

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

Chair Wilson called roll and the following members were present: Teri Banas, Marilyn Aronoff, Melanie Jaramillo, Mark Stephens, Todd Wilson

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the Work Session agenda as presented.

**4. MNRTF Grant Request Public Hearing Wonch Park Pavilion**

Director Maisner gave an overview of the grant hearing process as follows: The Chair will declare the public hearing open; Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway will present a project overview and then read into the record the communications received to date; public comment is then taken followed by Commissioners' comments. When everyone has commented, the Chair will declare the public hearing closed.

Director Maisner reported staff has been working with adjoining communities to create a River Trail Master Plan which when completed will earn extra points on associated grant projects. The River Trail Master Plan is mentioned several times in the application as the proposed pavilion will offer picnicking and shelter along the river trail.

During the public hearing presentation, staff was asked to address how the pavilion will be protected from the elements such as standing water, ice, etc.

**5. 2014 Park Millage Ballot Proposal Update**

Commissioner Banas shared information on the progress of the Friends of Meridian Parks Group including items related to organizing and fund raising.

- The Friends group is now legally ready to accept donations and is reaching out to community supporters to assist with the campaign.

- The workgroup is creating a website but it is not up yet; it will be [www.yesformeridanparks.com](http://www.yesformeridanparks.com)
- Commissioner Banas stated she presented the Millage information to the Haslett Kiwanis Club and were very supportive of the proposed millage; the Wonch Park grant proposal was mentioned and their concerns about addressing how well the structure will hold up when it is under water during the spring time.
- Staff will find out the number of registered voters and the average number of voters who normally turns out for an August election.
- Commissioner Stephens reported he presented the millage information to LINC at their last meeting. LINC members appeared to be very supportive as well. They asked for clarification on the two-year overlap of the millages.

Commissioners discussed:

- Need for additional clarification on printed materials about the two year overlap of millage collection
- Hold a separate work session to discuss maintenance and staff needs
- Director Maisner stated she has been asked to speak with the Indian Hills Homeowners Association and the Okemos Kiwanis and will be asking a Commissioner to attend with her to talk about the millage proposal.

## **6. Board Liaisons**

Chair Wilson asked Commissioners if they had watched the January 15, 2014 Environmental Commission meeting. During their meeting, they discussed appointing a liaison to the Park Commission. Members of the EC made questionable comments directed at the Park Commission. They also talked about appointing someone to be a liaison to the Planning Commission but staff swayed them from doing that. Chair Wilson has spoken with Township Manager Walsh who was aware of these comments. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Chair Wilson will draft a letter to the Environmental Commission and make available for Commissioner.

## **7. Other**

None

## **8. Public Comment**

Mike McDonald, Haslett resident, stated he attended an Ingham County Park Board meeting last week and does not believe they will be seeking a new millage. The County Board discussed how successful the Oakland and St. Clair's millage campaigns were and how each group continued to keep their residents informed after the millages were passed. The Potter Park Zoo millage was successful and suggested the Commission might want to review how it was handled. He is interested in assisting with the millage campaign.

**9. Adjournment**

Hearing no objection, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 6:58 pm.