett Kiwanis; Ferguson Park – Okemos Girl Scouts #30009; Meridian Riverfront Park – Haslett Okemos Rotary; Hartrick Park – Martha Hentz and Chris Buck; Hillbrook Park – Bobby DuByne; Sander Farm – Larry Hennessy

**Ellen Passage**—Maintained Paul Peterson memorial at Nancy Moore Park

**Larry Hennessey**—Cleaned and monitored the bluebird boxes in Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area and Tacoma Hills Natural Area.

**Cecelia Kramer, Quenda Story, Neil Hodges, and Marianne Stehr**—Cleaned Forest Hills Natural Area

**MSUFCU**—donated and planted \$1,000 worth of trees as part of their Grow Green program in Nancy Moore Park

**MSU Sustainability Class**—Designed signage for future Red Cedar Water Trail

**Faith Lutheran Church**—Planted mums and bulbs at North Meridian Road Park

**Haslett Robotics Club**—Planted flowers and spread mulch at Meridian Service Center

**Capital Area Geocache Club**—Cleaned Wonch and Ferguson Parks

**Lansing Oar and Paddle**—Made improvements to canoe landing at the Harris Nature Center and conducted their annual river clearing event on the Red Cedar River from Grand River to Ferguson Park. (Jay Hanks, Rich Bailey, George Stockman, Don Potter, John Flaherty, and Tony Kuhlman)

**Maria Ibarra**—Planted mums and spread mulch at Ferguson Park and Okemos Library

**Haslett Elementary School**—Design and installation of the Mary M G Helmbrecht Shoreline Pollinator Garden at the Historical Village Pond: Zsa Mahon's students, Grand Learning Network, Land Preservation Advisory Board, Mark Stephens, Vern Stephens

**Towar Woods Preserve:** Cleared invasive plants, planted trees, conducted activities to reduce deer damage to trees and cleaned up trash: Dave Caszatt, Donald Dickman, Sandy Davis, David Dietz, Dave Wearsch, Margo Smith, Frank Hatfield, Phil Deschaine, Rick Loftus, Tom Tederington, Tom Vogal, Judy Kindel, Adrianna Flores, Mary Flores, Mary Zaleta, Nick Sanchez, Cub Scout Troop 265 (Haslett), Boy Scout Troop 109 (Okemos)

**Jim Hewitt & Katherine Neils**—treated invasive black locust at Davis Foster Land Preserve

**Steve Thomas and family**—Stewardship in Sower Woods Preserve

**Bennett Woods Elementary**—Planted milkweed and butterfly weed at Hartrick Park (Mrs. Allis; Mrs. Schmidt; Ms. Hendrix classes)

**Julie Taliber & Dave Reicosky**—Maintained butterfly habitat areas in Hartrick Park

**Deer Management Program**—Aaron Rustad, Andrew Taylor, Ben Cummings, Billy Haskins, Brian Watts, Cam Haskins, Casey Carnahan, Chad Houck, Charles Otlewski, Christopher Wilcox, Conlan Adams, Dan Smith, Glenn Thomas, James Hurst Jr., Jay Graham, Jeffrey Speer, Jeremy Kapalla, Jonathon Mayes, Justin Cook, Kenneth Plaga, Kent Bainbridge, Kim Emery, Lee Colony, Margaret DeLong, Martin Schoenmaker, Matthew DeLong, Matthew Prinz, Matthew Solit, Matthew Wesener, Michael Ellis, Michael Meade, Michael Pemble, Mike Kingsley, Nicholas Hallenbeck, Ray Nachreiner, Robbie Pairolo, Robert Alexander, Robert Fortino, Ryan Brzak, Ryan Holem, Scott Davis, Scott Goldammer, Scott Vercruysse, Stephen Moore, Thomas Forton, Thomas Porter, Thomas Taylor, Tom Cannon, Trever Arnold, Zachary Archibald

**Leslie Kuhn & Laurie Kaufman**—Treated invasive species in Ted Black Woods; garlic mustard, phragmites and knotweed. Mapping/permitting/owner contacts and treatment

**Gene Wasserman**—Maintenance, monitoring and reporting of bluebird boxes in Meridian Riverfront Park, Hartrick Park and Sander Farm Natural Area

**Patrick & Michelle Allen**—Geocache liaisons for the parks – monitoring caches

**Georganne Withey**—Fitness Over-50 Program Coordinator at the Meridian Mall

**MSU Educating Student Athletic Trainers in Medicine (ESTIM)** — Meridian Township Family Winter Sports Weekend Polar Bear 5K Race on January 26, 2015 (8 volunteers)

**Kiwanis Club of Okemos**—Managed youth fishing activity during the Meridian Heritage Festival, summer and winter fishing derbies; worked on the construction of the natural exploration area at the Harris Nature Center; donated \$1,000 to the HNC Foundation (Larry Bacon, Jim Decker, Al Wood, Dick Witter, Arnie Johnson, Paul Marttila)

**Kelly Colflesh**—Assisted with maintenance around the Central Park pond to improve fishing access and provided assistance with annual fishing events

**Robert and Nancy Smith**—monitored the trails and pathways of the Township picking up rubbish

**Brian Van Order (Michigan Demolition and Excavation, Inc.)** — Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many park projects

**Joe Pennoni (Rapid Tree Removal)**—Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many park projects

**Harris Nature Center Foundation**—Fund-raising efforts for the Harris Nature Center (Tony Bauer/resigned in June; Jim Buscetta; June Hicks/started in September; Barb Kissling; Mike Lenkowski, resigned in June; Julie Moore; Patty Robbins; Roxanne Truhn Witcher)

**Friends of Historic Meridian**—Outstanding efforts toward growth and sustainability of the Meridian Historical Village and for providing meaningful and educational programs and community events for youth and families; (Jane Rose, Executive Director; Brad Brogren, President)

**Meridian Senior Center**—Advisory Board -Provide input, direction and

volunteer support for the Senior Center. (Peggy Frisch/President; Jack Whitmyer/Vice President; Ron Czachowski; Richard Fox; Arnie Johnson; Greg Wade; John Wills; Darla Jackson; LuAnn Maisner; Cherie Wisdom)

**TC3**—2015 Towar Teens and Summer Playground Program (\$5,000)  
Capital Region Community Foundation

**Edgewood Village**—2015 Towar Summer Playground Program  
(\$1,000)

**Fireworks Celebration** —Meijer - \$2,000 (Terry Cole, Cindy Nunn, Chris Wilson/Okemos Store); Douglas J Spa and Salons—\$2,000 (Weaver family); Meridian Plumbing—\$1,000 (Craig Phillipich); The Harkness Law Firm PLLC—\$1,000 (Cullen Harkness); WLNS TV 6—in-kind advertising (Barbara Bruce); Culvers —\$700 (Cory Chavala); Eastside Tax and Accounting, LLC – \$250 (Thomas Johnson); Okemos Animal Hospital - \$250 (Nydia Alfonso); Ingham County Medical Care Facility and Rehabilitation Center - \$250 (Karen Webster)  
**Youth Scholarship Program**—Kiwanis Club of Okemos (\$400); Brian Beauchine (\$304)

**Monarch Watch**—Received grant of two flats of butterfly plants (swamp milkweed and butterfly weed)

**Okemos Kiwanis**—Constructed and installed four benches along the new Wonch Park pathway

**The Red Oak Foundation**—Contributed \$1,500 toward the maintenance and improvements to trails and common areas in Eastgate and Legg Park and at the Harris Nature Center

Director Maisner thanked everyone for attending the ceremony and stated the support and engagement from residents and organizations in the parks and recreation programs is just one element contributing to the greatness of our community. The giving of time, money and knowledge continue to strengthen the ties between residents, businesses and government.

In 2015 the Volunteer Totals are:

**2015 VOLUNTEER TOTALS**

	<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>VALUE (@\$23.07/hr)</u>
Parks	879	4,395	\$101,393
Recreation	432	19,347	\$446,335
Harris Nature Center	227	1,362	\$31,421
Meridian Historical Village	68	1,792	\$41,341
Land Preservation	212	524	\$12,089
Meridian Senior Center	31	1,538	\$35,482
Deer Management Program	57	2,750	\$63,443
<b>2015 TOTALS</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>31,708</b>	<b>\$731,504</b>

\*Volunteer value is based on \$23.07/hour

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Move agenda item #5a, New Business, Barnes House Addition forward in the agenda to item #5 and then renumber remaining agenda items

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

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. New Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

**a. Barnes House Addition-Friends of Historic Meridian**

Director Maisner reported the Friends of Historic Meridian (Friends) requested approval to construct an addition to the Barnes House. At the previous meeting, the Commission approved the request to construct the addition but requested additional information before approving a funding request. In their May 4<sup>th</sup> correspondence, the Friends received a detailed breakdown of the \$102,800 construction proposal: the 20'x24' addition, renovation of existing restroom to make handicap accessible, divided pane windows, milled, cedar roofing, roof ventilation, improved access into the storm cellar, with all updates maintain the historical architecture of the Barnes House. The Friends of Historic Meridian has raised approximately \$60,000 and the additional \$40,000 will meet their goal for the project.

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE FRIENDS OF HISTORIC MERIDIAN FOR A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$40,000 TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITION TO THE BARNES HOUSE; MAKE ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING RESTROOM; AND IMPROVE BASEMENT IN THE BARNES HOUSE IN THE ESTIMATED PROJECT COST OF \$100,000. THE FHM MUST OBTAIN ALL REMAINING FUNDING, PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE TOWNSHIP'S PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

Roll Call:

AYES: Mark Stephens, Philip Deschaine, Melanie Jaramillo, Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed

## **6. Commissioner Reports and Comments**

Commissioner Jaramillo reported May 10<sup>th</sup> is National Lupus Recognition Day and everyone is encouraged to wear purple.

## **7. Approval of Minutes**

- a. April 12, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. April 12, 2016 Regular Minutes – page 3, change from 50 hours to 500 hours

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE APRIL 12, 2016 MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

## **8. Final Comments**

Director Maisner reported on:

- Receiving numerous complaints about the condition of Hillbrook tennis courts, the condition of the courts is critical and needs immediate attention. The commission requested that bids be sought for renovation and placed on the June agenda for action. The courts will be striped for pickleball as well.
- Continuing to work with consultant and proceeding through the Township process to obtain approvals for Towner Road Park development
- There are five candidates seeking election to the Park Commission.

## **9. Public Remarks**

None

**10. Adjournment**

Hearing no objection, Acting Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.