



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Location: ZOOM

DATE: March 9, 2021

PRESENT: Amanda Lick, Michael McDonald, Mary Nardo Farris, Mark Stephens, Ami Van Antwerp

EXCUSED: None

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jane Greenway, Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Lick called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm

2. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Open Public Hearing:

Chair Lick opened the public hearing at 12:02 pm and outlined procedure of public hearing and possible actions of the Commission during the meeting

2. Summary of Subject Matter:

Senior Park and Land Management Coordinator Greenway summarized the Towner Road Park Inter-Generational Exercise Play Space project. This will be a development project in Towner Road Park.

Director Maisner outlined project costs and requesting a 50% match for the grant

3. Park Commissioners' Questions and Comments

- Longevity and weather affect – maintenance is minimal as compared to the engineered wood fiber playground areas, which requires on-going maintenance and yearly replenishing. Staff believes the warranty period is 10-15 year but will confirm it.
- Surface cost of approximately \$150,000 and \$120,000 for equipment
- DNR has used this type of surface for years. It is accessible and requires less maintenance

4. Public Comment

None

5. Close Public Hearing

Chair Lick closed the public hearing at 12:18 pm and stated action on this topic will take place later on the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Gryffin Porter – Eagle Scout Report - Dog Agility Equipment – Scout Leader Thomas Porter stated Eagle Scout Candidate Porter is beginning the fundraising phase, working with staff to reach out to the dog park users and then will start construction.

B. Austin McCormick – Eagle Scout Final Report - Bat Houses – Eagle Scout Candidate McCormick outline the construction and installation of five bat houses.

Chair Lick moved TO ACCEPT THE FINAL REPORT ON BAT HOUSES IN THE PARKS FROM EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE MCCORMICK AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR HIS WORK. Seconded by Commissioner VanAntwerp.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT-NONE

None

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Remove the arrival time after the name of Amanda Lick in the PRESENT line.

Commissioner McDonald moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Seconded by Commissioner Nardo-Farris

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. To: Dr. Paul Morrow, RE: thank you for fishing rods

B. To: Dan Stephens, RE: 2021 Township Fishing Event Video

C. Winter 2021 The Corps Rapport

D. HNC Press Release:

1. Learn about Michigan Song Birds at the Harris Nature Center- Bring your family to HNC for a private-guided nature program

2. Attract Birds and Butterflies to Your Garden with Native Plants - Harris Nature Center Hosts a Native Plants Sale

Commissioner McDonald moved TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner VanAntwerp

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Eagle Scout Project Acceptance

1. Gryffin Porter - Dog Agility Equipment – No action was required.

2. Austin McCormick – Bat Houses – This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

B. Micro-Food Pantry Request

Director Maisner outlined the request to install micro-pantry in Wonch and Hartrick Parks with hygiene products, the Township's application process for the installation of a pantry and the requirement for Park Commission approval for installation in the parks.

Kelly Bianchi, Girl Scout Troop #30293, outline the project to install micro-pantries with primarily hygiene products in the two parks. The initial request was for five (5) locations but recently added three (3) more locations in the Haslett area. The troop will be visiting the site every two weeks but will also be setting up a Facebook page, similar to the one used for the food pantries, to assist with the management of the pantries.

Discussion:

- Suggested starting in one park to see if there is support for a second location
- Requested a maintenance and sustainability plan and list of potential items to be included in the pantry
- Suggested a quarterly update from the Troop be included in the plan
- Suggested tabling the motion and hold a work session to review the progress at the other pantry locations and see if accepted by the community

Chair Lick moved TO TABLE ACTION ON THIS ITEM AND TO RESUME THE DISCUSSION IN TWO-THREE MONTHS. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

Commissioner McDonald offered a FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO DISCUSS THIS TOPIC AT THE MAY MEETING AND TO MEET AT ONE OF THE PARKS BEING DISCUSSED. Supported by Commissioner VanAntwerp. Friendly Amendment accepted by Chair Lick and Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

C. 2021 DNR Grant submission –Towner Road Playground

Director Maisner summarized the proposed project, project costs and public hearing held earlier in the meeting.

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Nardo-Farris:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the development and acquisition of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 50% of the total project cost funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund program; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for \$350,000 of improvements to Towner Road Park consisting of a Play Space to improve and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, this project is identified and supported in the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2021-2027 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 9, 2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for development of a Play Space in Towner Road Park with a total project cost of \$350,000. The fifty (50%) percent local match of \$175,000 will be funded by the Park Millage, with the remaining fifty (50%) percent (\$175,000) funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Commissioners Stephens, Nardo-Farris, VanAntwerp, McDonald, Chair Lick

NAYS: None

The resolution passed 5-0

D. Lake Lansing Goose Management Request

Director Maisner outlined the resident's request for a goose cull on Lake Lansing. She suggested the action that could be taken is: 1) no action or 2) refer the request to the Lake Lansing Advisory Board.

Discussion:

- Water fowl is a federally protected species and questioned who had the authority to start a cull. There are mitigating steps such as buffer strip that can be taken to try to prevent geese access onto private property
- Suggested referring the resident to the DNR
- Question raised about hunting the geese on the Lake
- The Township owns Lake Lansing Marsh and Spengler Marsh on south end of Lake Lansing and the land preservation parcel does not have lake frontage

Chair Lick directed staff to communicate its thanks to Mr. Card for bringing this topic to the Commission and to direct the information to the Lake Lansing Advisory Board.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Labyrinth Donation – working with a local resident and update at next meeting
- B. Tree City USA Designation Update – Environmental Commission is working on this designation and will have an update at a future meeting
- C. Ice Fishing Derby – 22 children Awesome video by Dan Stephens
- D. Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club – Director Maisner was a speaker outlining the updates in the parks
- E. Trail map and Historical Markers – working on the funding through the County Trail Millage
- F. Working to secure an ATM Machine at Marketplace on the Green with MSUFCU
- G. Park Promotional videos – will be working on them with Dan Stevens, will be creating an RFP for the project, like to start promoting Central Park using a drone
- H. Friends of Historic Meridian Memorandum of Understanding – ongoing discussing on the memorandum and funding assistance requests
- I. Park Ordinance – Update on tree planting and maintenance guidelines
- J. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update – expires in 2022, suggest discussing a survey and its questions, hold the Commission monthly meetings in the parks to obtain public input
- K. May Commission Meeting – Chair Lick suggested added a 2-3 hour work session to address the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan survey, promotional videos, micro-food pantry request, etc. Director Maisner reported Supervisor Styka has asked that Boards and Commissions not meet in person until after June but will obtain clarification about meeting outdoors in a park pavilion.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner Comments
- B. Events Calendar:
 - 1. Farmers' Market:
 - a. First and Third Saturdays, 11 am – 1 pm, January-April, Marketplace on the Green

13. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

14. ADJOURNMENT – Hearing no objections, Chair Lick adjourned the meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm

15. NEXT MEETING

- A. The next meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 12 noon via zoom.