



MINUTES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING
Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 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: Commissioner Phelps, Commissioner Stephens and Chair Nardo-Farris
 - B. Absent: Commissioner Lick – unexcused and Commissioner McDonald – unexcused
 - C. Staff present: Director Wisinski, Administrative Assistant Pachucki, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Director Clark and Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works Opsommer
 - D. Guest: Richard Miksicek, Environmental Commission liaison

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - A. There was no public comment.

4. PRESENTATION
 - A. Neighborhoods and Economic Development Director Clark presented on the Haslett Village Square Trailhead Donation. Commissioners were supportive of the donation, and asked questions about the slope between the parking lot and trailhead, the north-south American House trail on the western side of the development, and the difference between a deed and an easement in this situation. The commissioners also inquired with Director Clark if they could be included in any future plans with the site to provide input.
 - B. Chair Nardo-Farris moved to take up agenda item 9A after the presentation.

5. ACTION ITEMS
 - A. Haslett Village Square Trailhead Donation
 1. Commissioner Phelps motioned to Recommend to the Township Board to authorize the land donation of subdivided parcel #5, as legally described and presented in the certified boundary survey, created by Erick Friestrom for Bosgraff Homes, dated May 19-2025, to Meridian Township Parks for the updated “Interurban Trail Head” as an approved amenity of the Haslett Village Square Redevelopment project as approved by the Township Board. Commissioner Stephens seconded the motion.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - A. Commissioner Stephens motioned to approve the agenda, as amended. Chair Nardo-Farris seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. February 17, 2026 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 - B. March 10, 2026 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 1. Commissioner Phelps motioned to approve the February 17, 2026 and March 10, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Chair Nardo-Farris seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meridian Conservation Club Calendar

1. Director Wisinski shared the April Stewardship Calendar, and noted that the Stewardship team is focused on removing priority invasive species like lesser celandine during Stewardship Saturdays and Weekday Warrior events. The team has had to reschedule a few events due to rain and wind. Later in the evening on April 14 is a Trailside Ecology event where staff will educate the public on the American Woodcock's courtship display, or sky dance.

B. Harris Nature Center Events

1. Director Wisinski highlighted upcoming events at Harris Nature Center and praised the staff for creating an improved format to share with the Commission. She noted in addition to the public programs, Harris Nature Center staff are participating in Annie's Big Nature Lesson with several schools in April, and will launch into Summer Camp planning and training in May.

C. Historical Village Pond and Red Cedar River Eat Safe Fish

1. Director Wisinski shared that a resident reached out to Ingham County Parks and herself to ask if there could be a warning posted about contaminated fish in parks located in Meridian Township. ICP and Meridian Township will post signage at Lake Lansing, the Meridian Historical Village Pond, and along the Red Cedar River warning about consuming contaminated fish.

D. Spring Recycling Day

1. Director Wisinski reminded the Commission of the upcoming Spring Recycling Day on April 25th and shared a flyer for the event. Although this is a Department of Public Works event, Parks and Recreation staff were part of the planning, and will be present at the event.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Small Dog Park Shelter Resident Contribution

1. Director Wisinski reminded the Park Commission that in the original discussion regarding the Small Dog Park Shelter, the Commissioners were in favor of having the members of the Small Dog Park contribute financially to the cost of building the shelter. After discussing the rising cost of living, and the sensitivity of asking residents to contribute, the Park Commissioners decided to have the Parks and Recreation department fully fund the cost of the shelter for the members.

B. Parks & Recreation 5-Year Plan Survey Draft

1. Director Wisinski shared the 5-Year Plan Survey Draft with the Park Commissioners, and noted that Mannik-Smith is hoping to publish the survey by May 1st. Director Wisinski asked the Park Commissioners to submit feedback by Friday, April 24th. Director Wisinski also clarified that there will be one work session in May or June where Mannik-Smith will assist in developing goals and identifying needs for the Masterplan, and one later in the summer to discuss the results of the survey and listening sessions before compilation of the draft masterplan.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Red Cedar Regatta

1. Director Wisinski shared that the first annual Red Cedar Regatta will be on Saturday, May 16th. The Commissioners asked if Director Wisinski could share the registration link with them, and Director Wisinski affirmed that she would.

B. Upcoming Events

1. Director Wisinski extended a save the date to the Park Commissioners for Meridian Pride on Saturday, June 6th, 2026, and Celebrate Meridian on Saturday, July 25th. More information will come in future Park Commission meetings.

C. Harris Nature Center Camps

1. Director Wisinski reported that registration for the summer camps at Harris Nature Center in 2026 opened, and that over half of the programs offered were already full. Some preschool and fourth through sixth grade programs still had space for registrants. Most kindergarten through first grade, and second and third grade camps were full.

- D. Youth Sports
 - 1. Director Wisinski highlighted that over 1300 children were registered for Youth Soccer programs that begin in April, and that registration for Youth Baseball and Youth Softball was still ongoing – with practice and games beginning in May. Sporties for Shorties registration was also open, and starting at the end of April.
- E. Farmer’s Market – May 2, 2026
 - 1. Director Wisinski announced that the Farmer’s Market had one more Winter Market indoors at Meridian Mall on Saturday, April 19th, open andr’s Market would then move outdoors on Saturday, May 2nd, and Staff was working on vendor applications and promotion of the outdoor market. Park Commissioners were invited to attend the first outdoor market on May 2nd.
- F. Parks & Recreation One-Page Flyer
 - 1. Director Wisinski directed Nayeli Arroyo, the Parks and Recreation intern to develop a one-page flyer that can be used when Staff is presenting at Homeowner’s Associations, service organizations, and non-profit organizations. She noted that it was difficult to sum up what the Parks and Recreation department does in a few paragraphs. Director Wisinski offered that if any Park Commissioners would like to have copies of the flyer to share with the public to reach out to Administrative Assistant Pachucki for assistance.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Richard Miksicek, Environmental Commission liaison, commented on the activities of the Environmental Commission including Green Grants and pending applications for open Commissioner positions. The Commission members spent their April meeting reviewing six applications for the grants from the Parkwood YMCA, the Haslett Child Development Center, the Briarwood Shared Grounds Community Garden, and three HOAs within the township. For the first time since 2021, funding requested exceeded funds available. The Environmental Commission recommended funding in full for two of the projects, and requested additional information from remaining applicants, with the expectation that the remaining funding will be distributed as equitably as possible. The Meridian Township Board of Trustees are reviewing Letters of Interest to fill the two open seats, as well as an opening from a student representative from Okemos High School.

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Commissioner Stephens summarized the recent Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting, and the approval of the new Pikes Crossing Pathway.
- B. Commissioner Phelps met with members of the Historical Village, and shared that the Friends are spring cleaning, and updating their phone system. They also have a few upcoming speaking engagements in the next few months.
- C. Chair Nardo-Farris did not have anything additional to add beyond informing the commissioners that the next regularly scheduled Park Commission meeting would be televised on Tuesday, May 12th at 4:30 PM in the Town Hall room.

13. CLOSED SESSION – Motion to enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.263(1)(h) to discuss potential property acquisition.

- A. Commissioner Stephens motioned to enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.263(1)(h) to discuss potential property acquisition. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Chair Nardo-Farris, Commissioner Stephens and Commissioner Phelps

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 3-0

At 6:38 PM, the Park Commission entered closed session.

At 7:00 PM, the Park Commission returned to open session.

- B. Commissioner Phelps moved to recommend to the Township Board that the Township acquire the parcels discussed in closed session for purposes of a new Township park. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Chair Nardo-Farris, Commissioner Stephens and Commissioner Phelps

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 3-0

14. ADJOURNMENT

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 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.