



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 4:30pm  
Service Center

---

**REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
4. PRESENTATION
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. February 17, 2026 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
7. COMMUNICATIONS
  - A. March Stewardship Calendars
  - B. April Stewardship Calendars
8. DISCUSSION ITEMS
9. ACTION ITEMS
10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  - A. Budget Updates
  - B. Small Dog Park Shelter Updates
  - C. Millage
  - D. Work Sessions
  - E. Conference Report
  - F. Pickleball Court Maintenance
11. PUBLIC COMMENT
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS
13. ADJOURNMENT

---

~~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.



**MINUTES**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 4:30pm  
Service Center

---

**REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
  - A. Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
  
2. ROLL CALL
  - A. Present: Chair Nardo-Farris, Commissioners Lick, Phelps and Stephens
  - B. Commissioner McDonald arrived at 4:42 PM.
  - C. Staff present: Director Wisinski and Administrative Assistant Pachucki
  
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
  - A. Beth Betchel, Haslett resident, requested that the Park Commission pursue eliminating chemical use in land management practices at parks.
  
4. PRESENTATION
  - A. Meridian Township Parks & Recreation 5-Year Master Plan Process Kick-off
    1. Mike Hoffmeister of Mannik-Smith introduced himself to the Park Commission and presented on the Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan. Mannik-Smith was brought on board to assist with the process, including the public engagement section. Hoffmeister shared a tentative timeline, with a deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027, to submit to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Commissioners asked questions about the public hearings, online and social media engagement, and outreach to under-represented groups. The commissioners also discussed moving up the timeline by a month in case there are any bottlenecks in the process.
  - B. Marshall Park Bioswale Project
    1. Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works Opsommer introduced the project, and representatives Dan Troia and Bob Ford from Spaulding DeDecker to present two concept plans for the bioswale at Marshall Park. The first concept plan focused on perennial wetlands, while the second concept plan focused on naturalized wetlands. Commissioners asked about ecological value of the two plans, public safety for children without visible sightlines, educational signage, and accessibility. The commissioners discussed a combination of the two concept plans – incorporating the mature trees at the southeast corner of the parcel from the second concept, and the wetland plants around the bioswale from the first concept plan.

Commissioner Lick motioned to accept the presentations as presented. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
  - A. Commissioner Lick moved to approve the agenda, as submitted. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. January 13, 2026 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
    1. Commissioner Phelps moved to approve the January 13, 2026 regular meeting

minutes as presented. Commissioner Lick seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. February Stewardship Calendar

1. Director Wisinski noted that this calendar was previously included in the January 2026 Park Commission packet, and there had been no changes since that meeting. Land Stewardship Coordinator Emma Campbell had to cancel a few Weekday Warriors in the last few weeks due to below-zero temperatures, but there are a core group of volunteers that come out to the events even in suboptimal conditions.
2. Commissioner McDonald moved to place the communication received on file. Commissioner Lick seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Meridian Township Parks & Recreation 5-Year Master Plan Process
- B. Marshall Park Bioswale Project
- C. Commissioner Lick moved to remove Item 8.A. and 8.B. from the Discussion Items, as they were already presented on earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stephens left the meeting at 5:52 PM.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. There were no action items on the agenda.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Red Cedar Regatta

- a. The inaugural Red Cedar Regatta will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Details are underway, and registration will open after the Quiet Waters Symposium. Director Wisinski will share information on the Regatta at the March meeting, but wanted to make the Park Commission aware to save the date.

B. Budget Updates

- a. Director Wisinski noted that nothing had been expended in 2026.

C. Cricket Updates

- a. Director Wisinski shared that the cricket community has not answered her last communication, and that she will follow up before the next meeting. Commissioner Phelps mentioned that there may be an opportunity to host pop-up clinics for cricket like the rugby clinic last summer.

D. Small Dog Park Shelter Updates

- a. Director Wisinski shared progress on researching options for a transit shelter that was prepared by Kati Adams, Parks and Land Preservation Superintendent. The three options presented vary in cost and size. The commissioners discussed how the new shelter will take away from existing space, and the cost of the three options presented. Director Wisinski will meet with representatives from the Small Dog Park, share the progress made, and report back on the meeting.

E. Senior Center – Water Pipe Break

- a. There was an interior water pipe break that occurred at the Meridian Senior Center on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Meridian Township is working with Okemos Public Schools to repair and replace the reception desk area. Meridian Township will repair or replace any other physical equipment damaged during the leak. Chair Nardo-Farris inquired how many members travel during the winter months. Director Wisinski said she would check with Coordinator Wisdom.

Commissioner McDonald left the meeting at 6:33 PM.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT
  - A. There was no public comment.
  
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS
  - A. Chair Nardo-Farris reminded the Park Commission that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Service Center at 4:30 PM.
  
13. ADJOURNMENT
  - A. Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:51 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.

Dear Meridian Township Park Commission Board Members,

I respectfully ask that you commit to providing a non-toxic township community by reducing and eventually eliminating the use of toxic synthetic chemicals for township land management for invasive species, field turf management, etc. All communities' residents and employees have the right to be healthy. Please add non-toxic GoatScaping Services to the toolbox of strategies combined with mulching, native ground covers, manual removal, controlled burns, natural non-toxic bio-herbicides and natural non-toxic bio-pesticides for management of invasive species, field turf management, etc.

Please note that even small spot-treatments applications of toxic synthetic chemicals such as Glyphosate, Triclopyr, etc. disrupt soil microbiomes and create long-term toxic synthetic chemicals' dependency. Additionally, please note in in a USA Today article dated October 14, 2025, it states that Bayer (Monsanto) has been ordered to pay \$600 million judgment in a lawsuit claiming its Glyphosate product Roundup herbicide causes cancer. Thus far, Bayer (Monsanto) has paid out approximately \$11 billion to settle nearly 100,000 lawsuits related to its Glyphosate product Roundup with thousands of court cases still pending. Significant health concerns also exist regarding toxic synthetic chemical Triclopyr. Moreover, GoatScaping Services are cost-effective and provide predictable contracts, reduced chemical and labor costs, plus provide natural fertilization, etc. that helps restore soil health in the long term.

Additionally, natural bio-herbicides and natural bio-pesticides are proven very effective with reduced costs over the long-term, such as the products EPA Registered bio-herbicide Contact Organics (now Firehawk) (<https://www.contactorganics.com> & <https://livkleen.com/about-livkleen/>), EPA Registered bio-pesticide Orange Guard (<https://orangeguard.com/>), etc.

To protect the health of Meridian Township residents and employees, I respectfully ask this Board take a **first step with a GoatScaping Services pilot program** to help manage invasive species, field turf surfaces, etc. along with starting the process of using natural bio-herbicides and natural bio-pesticides. Additionally, since last month, I shared these public comments at the Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting, I respectfully also ask that this Board collaborate together with the Land Preservation Advisory Board and Staff with these healthy and long-term cost effective endeavors. I am providing you a folder of resources of both health information and a 6-page contact list of Michigan GoatScaping Services and their respective clients for references.

Thank you,  
Beth Bechtel  
Haslett, MI



## Meridian Charter Township

### Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Kick Off Meeting: February 17, 2026

The Meridian Charter Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan will follow the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* (IC1924- Rev. 4/26/2021) as illustrated in the diagram below.

#### Planning Process

	MDNR Suggested Format
Community Description Administrative Structure Park Inventory	Description of Planning Process Community Description Administrative Structure Parks and Recreation Inventory
Needs Assessment	Needs Assessment & Public participation
Master Plan	Goals and Objectives Action Program Plan Adoption

#### 1. Community Description/Administrative Structure

- Update the demographic, physical, and land use characteristics of the Township using Township or County data.
- Update the description of the current administration of parks and recreation services and the role of parks and recreation in the Township including a description of any partnerships with other organizations such as the schools, volunteers, or community groups.

#### 2. Park Inventory

- Update the description of the Township parks and recreation facilities as well as the nearby regional recreation facilities including federal, state, county, township, schools, and other parks and recreation facilities.
- Update the assessment of the accessibility of each Township park to people with disabilities and information on previous MDNR grant-assisted projects.
- Assess park facility conditions and formulate conclusions regarding opportunities and needs.

#### 3. Needs Assessment

- Provide a comparison to national recreation standards.
- Analyze the results of the online survey and public/stakeholder input process and develop recommendations for the plan's goals and objectives.



#### 4. Master Plan

- Develop a draft plan using MDNR guidelines.
- Provide draft plan to the Township Park Commission for review and revisions as needed.
- Submit copies of draft plan for the required 30-day public review.
- Discuss comments received and desired revisions of draft plan at a Park Commission meeting and seek recommendations for Township Board adoption.
- Present and seek Township Board adoption following a public hearing.
- Assemble required documents, prepare certification checklist, and submit plan to regional agencies.
- Assist the Township with the online MDNR submittal of the plan.

---

### Master Plan Estimated Timeline

---

Date	Tasks and Milestones	Meetings
February 2026	Kick-off meeting with staff and Park Commission, review and update background information and existing conditions.	PC
April-June 2026	Conduct online resident survey & polls	
June-August 2026	<b>Public Input Session(s), Stakeholder Meetings and Focus Groups</b> Conduct public input session for additional public input including public Park Commission meeting.	PC/PI
August-September 2026	Prepare a complete draft report	
October 2026	<b>Park Commission Meeting</b> Review preliminary draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan Action Requested: Set public hearing for November meeting	PC
Oct-Nov 2025	<b>Required 30-day public review period</b> Make plan available at Township Hall, on the Township website, public notice of availability and November public hearing	
November 2026	<b>Park Commission Meeting</b> Formal public hearing, final review and recommendation to Board of Trustees	PC
December 2026	<b>Township Board of Trustees</b> Action Requested: Approval via resolution	BOT
January 2027	<b>Submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources</b>	

**PI:** Public Input Session

**PC:** Park Commission Meeting

**BOT:** Board of Trustees Meeting

# MARCH

CONNECT  
LEARN  
CONSERVE



# STEWARDSHIP

## STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- March 7th, Ted Black Woods Park (540 W Grand River), Invasive shrub removal & lesser celandine education!
- March 21st, Hartrick Park (3685 Hulett Rd., Okemos), Scouting & Bagging invasive mustard plants

## WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1 - 3 PM

- March 12th, Marketplace on the Green (1995 Central Park Dr.), trash pickup
- March 26th, Foster Crouse Preserve (Buttercup Ln, Okemos), Invasive mustard pull & native plant inventory

## TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | VERNAL EQUINOX MARCH 21ST | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Vernal Pool Discovery Walk at Ponderosa Preserve

- Celebrate the spring equinox by learning about some of our smallest & most valuable wetlands; Vernal Pools! We will do some pool dipping to look for indicator species like fairy shrimp & salamanders! Wear your muck boots and get ready for some magic.



**\*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF**

**S M T W T F S**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
8	9	10	11	12 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
22	23	24	25	26 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	27	28 VPP Volunteer Monitor Field Training

**PLEASE RSVP TO EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.897.3610**

# APRIL

CONNECT  
LEARN  
CONSERVE



## STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- April 4th, Tihart Preserve, Invasive mustard pull
- April 18th, Earth Day Pull-Pizza-Pull Day!
  - 9:30 am - 12 pm | Harris Nature Center
  - 12 pm - 1:00 pm Pizza | HNC Pavilion
  - 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm | Legg Park (3900 Van Atta Road)



## WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1 - 3 PM | BI-WEEKLY

- April 9th, North Meridian Road Park, Invasive mustard pull & native plant inventory
- April 22nd, Davis Foster Preserve, Earth Day Invasive mustard pull & Trash pickup along Van Atta Road



## TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | Timberdoodle Sunset Walk | Davis Foster Preserve, 5120 Van Atta Rd, Okemos | 8 - 9:15 pm

- This special hike at dusk will focus on the American Woodcock, a shorebird that lives in young forests & shrubby old fields. We will watch for its dusk courtship display, called a sky dance. We will also talk about Prescribed Burns and how these management practices help birds like this one!

- Please note, we do not ever use recorded calls on walks to lure birds in. We will listen to one quietly at the beginning so you know what sounds to expect.



# STEWARDSHIP

\* ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
5	6	7	8	9 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	10	11
12	13	14 TIMBERDOODLE WALK 8 - 9:15 PM	15	16	17	18 EARTHDAY PULL-PIZZA-PLANT
19	20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

PLEASE RSVP TO EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.897.3610

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation 2026 CIP Projects				
Park Millage				
Project Name	2026 Approved	2026 Expended/ Encumbered	2026 Remaining Balance	Updated Project Notes
Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant - Okemos Road Trailhead	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	Grant Recommended to Advisory Board by MDNR. Construction will occur in 2026. (Total Project Costs \$499,600)
Nancy Moore Pavilion and Restroom Renovation	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	Renovate the restroom facility and partner with the Moore Family to renovate the pavilion.
Farmers' Market Windscreen	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	Replace three damaged windscreens at Marketplace on the Green.
Ferguson Water Trail Landing	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	Installation of an ADA accessible floating dock system and approach.
Harris Nature Center Water Trail Landing	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	Installation of an ADA accessible floating dock system and approach.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$465,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$465,000</b>	

## CHAPTER 6: Meetings excerpt:

### What types of meetings are lawful?

There are only two types of lawful meetings of a public body: regular and special meetings held in compliance with the OMA. There are no other situations or “meetings,” where a quorum of a public body may lawfully deliberate toward or make a decision, regardless of what you call them.

**Regular meetings**—Under the OMA, a regular meeting of a public body is a meeting that is on the schedule of meetings adopted by the body and posted within 10 days after the first meeting of the public body’s year (fiscal or calendar year).

**Special meetings**—A special meeting is simply a meeting that is not on the schedule of regular meetings, called as needed to address business between regular meetings. Frequent use of special meetings, with their short notice periods, can be perceived by the public as an attempt to circumvent their attendance at meetings. Major or potentially sensitive business items are probably best discussed at a regularly scheduled meeting if there is no emergency or other pressing deadline.

*“Work sessions”*—Some public bodies refer to certain meetings as “work sessions” or “workshops,” meaning that the body does not intend to vote on any business at that meeting. But there is no such designation in the OMA or township law. And calling a meeting a “work session” does not remove the meeting from OMA requirements. To be lawful, a “work session” must be either a regular or special meeting of the public body held in full compliance with the OMA (and if it is a township board meeting, in compliance with township meeting laws). Any stated restriction on voting is only self-imposed.

*Public hearings*—A public hearing is always an agenda item at a regular or special open meeting; it never “stands alone.” Even if the meeting is held only to conduct the public hearing, it is still a meeting of the public body conducting the hearing and the OMA applies.

*“Closed meetings”*—Occasionally, someone will refer to a “closed meeting.” There is no such thing, although a public body may hold a “closed session” during an open meeting, if one of the OMA’s permissible reasons applies. All meetings of a public body must be open meetings. (See page 160 for more on holding a closed session.)

### General law townships

*Regular meetings*—A general law township board is required to hold a regular meeting at least once every three months and may meet at additional times as necessary. The township board must adopt its schedule of regular meetings by resolution. (MCL 41.72a)

The OMA requires a board to post a public notice stating the dates, times and places of its regular meetings within 10 days after the first board meeting of the township’s calendar or fiscal year. (MCL 15.265)

Many boards schedule their meeting by selecting a recurring date and time, like “the third Thursday of the month.” Occasionally, that may unintentionally fall on a holiday. The law provides that, “If a time set for a regular meeting of the township board is a holiday, as designated by the township board, the regular meeting must be held at the same time and place on the next secular day that is not a holiday.” (MCL 41.72a)

Or a board may revise its regular meeting schedule at any time. If the schedule is changed, notice of the change must be posted within three days after the meeting at which the change was made and at least 18 hours before the newly scheduled meeting time. (MCL 15.265)

*Special meetings*—A special meeting of a general law township board must be scheduled when it is called by:

- 1) The board at a meeting,
- 2) When the supervisor considers it necessary, with the township clerk giving notice of the time and place of the meeting to each member, either in person or by leaving a written notice at the member's address, or
- 3) When the township clerk receives a written request for the meeting signed by a majority of the township board members (MCL 41.72a)

A special meeting notice must state the purpose for which the meeting was called. In a rule that applies only to a special meeting of a township board, MCL 41.72a(4) requires that "a township board shall not transact business at a special meeting unless the business was stated in the notice of the meeting. However, if all the members of the board are present at a special meeting, business that might lawfully come before a regular meeting of the board may be transacted at the special meeting."

# **Authorities & Responsibilities of Michigan Townships**

2020 Edition

**Catherine A. Mullhaupt**



**Michigan Townships Association**

Copyright© 2020 by Michigan Townships Association

All rights reserved

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 95-79823

Printed in Michigan, U.S.A.