

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioner McDonald

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:07 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Hearing no additions or deletions, Chair Wilson approved the agenda as submitted.

3. Central Park RFQ

Coordinator Greenway distributed and summarized the design process for the Central Park Master Plan. She reported on receiving five (5) responses to the Request for Qualifications and copies were included in the meeting packet.

Director Maisner reported staff has not completed an analysis of the submissions. She suggested the Commissioner review and select their top three (3) candidates and conduct interviews, one hour each, for Friday, February 20. She mentioned that if more than three (3) Commissioners are involved in the interview process, the meeting would need to be posted. After a brief discussion, staff was asked to post the meeting date and schedule the interviews.

4. Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage

Chair Wilson reported he attended the first meeting where it was noted there was no plan, no agreement on how the millage would be spent or its goal but did establish an advisory group who will proceed with the process.

Director Maisner reported she attended the second and third meeting. Nancy Krupiarz, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance presented information on development of a trail from Muskegon to Flint (regional approach) where others at the meeting were looking at developing internal trails. Director Maisner distributed a draft copy of the February 5, 2015 Trails and Parks Task Force Meeting Agenda. Former Commissioner Teri Banas chairs The Task Force. Director Maisner offered the following information from the meetings she attended: Task Force members discussed:

- Create overlay maps to identify what is existing
- Communities submit projects for consideration
- Creating an application and scoring criteria for Parks Board to follow
- River trail is a priority
- Create master plan together with update of 5-Year Plan
- Local match important
- Emphasis on inter-connectivity or connecting to major trails
- Increase use of technology and signage
- Mountain bike trails needed
- Develop specifications for all communities to follow
- Communities responsible for maintenance
- Lead to other modes of transportation
- May not fund any projects until 2016 and use this year to plan
- Next two meetings are February 19 and March 5

Discussion:

- Ingham County indicated developing a dog park at Lake Lansing North
- Millage will collect 3.5 Million over next six (6) years Should a representative from Meridian Township attend all the meetings
- Fenner wants to be connected to the River Trail and Crego Park
- \$750,000 was the Township's annual contribution to the millage
- Possible Township projects include: Okemos Road boardwalk near Nancy Moore Park; cross-country trail on Rysberg Preserve from Okemos Road to Campus Hill Apts.; Meridian Riverfront trail along the Red Cedar from Meridian Road to Dobie Road (is also on the Heart of Michigan trail map)
- How can the Township benefit from this Millage
- Water Trails are eligible for funding -Blue Trails/Water Trails
- Need more bicycle accessible trails
- It was suggested to monitor the progress and keep in contact with Teri Banas.

5. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

Director Maisner distributed a draft list for the Friend of the Park Recognition Ceremony and since volunteer recognition week is in April, suggested holding the event then.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to host the event outdoors in the Central Park pavilion in May, similar to last year and to continue the tree planting in honor of the volunteers. The event will be held on May 12 and if there is business that needs the Commission's attention, a brief meeting will be held after the ceremony.

6. Other

The Commissioners welcomed new member Philip Deschaine and each introduced themselves and gave a brief background to him.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 6:53 pm.