



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Location: Central Park, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI

DATE: August 11, 2020

PRESENT: Amanda Lick, Michael McDonald, Mary Nardo Farris, Commissioners Mark Stephens, Ami VanAntwerp

EXCUSED: None

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Lick called the meeting to order at 5:36pm

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner McDonald moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Emilee Nussdofer Girl Scout Gold Star Project – Ms. Nussdofer presented her proposed project of building and installing a Free Little Library at Harris Nature Center. She has been in contact with staff and is ready to move forward pending Park Commission approval. Motion by Commissioner Van Antwerp to approve the proposed Gold Star project of installing a Free Little Library at Harris Nature Center near the trailhead area. Motion supported by Commissioner Farris. Motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Approximately twenty players who regularly utilize the pickleball courts at Hillbrook Park and Towner Road Park expressed support for keeping the nets up for play.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. June 29, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. June 30, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND JUNE 30, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

Seconded by Commissioner Stephens

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public

1. Letters of support for acquisition grant from State Rep. Julie Brixie; Ingham County Parks Director, Tim Morgan; Christoffer Heggelund, avid trail user; Evan Goodman, trail user; Meridian Garden Club; Layne Cameron, trail user; Audubon Society; Harris Nature Center.

B. Commission Information

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. Response to Kelly Jones, Ingham Co Road Dept regarding Okemos Road Bridge Replacement

2. Tic Study by Jaen Kryda and Jean Tsao

3. Blog “Along the Inter Urban Trail

4. Letter from Ingham Co Parks Director – Removal of Volleyball nets

Commissioner Stephens moved TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Maisner shared the status of the ongoing projects including, Marketplace on the Green, Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector, Gateway Footbridge and restroom building in Historical Village, and pavilion and restroom project at Harris Nature Center.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Alert Siren Request – Marshall Park

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER VAN ANTWERP, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER FARRIS TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST FROM THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PLACE AN ALERT SIREN IN MARSHALL PARK NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE PARKING LOT. Motion carried unanimously

B. 2021 Park Millage Budget Request

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MCDONALD, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER STEPHENS TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2021 PARK MILLAGE BUDGET REQUEST AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously

C. 2021-2026 CIP

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FARRIS, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER MCDONALD TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED FOR 2021-2016. Motion carried unanimously

D. 2020 Deer Management Properties

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER STEPHENS, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER, MCDONALD TO ADD BRATTIN WOODS AND HILLBROOK PARK TO THE LIST OF APPROVED PARKS INCLUDED IN THE 2021 DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. Motion carried unanimously

E. Executive Order 2020-160 Park Amenity Impact

Linda Vail, Ingham County Health Officer alerted communities and businesses in the county take down sand volleyball nets as interpreted from Executive Order 2020-160. Staff shared that the nets were removed in township parks. The Commission discussed the possible need to close down other park amenities. Following a lengthy discussion, the Commissioners took no further action.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Grand Openings for 2020 Projects

1. **Marketplace on the Green**
2. **Large Dog Park**
3. **Gateway Connector and Restroom in Meridian Historical Village**
4. **Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector**
5. **HNC Pavilion and Restroom Building**

Even though there is excitement for hosting large ribbon-cutting events for completed projects, the current Executive Order prohibits gatherings over 100 persons. Therefore, staff will work to plan Facebook Live events acknowledging completion of projects and will plan larger, more formal events once public gathering is permitted.

- B. **Commissioner Videos in Parks** – Chair Lick lead a discussion asking Commissioners to take videos while using their favorite parks. videos can then be edited for loading to Facebook and other social media sites.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE

11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner Comments
- B. Events Calendar:
 1. Farmers' Market:
 - a. Summer/Fall Market, Saturday, June-October 8 am – 2 pm, Meridian Mall parking area adjacent to the Marketplace on the Green

12. CLOSED SESSION

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lick adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

14. NEXT MEETING

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 pm. Location TBA