



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Town Hall Room

Date, Time: October 9, 2018, 2018; 6 pm

**PRESENT:** Chair Michael McDonald; Commissioner Annika Schaetzl; Commissioner Mark Stephens; and Commissioner Wisinski

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Amanda Lick

**STAFF:** LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Recreation Department Director

**1. CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER**

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Schaetzl moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.** Seconded by Commissioner Wisinski

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**4. MEMORIAL RECOGNITION – JOE PENONNI**

Joe Penonni began his volunteer efforts in the parks in 2008 at the Harris Nature Center and Ted Black Woods. As owner of Rapid Tree Removal, he assisted the Township in removing a large number of dead and or diseased trees throughout the park system. Joe recently passed away at age 62 and the Park Commissioners discussed their desire to create a lasting memorial in his honor. Staff will contact his family to obtain a photo of Joe with his dogs with the intent of creating a small memorial area at the entrance to our new upcoming small dog park in Nancy Moore Park.

**5. 2019 POTENTIAL GRANT PROJECTS**

The Park Commission has been extremely successful in obtaining grant funding for capital improvement projects over the past four years as well as completing a number of non-grant related maintenance and development activities in parks and land preserves.

- A. We are in the process of closing the construction contract with Laux Construction for development of Towner Road Park. Site furnishings including benches, tables, bleachers and grills have been ordered and will be assembled and installed this fall or early spring.
- B. The new pavilion at North Meridian Road Park is finally near completion. This is a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant that still requires reporting and submission of

**Minutes – Park Commission**

**October 9, 2018**

Page 2 of 2

paperwork for reimbursement to close out the project. We will be expanding the parking lot as well either later this month or first thing in the spring. The project has already been put to bid.

- C. Central Park Master Plan – Design and engineering work is underway for the Gateway Footbridge and Restroom in the Historical Village and the Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector which are all grant funded through the LWCF and MNRTF. We plan to bid this project in January, 2019 construction. We are also in the process of building the small dog area in Nancy Moore Park, expanding parking at Central Park South and planning for the large dog area in Central Park South.
- D. We just sent out request for proposals for consultants for two other grant programs we have committed to that include a composting restroom and pavilion at Harris Nature Center. We will work to be ready to bid by the end of January for 2019 construction. These two projects are funded by the LWCF and MNRTF.
- E. Farmers Market Relocation Plan – Plans are moving forward with the ground breaking ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, October 31 at noon, bidding this winter and construction in 2019.

Staff is recommending and requesting at this time to NOT seek DNR grants for the 2019 cycle in order to focus time and energy in managing and completing the above listed projects. The Commissioners all recognized the large project load and agreed that staff should focus on completing existing projects in 2019.

**6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

None

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**8. ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION**

Chair McDonald adjourned the work session at 6:58 pm.