



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY AUGUST 11, 2015
TOWN HALL ROOM



WORK SESSION 6 PM
(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Central Park Master Plan Update** (lilac)
4. **Newton Road Parking Lot**
5. **Other**
6. **Comment**
7. **Adjournment**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations** (goldenrod)
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. June 9, 2015 Work Session Minutes
 - b. June 9, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)
8. **Director's Report** (yellow)
 - 2015 Project Update
9. **New Business** (pink)
PUBLIC COMMENT
10. **Unfinished Business** (green)
PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Park Commission by writing or calling the following: Township Manager Frank Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-853-4250) - Ten days notice required.

11. **Other Business** (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.

12. **Discussion Items** (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Central Park Master Plan Update (Focus Groups and Open Studio)

13. **Final Comments**
 - a.

14. **Announcements**
 - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2015, Meridian Service Center
 - Farmers' Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays, July 1-October 31, 8 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
 - b. Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, Sunday, August 23 & September 27, 11 am – 4 pm, Central Park Pavilion
 - c. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 19, 10 am – 3 pm, Meridian Historical Village and Central Park

15. **Public Remarks**

16. **Closed Session**

17. **Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting
August 11, 2015

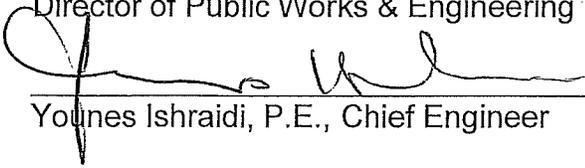
WORK SESSION

- 3. Central Park Master Plan Update (lilac section)**
- 4. Newton Road Parking Lot**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board

FROM: 
Derek N. Perry
Assistant Township Manager
Director of Public Works & Engineering


Younes Ishraidj, P.E., Chief Engineer

DATE: July 30, 2015

RE: **Newton Road Public Road Improvements
Special Assessment District #43
Public Hearing**

At its July 7, 2015 meeting, the Township Board set a public hearing for August 4, 2015 to hear comments on the paving of approximately 510' at each end of Newton Road (between Lake Lansing and Saginaw/BL-69/M-78) and on the special assessment district. Notices of the public hearing were sent to the property owners along Newton Road.

Newton Road is a local road, approximately 3142 feet long, running from Lake Lansing Road north to Saginaw/BL-69/M-78. The developer for Sierra Ridge subdivision is responsible to pave Newton Road along the subdivision frontage, approximately 2125 feet, as a requirement of the plat. The developer is planning on paving in 2015.

The additional footage to pave Newton Road is approximately 1020 feet, approximately 510' feet at each end of Newton Road. The total estimated project cost is \$86,000. Approximately \$20,000 will be paid by the Township's pathway millage for the proposed 3' paved shoulders. As such, the total estimated assessments will be \$66,545.

There are fourteen (14) parcels in the district, including residential, commercial, and Township owned parcels. The estimated assessments would range from \$3,033 to \$9,025. Meridian Township has three (3) parcels along Newton Road, which include the Newton Road Water Tower, Newton Road Park, and a Land Preservation parcel. Meridian Township's portion would be \$23,022.

Attached is a map of the district and the proposed special assessment district.

Attachments

1" = 200'



CT.

B.R. 169 SAGINAW ST.

NORTH WATER TOWER

04-252-004
NEWTON PROPERTY PARTNERSHIP
2422 JOLLY RD STE 200
OKEMOS
MI 48864

04-108-005
MERIDIAN CHARTER
TOWNSHIP
5151 MARSH RD
OKEMOS
MI 48864

JEHOVAH WITNESSES CONGREG
6003 HARVEY ST
HASLETT
MI 48840

04-327-005
HAMMOND, L LEE
5834 M-99
DIMONDALE
MI 48821

SUMBAL AHSAN & IFFAT
4232 SUGAR MAPLE
OKEMOS
MI 48864

04-327-007
SUMBAL AHSAN &
IFFAT
4232 SUGAR MAPLE
OKEMOS
MI 48864

G S FEDEWA BUILDERS INC
5570 OKEMOS RD
EAST LANSING
MI 48823
04-400-015

04-328-001
MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
5151 MARSH RD
OKEMOS
MI 48864

04-376-008
EYDE CONSTRUCTION CO
P O BOX 4218
EAST LANSING
MI 48826

04-376-007
EYDE CONSTRUCTION CO
P O BOX 4218
EAST LANSING
MI 48826

EYDE CONSTRUCTION CO
P O BOX 4219
EAST LANSING
MI 48826

BATEMAN, MKE
& ARVILLA
5031 NEWTON
RD
EAST LANSING
MI 48823

04-376-009

04-376-010

CLAYTON, EDWARD F &
2292 LAKE LANSING
RD
EAST LANSING
MI 48823

04-376-006

MC GURRY
ANGELA M
6024 NEWTON
RD
EAST LANSING
MI 48823

04-400-003
MERIDIAN CHARTER
TOWNSHIP
5151 MARSH RD
OKEMOS
MI 48864

FRESNO LANE

SACRAMENTO WAY

SACRAMENTO WAY

SLEEPY HOLLOW LN

MARIETTA WAY

ISAAC LN.

BRIDGEWATER LN.

NEWTON RD.

LAKE LANSING RD.

LAKE LANSING RD.

NEWTON ROAD PAVING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT #43

NEWTON ROAD PUBLIC ROAD IMPROVEMENT
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT #43

ASSESSMENT ROLL

<u>Parcel # & Street Address/Legal Desc</u>	<u>Property Owner Name & Address</u>	<u>Proposed Special Assessment Amount</u>
3302-02-04-100-005 M-78 & Newton Legal Desc M4-26-2 That pt of S 104 A. of NW ¼ of Sec 4, S of Hwy M-78, on NW FRL ¼ of FRL Sec 4, T4N, R1W.	MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864	\$5,385.00
3302-02-04-252-004 6276 Newton Legal Desc: M4-22 that pt of SW ¼ of NE ¼ S of M-78 Hwy, exc beg at inter of cen line of E bound rdwy of M-78 state hwy & NS ¼ line of Sec 4-N 59 deg 40'E 300 ft-S 35 deg 44'30" W 433.44 ft to pt on NS ¼ line of Sec 4 a distance of 200 ft from beg N 200 ft to beg also exc beg at inter of cen line of E bound rdwy of M-78 state hwy & cen line of Townner Rd-S 59 deg 40' W 300 ft S 72 deg 07'20" E to E 1/8 line of Sec 4 N along E 1/8 line to cen line of Townner Rd W'ly along said cen line to beg - also except corn at cen of Sec 4, S 88 deg 13' 47" E along E-W ¼ line of Sec 4, 1079.47 ft to pt of beg: N 01 deg 24'16" E 1156.35 ft to pt on S'ly RW line of Hwy M-78, N 71 deg 57' 55" E along said RW line 231.81 ft, S 01 deg 24'16" W 1234.90 ft to pt on E-W ¼ line of Sec 4, N 88 deg 13'47" W 218.60 ft along said E-W ¼ line to pt of beg, Sec 4, T4N, R1W.	NEWTON PROPERTY PARTNERSHIP 2422 Jolly Rd, Ste. 200, Okemos, MI 48864	\$5,385.00
3302-02-04-327-005 Newton Legal Desc MP 1840, Lot 3, Mitchell Acres	L LEE HAMMOND 5834 M-99, Dimondale, MI 48821	\$4,082.00
3302-02-04-327-006 M-78 Legal Desc: MP 1843, N ½ of Lot 6, Mitchell Acres	AHSAN & IFFAT SUMBAL 4232 Sugar Maple, Okemos, MI 48864	\$3,458.00
3302-02-04-327-007 6217 Newton Legal Desc MP 1843-1, MP 1844, S ½ of Lot 6 & Lot 7, Entire Mitchell Acres	AHSAN & IFFAT SUMBAL 4232 Sugar Maple, Okemos, MI 48864	\$3,984.00

**NEWTON ROAD PUBLIC ROAD IMPROVEMENT
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT #43
ASSESSMENT ROLL**

<u>Parcel # & Street Address/Legal Desc</u>	<u>Property Owner Name & Address</u>	<u>Proposed Special Assessment Amount</u>
3302-02-04-327-008 2231 M-78 Legal Desc: MP 1838 & 1829, Lots 1 & 2, Mitchell Acres	JEHOVAH WITNESSES CONGREG 6003 Harvey St, Haslett, MI 48840	\$3,030.00
3302-02-04-328-001 M-78 Legal Desc: M4-28 Beg on N-S ¼ line at pt N 1 deg 40'10"E 1323.0 ft from S ¼ cor of Sec 4, N 88 deg 19' 04"W 1335.13 ft along N line of SE ¼ of SW ¼ to E line of W ½ of SW ¼ of Sec 4, N 1 deg 13'20"E 394.19 ft along said E line to SE'ly R/W line of M-78 Hwy, said R/W line being 70 ft SE'ly of cen line of E bound lanes, measured perpendicular to said cen line, N 34 deg 06' E 133.46 ft along said R/W line to S'ly line of Mitchell Acres Plat, S 88 deg 18' 08" E 1266.63 ft along said S'ly line to said N & S ¼ line, S 1 deg 40' 10" W 506.5 ft to P.O.B. on SW ¼ of Sec 4, T4N, R1W.	MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864	\$9,029.00
3302-02-04-376-005 6024 Newton Legal Desc: M4-42-1 Com in N & S ¼ line at pt 187 ft N of S ¼ post -W 177 ft - N 210 ft - E 177 ft -S 210 ft to beg on SW ¼ of Sec 4, T4N, R1W.	ANGELA M. MCGUIRE 6024 Newton Road, East Lansing, MI 48823	\$3,743.00
3302-02-04-376-006 2292 Lake Lansing Legal Desc: M4-42 S 397 ft of E 464 ft of SE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec 4 exc com 187 ft N of S ¼ post, W 177 ft N 210 ft E 177 ft-S to beg Sec 4, T4N, R1W.	EDWARD F CLAYTON & SUSAN LUKS 2292 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, MI 48823	\$3,333.00
3302-02-04-376-007 Newton & Lake Lansing Legal Desc: M4-42-2 SE ¼ of SW ¼ exc. S 397 ft of E 464 ft Thereof on SW ¼ of Sec 4, T4N, R1W. exc beg on S li of Sec 4 at pt 464 ft N 88 deg 20' W of S ¼ cor of Sec 4 N 88 deg 20' W 200 ft on S line of Sec 4 N 01 deg 40' 10" E 233 ft S 88 deg 20' E 200 ft S 01 deg 40' 10" W 233 ft to Beg & also exc beg on N & S ¼ li of Sec 4 at pt 397 ft N01 deg 40'10" E of S ¼ cor of Sec 4 N 88 deg 20' W 233 ft N01 deg 40'10" E 200 ft S 88 deg 20' E 233 ft S 01 deg 40'10" W 200 ft on N & S ¼ li of Sec 4 to Beg & also exc beg on S li of Sec 4 at pt 1124.8 ft N 88 deg 20' W of S ¼ cor of Sec 4 N 88 deg 20' W 200 ft on S li of Sec 4 to SW cor of SE ¼ of SW cor of Sec 4 N 01 deg 13' 20" E 233 ft on W line of SE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec 4 S 88 deg 20' E 200 ft S 01 deg 13'20" W 233 ft to Beg Sec 4 T4N R1W. Exc beg on N-S in at pt N 1 deg 40' 10" E 863 ft from the S ¼ cor of Sec 4 th parallel with the N in of SE ¼ of SW ¼ N 88 deg 19' 04" W 500 ft th parallel with the N-S ¼ in N 1 deg 40' 10" E 460 ft to N in of said SE ¼ of SW ¼, Th algn N in S 88 deg 19' 04" E 500 ft to N-S ¼ in th S 1 deg 40' 10" W 460 ft to beg Sec 4 T4N, R1W.	EYDE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY P.O. Box 4218, East Lansing, MI 48823	\$4,742.00

**NEWTON ROAD PUBLIC ROAD IMPROVEMENT
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT #43
ASSESSMENT ROLL**

<u>Parcel # & Street Address/Legal Desc</u>	<u>Property Owner Name & Address</u>	<u>Proposed Special Assessment Amount</u>
3302-02-04-376-008 Newton Legal Desc: M4-42-2-4 That pt of the SE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec 4, Beg on N-S ¼ line at a pt N 1 deg 40'10"E 863 ft from the S ¼ cor of Sec 4 th parallel with the N line of SE ¼ of the SW ¼ N 88 deg 19'04" W 500 ft th parallel with the N-S ¼ line N 1 deg 40'10"E 460 ft to N line of said SE ¼ of SW ¼, th alg N line S 88 deg 19'04"E 500 ft to N-S ¼ line, th S 1 deg 40'10"W 460 ft to Beg Sec 4, T4N, R1W, Meridian Township.	EYDE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY P.O. Box 4218, East Lansing, MI 48823	\$8,200.00
3302-02-04-376-009 Newton Legal Desc: M4-42-2-1 Beg on the N-S ¼ line of Sec 4 at a pt 397 ft, N 01 deg 40'10" E of S ¼ corner of Sec 4, th N 88 deg 20' W 233 ft, th N 01 deg 40'10" E, 200 ft; th S 88 deg 20' E, 233 ft; th S 01 deg 40' 10" W, 200 ft on the N-S ¼ line of Sec 4 to pt of beg exc the S ½, Sec 4, T4N, R1W.	EYDE CONSTRUCTION CO P.O. Box 4218, East Lansing, MI 48823	\$1,783.00
3302-02-04-376-010 6031 Newton Legal Desc: M 4-42-2-2 Beg on the N-S ¼ line of said Sec 4 at a pt 397 ft, N 01 deg 40' 10" E of S ¼ cor of Sec 4, th N 88 deg 20' W, 233 ft; th N 01 deg 40'10"E, 200 ft; th S 88 deg 20 min. E 233 ft; th S 01 deg 40 min 10 Sec W, 200 ft on the N-S ¼ line of Sec 4 to pt of beg. exc the N ½, Sec 4, T4N, R1W.	MIKE & ARVILLA BATEMAN 6031 Newton Road, East Lansing, MI 48823	\$1,783.00
3302-02-04-400-003 6025 Newton Legal Desc: M4-44-1-2 Beg at S ¼ cor of Sec 4, th E along Sec line 482.9 ft, th N at rt angles to sec line 520 ft, th W pll to Sec line 481.6 ft to N & S ¼ sec line, th S along ¼ sec line 520 ft to pt of beg, Sec 4, T4N, R1W.	MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864	\$8,608.00
TOTAL		\$66,545.00

Park Commission Meeting
August 11, 2015

6. MINUTES

- a. June 9, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. June 9, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine (6:07 pm), Jaramillo, McDonald, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

EXCUSED: Commissioner Stephens

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:04 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

Under item #6, add item #a. Township Foreclosed Parcels

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the work session agenda as amended.

3. Love a Park Day – June 20, 2015, 9 am – 12 Noon

Commissioner Deschaine reported he received good feedback on this project and has signed up five (5) primary groups to work on “Love a Park Day” projects and although there are scout troops listed, their work day will be later in the year. He asked Commissioners to volunteer to assist at one of the park locations. Chair Wilson chose Harris Nature Center; Commissioner Jaramillo chose Hillbrook Park; and Commissioner McDonald reported he knows John Hess who is assigned to Newton Road Park and will contact him about their work date. Commissioner Deschaine stated he spoke with Teri Banas and the Haslett Beautification Association has already worked on Marshall Park and will be joining the Kiwanis Club at Orlando Park and he will volunteer there as well. Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway will be preparing a list of projects needed to be completed at each park and coffee and pastries will be provided for the volunteers.

4. Central Park Master Plan Update

Director Maisner distributed a copy of the kick-off minutes from the May 28, 2015 meeting with consultant, O’Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates (OCBA). She summarized this first meeting and the information gathered for their review. On page 2 is a list of proposed public input sessions. After a brief discussion with staff and the consultant, the beginning of the public input sessions will begin on July 15. She also distributed a proposed list of stakeholders for the meeting and asked Commissioners to review and forward additional invitees to her within the next week.

5. 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Plan

As a follow-up to the Special Meeting on May 19, 2015, Director Maisner distributed the final proposed 2016-2021 CIP document for comment. It was agreed that \$900,000 will be dedicated to construction of Towner Road Park in 2016. If we are awarded any of the three grant requests submitted this year, construction of those would take place in 2017.

Director Maisner reported she accompanied DNR Grant Coordinator, Chip Kosloski to tour our grant sites. Commissioner McDonald suggested sending the most recent Meridian Monitor to Steve DeBrabander and Jon Mays.

6. Other

a. Township Foreclosed Parcels

Director Maisner distributed a map and description of two parcels available on the Foreclosed Parcels list provided by Ingham County. Parcel #1 consists of a triangular island surrounded by roadways on Marsh Road and the second parcel, located on Haslett Road, not adjacent to Hillbrook or a land preserve. By consensus, the Commission was not interested in purchasing either parcel.

7. Comment

None

8. Adjournment

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioner Stephens

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Under item #9 New Business, add item #a Foreclosed Parcels and under item #12 Discussion Items, add #b Social Media Promotions.

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AS
AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Presentations

a. Chronic Wasting Disease

Chad Stuart, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Tim Wilson from the United States Department of Agriculture reported on the Chronic Wasting Disease found in a deer in Meridian Township and the action that has been taken.

- A six-year old doe was found in Meridian Township with the chronic wasting disease
- This disease affects the central nervous system.
- This disease is a mutated protein that cannot be killed or destroyed and a deer may carry the disease for three years with no symptoms.
- This disease is passed from deer to deer in their environment through urine, saliva, and blood.
- An MSU study preliminarily indicates the density of deer in Meridian Township is 60 deer per square mile; it should be approximately 20 per square mile
- Dogs cannot contract the disease. To date they have only found this disease in deer, elk, mule deer and moose.
- They are first collecting samples within the two mile radius of where the diseased deer was found. Samples are being taken from Township and several private properties in the evening hours.

- If residents have questions, please contact Lt. Plaga, Meridian Township Police Department. Additional information is available on the front page of the Township website. The Township is cooperating fully with the DNR and USDA.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Deschaine invited everyone to attend the Celebrate Downtown Okemos event on Saturday, June 13 and announced the "Love a Park Day" park clean up on Saturday, June 20. He is expecting over 50 volunteers from the Haslett Kiwanis Club, Meridian Republicans, Haslett Beautification Association, the Meridian Democratic Club and Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club at the five parks and thanked them for volunteering for the event. If anyone is interested in volunteering, contact the Parks and Recreation office.

Commissioner Jaramillo shared that last weekend was "National Trails Day" and that the Township could also hold events promoting our trail system during next years' event.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. April 28, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. April 28, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. May 19, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE APRIL 28, 2015 AND MAY 19, 2015 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Township Master Plan and Friend of the Park Program/Central Park Report
2. From: Therese Poland PhD, Research Entomologist, Forest Service; RE: Emerald Ash Borer Studies approval in Township Parks

B. Commission Information

1. May and June Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Towne Courier: **April 5:** Meridian organizes communitywide park clean-up; Meridian accepting adult softball team registrations; **April 12:** Meridian Parks Commission appoints replacement member; Meridian organizes communitywide park clean-up; Meridian accepting adult softball team registrations; **April 19:** Campfire program on animal babies; Meridian Township now registering adult softball teams; **April 26:** Nature camps

offered at Harris Nature Center; Meridian Farmers Market will open May 2; Meridian Township now registering adult softball teams; **May 24:** Nature camps offered at Harris Nature Center

3. Lansing State Journal: **April 11:** Paddlers Race 160 Miles from MSU (Wonch Park) to Lake Michigan
4. Meridian Summer Monitor 2015

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAINE SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

8. Director's Report

- Conducted a site visit with DNR Grant Coordinator to Hillbrook Park, Harris Nature Center and North Meridian Road Park
- Meridian Monitor Summer edition was mailed and featured free activities for families to enjoy in Meridian Township. Special thanks to the Communication Department for its creation. It is a great promotional tool for our community
- Sand Volleyball Courts at North Meridian Road Park are nearly completed utilizing Lake Michigan beach sand.
- Summer Farmers' Market begins July 1 on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- The Pedestrian Bridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17 at 11am. It is located adjacent to Wonch Park and will provide improved accessibility to Wonch Park and downtown Okemos from schools and neighborhoods.
- Wonch Park Paved Loop Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held in July after parking lot paving is completed
- "Love A Park Day" is scheduled for Saturday, June 20; Commissioner Deschaine spearheaded the organization of this event engaging community groups and organizations to adopt a park
- Ferguson Park parking lot will be crack filled and sealed together with the Harris Nature Center lot soon.
- Central Park Master Plan Focus Group Meeting has been scheduled for July 15; this is an opportunity to receive valuable input on how the community would like the center of the Township to look like.
- Celebrate Downtown Okemos is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, from 10 am -11 pm with entertainment, 5K and Fun Runs, children's activity area, arts and crafts market and beer and wine tent.
- MSUFCU donated and planted 10 trees in Nancy Moore Park with a \$1,000 grant received through the Arbor Day Foundation
- Congrats to Meridian Garden Club for winning a state garden club award for their development and maintenance of the Claire Twohy Garden
- Parks and Recreation Specialist Greg Grothous has taken a new position with the City of St. Joseph. His last day is next Wednesday June 17. Greg has

been with the Township ten years and his wife will also be taking a position with a hospital there. We wish him and his family all the best

- A total of 40 applications have been received to date for vacant Parks and Recreation Specialist position. The interview process will begin very soon.

9. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Foreclosed Parcels

Director Maisner reported during the work session the Commissioners received for reviewed two parcels on the Foreclosure List from Ingham County. The Commission and staff reviewed the facilities and their locations.

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, BASED ON STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION, THE COMMISSION WILL NOT PURSUE PARCEL #33-02-02-03-401-001 OR PARCEL # 33-02-02-10-302-010 AT THIS TIME FROM THE INGHAM COUNTY FORECLOSURE LIST. Voice vote. Motion passed.

10. Unfinished Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Plan

Director Maisner reported that the Capital Improvement Program identifies projects for a period of six years and serves as a planning and budgeting tool. Due to lack of funding, some of the projects have been on the list for over fifteen years. Many of these projects have been the result of community surveys and discussed during public hearings and meetings with the community. The Park Commission held a special meeting in May to review and discuss projects for the coming years. It is anticipated that the park millage will collect \$1,500,000 for projects and department operations in 2016. Based on current operational needs, approximately \$900,000 can be dedicated toward development projects in 2016. Following a complete review of the proposed projects, the Park Commission agreed to dedicate \$900,000 toward the construction of Phase I of Towner Road Park. Other Projects for 2017 include grant projects of Hillbrook Tennis Court Renovation and Accessibility and pavilions at Harris Nature Center and North Meridian Road Park and Phase II of Towner Road Park.

The 2016-2021 CIP for Parks was forwarded to the Department of Community Planning and Development.

11. Other Business (cherry)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. Discussion Items (lilac)

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Central Park Master Plan

Director Maisner reported a consulting firm has been hired to take the Commission through the master plan process. The consultants have already spent over four hours touring the site, was given an great deal of data and maps for analysis and they are very excited about the project and proceeding forward with the focus group meetings. The first focus group meeting will be held July 15 and Open Studio times later in the month. This process will be very interactive.

b. Social Media Promotions

Commissioner Jaramillo stated she likes Meridian Township Facebook pages but only 5% of the residents know about it. It needs to be more useful and we need to increase promotion of our Facebook and Twitter accounts. She will be contacting the Communication Department on its promotional procedures and content to see what more we can do to better promote the parks and will report back at the next meeting.

Discussion:

- Work with staff to post more park and recreation items vs nature photos with sayings.
- Suggesting holding a cell phone “selfies” contest or “what park am I in?” contest

13. Final Comments

None

14. Announcements

a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2015, Town Hall Room

b. Farmers' Market:

- Spring Market – Saturdays, May – June, 8 am- 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion
- Summer Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays, July 1-October, 8 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion

c. Celebrate Downtown Okemos, Saturday, June 13, 10 am – 11 pm

d. Meridian Fishing Derby, Sunday, June 14, 9 am – 12 noon, Central Park Pond

e. Music in the Village Concert Series starts Wednesday, June 17 at 7 pm, Meridian Historical Village

f. Love a Park Day, Saturday, June 20, 9 am – 12 noon; Ferguson Park, Harris Nature Center, Hillbrook Park, Meridian Historical Village, Marshall Park, Newton Road Park, Orlando Park, Sander Farm Natural Area,

g. Lake Lansing Band Shell Concert Series starts Friday, June 6, at 7 pm, Lake Lansing South

h. Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, Sunday, June 28, 11 am – 4 pm,
Central Park Pavilion

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

None

17. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO
SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

AUGUST 11, 2015

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
 - 1. From: Mary Gebbia-Portice, RE: Graham and Zach Assisted Park Visitor

- B. Commission Information
 - 1. August Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
 - 2. Parks & Recreation Department 2nd Quarter Report (April-June 2015)
 - 3. Towne Courier: **June 7:** Frog forage campfire at nature center June 27; **June 14:** Meridian Fishing Derby this Sunday; **June 28:** Meridian Township parks and getting lots of love; **July 5:** Harris Nature Center campfire set for July 11; Nature camps offered at Harris Nature Center; Meridian hosts Music in Village each Wednesday; **July 12:** Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center; Meridian seeks input for Central Park improvements; **July 19:** Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center; Nature center hosts Bat time campfire; **July 26:** Meridian Township seeking input on Central Park's future; Full moon walk in woods takes place July 31; Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center
 - 4. Lansing State Journal: **June 22:** Buggin' Dad on Dad's Day
 - 5. Press Releases: **July 6:** Meridian Township Park Commission Requests Residents' Input/Focus Groups Scheduled to Discuss Central Park Master Plan; **July 24:** Participatory Design Charrettes Planned/Two-day Open Studio Meetings to Discuss Central Park Master Plan

- C. Staff Inquiries/Response

Robin Faust

From: Mary Gebbia-Portice <gebbiaportice@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 6:35 PM
To: Robin Faust
Cc: Oz Portice
Subject: Graham and Zach

Dear Ms. Faust,

I am hoping that you can forward this email to the supervisor of these two young men, Graham and Zach. I am guessing that they work for Meridian Parks and Recreation so that is why I am emailing your department. Please forward this email to as many relevant individuals as you can. These two young men went well above and beyond in helping me during a time of great need.

On Monday morning, the 22nd of June, I was walking our dog, Redd, along the trails with a friend of mine. Our dog, an 85 pound 10 year old Red Labrador Retriever, started having trouble breathing as we were walking in the shade. The morning was still cool and he had drank some water before and during our walk, but he was still panting too heavily for my comfort. We stopped in the shade and poor Redd started going into respiratory distress. Then he started getting sick and really going downhill frighteningly fast. Within just a couple of minutes he had collapsed onto his side gasping for air and was quickly turning blue. It was truly horrific and terrifying. I feared that Redd was going to die right there on the trail. All I could think to do was to leave Redd with my friend, while I ran for help. I thought maybe I could drive my Jeep back along the trail to get Redd since there was no way he'd be able to walk and he was fading so very fast.

We were about a mile or more into the trails so I ran as fast as I could to the parking lot. Once I got there, I quickly realized I would not be able to drive my vehicle on the trail because the trail head was blocked with the posts. I thought maybe I could drive around to the back entrance or drive to the maintenance garage and get help. Just as I got to the road (Central Park Drive), miraculously Graham and Zach came down the sidewalk in their golf cart. I signaled them to stop and yelled that my dog was dying on the trail and could they help me. Graham didn't even blink. "Yeah, definitely!" he said. Graham took charge and had Zach jump out while he zoomed back into the parking lot in the cart. I followed him and had Zach jump into my vehicle. We quickly did some juggling and cleared the tools out of the back of the cart. Graham zipped along the trails with me frantic in the passenger seat. Zach stayed back with the tools from the cart.

Thanks to Graham and Zach's quick thinking, we made it back to Redd and my friend in just a few minutes. In the short time since I'd left him, Redd's tongue and lips were so blue from lack of oxygen that they were actually a dark purple. It took two of us to get him into the cart and then into my Jeep. I sped over to MSU Emergency Vet Clinic and the doctors started working on him instantly. It is only because of the miraculous appearance of two heroes in a golf cart and some quick and calm thinking that we managed to get Redd help in the nick of time. There is no way that he would have lived if I had not come across Graham and Zach and if they had not been so willing to jump in and help. Graham took charge and made some quick decisions to help save a dying dog. I cannot thank them enough.

Redd is at home now, resting and trying to recover. We don't know what precipitated the respiratory distress or the heat stroke that resulted from him not being able to pant and cool

himself. We do know that he is very very very slowly starting to recover. He is making tiny improvements as the day goes on but he is not out of the woods yet. Without the help of Graham and Zach, he would not have even had this second chance. I wanted Graham and Zach to know that Redd did survive that crisis. I also just really want these two young men to be recognized for their outstanding efforts and help in a desperate time of need. They didn't think twice about helping. They just did it. And I am so very grateful that they appeared out of nowhere and helped save our dog's life. Please, please make sure they know how grateful we are and please let their supervisor know how amazing these two are. If there is any way to recognize these two heroes, I hope that the township can do so.

Eternally grateful,

Mary Gebbia-Portice and Ozzie Portice with Redd
989-413-8165

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation

August Calendar of Events

August 1 – Summer Campfire Series
 August 3 – 7 – “Turning Back the Pages”
 Summer Day Camps
 August 4 – My Cub and I Summer Camps
 August 4 – Bug Buddies Camps
 August 4 – Timber Tots Summer Camps
 August 4 – Feathery Friends Camps
 August 4 – Grossology Camps
 August 4 – National Night Out Celebration
 August 4 – Earth Friends Camps
 August 6 – River Rascals Camps



August 6 – Rock Hounds Camps
 August 7 – Insect Adventures Camps
 August 7 – Frogs and Friends Camps
 August 7 – Animal Webs Camps
 August 7 – Haslett Fall Kindergarten-3rd Grade
 Soccer registration deadline
 August 7 – Haslett Kindergarten-6th Grade Boys
 & Girls Flag Football registration deadline

August 7 – Wildlife Explorers Camp
 August 15 – HNC Stewardship Mornings
 August 16 – Edible Wild Plants Walk
 August 17 – Youth and Adult Introduction to
 Target Archery registration deadline



August 20 – Chipmunk Story Time/The Very
 Busy Spider
 August 21 – Okemos Kindergarten-6th Grade
 Boys and Girls Flag Football registration
 deadline
 August 23 – Meridian Arts & Crafts
 Marketplace



Questions,
 call Meridian Township
 Parks & Recreation
 at (517) 853-4600

PARKS & RECREATION – 2nd Quarter Report – April/June 2015

1. Park Commission:

The Park Commission met on April 28, May 12, May 19 and June 9, 2015.

Topics:

- Interviewed and selected consulting firm to lead the process for developing a Master Plan for Central Park. The contract was awarded to O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$14,450.
- Preliminary approval of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office on proposed drain improvements through Hillbrook Park. A new easement will be necessary to complete the project.
- Visited Lake Lansing North Park for a guided tour of possible dog park location. The Park Commission plans to meet with Ingham County Parks Board for further discussion.
- Held the annual Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and BBQ honoring approximately 400 residents, groups, and organizations for their contributions to the park system. Bobbi DuByne from Haslett was recognized as the 2014 Park Friend of the Year. A sugar Maple tree was planted in the Historical Village with a plaque to honor their efforts.
- Approved Eagle Scout candidate Grant Porter's proposal to construct Aldo Leopold benches in the parks
- Approved the 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Program projects for parks
- Hosted two park clean up events – Earth Day/Spring Park Clean Up on April 25 and Love a Park Day on June 20, over 80 volunteers participated in the two events
- Received a presentation on the Chronic Wasting Disease from the United States Department of Agriculture and Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Approved the purchase of a parcel adjacent to Towner Road Park

2. Administration:

- Met and visited the grant application sites with the new Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Coordinator, Chip Kosloski. The sites visited included Harris Nature Center, Hillbrook Park and North Meridian Road Park.
- Met with representatives from O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc. to design the Central Park Master Plan process (resident input session, open studios, design development)
- Organized a successful Celebrate Downtown Okemos event on Saturday, June 13, 2015 with an approximate 4,000 visitors
- Spring Farmers Market was held on 9 Saturdays during the months of May and June with 57 different vendors participating
- Summer Farmers Market is being held on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the months of June – October, currently 61 vendors are participating
- Met with Viridis Design Group to discuss amending the site plan to include the additional acreage and phasing strategies for construction for Towner Road Park.
- Began planning Meridian Heritage Festival event with Historical Village representatives

- Accepted the resignation of Parks and Recreation Specialist Greg Grothous effective June 17; Greg was with the Township ten years and accepted a position with St. Joseph; began the interview process to find his replacement
- Worked with HOM-TV staff on the development of the Meridian Monitor listing numerous free park and recreation activities in Meridian Township this summer.
- Served as guest speaker to the Sapphire Lakes Homeowners Association in June.
- Met with representatives from MSU to walk the Dobie Reserve identifying a public trail connection from Tacoma Hills to Dobie Road.
- New siding was installed at pavilion in Nancy Moore Park
- Ferguson Park parking lot was crack filled, sealed and re-stripped.
- New fencing was installed in Nancy Moore Park on the ball diamonds

3. Parks and Land Management

- **Land Preservation**
 - ✓ Posted Henslow's Sparrow signs at the Davis/Foster Preserve, HOM TV interview about the endangered birds who have nested in the preserve for the past three years
 - ✓ Treated invasive buckthorn at Towar Woods Preserve on 4/7; 4/18; and 4/28. Cleared $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of buckthorn.
 - ✓ Developed a program to re-name the land preserves via social media
 - ✓ Developed RFP's for appraisal for property that is under consideration, selected appraiser for the project. Met with sellers twice.
 - ✓ The LPAB held a site visit on May 13 of the Northwest Preserve and a regular meeting and site visit on June 10 of the Central Meridian Uplands
- **Deer Management**
 - ✓ Responded to 25-30 concerned citizens about chronic wasting disease (CWD)
 - ✓ Responded to 5 citizens who were reporting dead deer in their yards
 - ✓ Responded to 5 citizens who were reporting road kill
 - ✓ Responded to 20 requests to participate in the township's deer management program
 - ✓ Met with DNR and MSU/Boone and Crockett to discuss CWD in the Township
 - ✓ Created maps for DNR for their CWD management program
 - ✓ Provided MSU/Boone and Crockett data and maps so that they can analyze the spatial structure of deer in a suburban setting
 - ✓ Interview with HOM TV and LSJ regarding CWD
 - ✓ Met with MSU and received the good news that they will be conducting deer management in the Dobie Reserve, a popular area for deer
 - ✓ Contacted the DNR twice to report neighbors feeding deer
 - ✓ Presented the 2014/2015 deer summary to the Township Board in April
 - ✓ Participated in a conference call with the City of Ann Arbor's consultant about their proposed deer management program
 - ✓ Responded to three reports of unmarked tree hunting stands in parks and preserves

- **Parks**

- a. **Volunteer Efforts**

- 6 volunteers from MSUFCU donated and planted \$1,000 worth of trees as part of their Grow Green program - April
- 30 volunteers participated in April 25 Earth Day Clean Up in parks
- 4 volunteers assisted with buckthorn removal at Towar Woods Preserve - May
- 4 volunteers planted 50 white oak trees in the Towar Woods Preserve - May
- Met with Clay Carmichael to discuss his Eagle Scout project for a boardwalk at North Meridian Road Park - April
- Met with Steve Harrelson about his Eagle Scout split rail fence project in the Historical Village - April
- Met with Grant Porter to discuss his Eagle Scout project for benches at Central Park South and Historical Village pond - April
- 100 Bennett Woods third-grade students, teachers, and parent volunteers planted flats of milkweed and butterfly weed at Hartrick Park (project to support monarch butterflies) – June
- 50 volunteers participated in LOVE A PARK day on June 20. Parks that were cleaned include: North Meridian Road Park (Haslett Scouts), Hillbrook Park (Meridian Democrats and HBA), Orlando Park (Haslett Kiwanis), Ferguson Park (Okemos Girl Scouts), and Meridian Riverfront Park (Haslett Okemos Rotary)
- Ellen Passage spent four hours maintaining the Paul Peterson memorial in Nancy Moore Park – May and June
- Larry Hennessey spent three hours cleaning bluebird boxes in the Sander Natural Area and Tacoma Hills Natural Area – June
- Cecelia Kramer, Quenda Story, Neil Hodges, and Marianne Stehr each spent 1.5 hours cleaning the Forest Hills Natural Area – May
- Two volunteers spent two hours spreading mulch on the Mary Helmbrecht butterfly/pollinator garden that was planted by Haslett schoolchildren.
- Met with Cecilia Kramer and Betsy Hull to discuss Joan Smith Memorial at the Okemos Library, which will be paid for by volunteers. The project includes a small pergola, bench, plaque, and planters.

- b. **Central Park:**

- Gathered information for park planning project with consulting planners; held kick-off meeting, planned public input sessions for July 15, 28, and 29
- Capitol City Renegades Disc Golf Club conducted a preliminary walk in the park to scope out possible locations for disc golf

- c. **Towner Road Park:**

- Met with Dr. Trey Rogers, MSU Turf expert, about process for developing athletic fields

- d. **Nancy Moore Park:**

- Volunteers from MSUFCU donated and planted \$1,000 worth of trees (dwarf flowering crabs) as part of their Grow Green program
- Safety fencing was installed at ball diamonds in May

- e. **Red Cedar Water Trail Project:**

- MSU students presented their Red Cedar Water Trail signage project

f. Historical Village:

- Met with Meridian Garden Club and Friends of Historic Meridian four times to discuss maintenance issues/desires in the parks. Pruning, digging, moving rocks, moving fence posts, fence construction, mulch spreading, irrigation issues, rototilling, purchasing material at Van Atta's
- Finalized plans for the monarch butterfly sign that will be placed in the Claire Twohy garden, the sign company is currently designing the sign

g. Grants

- Monarch Butterfly plots: Received two flats of plants from the Monarch Watch organization in Kansas (swamp milkweed and butterfly weed)
- Received 20+ signs from Capital Area Health Alliance as part of their Destination Walking Signs program to help boost walkability in our community. They will also have a QR code that pedestrians can scan with their smartphones that will give them walking directions to the designated location

4. Recreation

- Completed
 - ✓ Haslett Baseball/Softball/Tball K-8th grade with 246 participants
 - ✓ Williamston Baseball/Softball/Tball K-8th grade with 257 participants
 - ✓ Okemos Baseball/Softball K-8th grade with 235 participants
 - ✓ Okemos Spring Soccer K-8th grade with 513 participants
 - ✓ Playmakers Kids' Running Club with 36 participants
 - ✓ Sporties for Shorties (two classes): 38 participants
 - ✓ Adult Softball with 32 teams
 - ✓ Adult Kickball with 10 teams
 - ✓ Adult Sand Volleyball with 16 teams
 - ✓ Fishing Derby: 15 participants
- Current registrations
 - ✓ Sporties for Shorties (7 classes): 58 enrolled
 - ✓ Okemos fall/spring Soccer: 60 enrolled
 - ✓ Okemos Flag Football: 10 enrolled
 - ✓ Haslett fall Soccer: 11 enrolled
 - ✓ Haslett Flag Football: 12 enrolled
 - ✓ Williamston Tackle Football: 11 enrolled
 - ✓ Williamston Flag Football: 3 enrolled
 - ✓ Williamston Cheer: 2 enrolled
 - ✓ Adult Kickball (three nights): 4 teams enrolled
 - ✓ Adult Softball (two nights): just opened
 - ✓ Adult Sand Volleyball (three nights): just opened
- 2015 Free Summer Playground Recreation Program at Snell Towar Recreation Center; June 15-August 7, Monday-Thursday from 10:30 am-4:30 pm; staffed by two returning playground supervisors; received a grant applied for by TC3 for \$2,500 from the Capital Region Community Foundation to support the program; 61 enrolled

5. Harris Nature Center

Attendance: April-June, 2015:

- 2,478 drop-in visitors to the Nature Building

- 1,605 children attended School Programs
- 764 children & adults received Outreach Programs
- 302 children participated in Public Nature Programs
- 373 people attended Adult and Family Nature Programs
- 110 children enjoyed the Nature Connection Summer Camp in June
- 48 people rented/used the nature building for a class/meeting

Naturalist Staff Notes:

- Staff taught 166 programs during the April - June quarter.
- 128 volunteers participated in 8 Stewardship Projects equaling 178 volunteer hours
 - pulled garlic mustard (78 bags)
 - constructed a fence in meadow restoration demonstration area
 - planted milkweed and native nectar plants
 - weeded gardens around the nature building
 - spread wood chips in garden areas
 - built the Log Jam feature in the Nature Exploration Area
- Staff sent out 60 press releases on upcoming HNC programs.
- HNC Facebook summary through 6-30-15:
 - Total Likes = 1,065
 - Total Reach = 9,472
- Staff posted 65 times on Facebook and 32 times on Twitter during the quarter.
- Staff was interviewed 12 times by various media, resulting in publicity for HNC in multiple outlets, including:
 - WLNS-6TV covered the June Preschool Science Explorers program.
 - Interviewed about what's new at HNC on WILS-1320 Radio: The Mid-Michigan Pet Expert Show.
 - 2 interviews on WKAR: Current State. One on Wildflower Walks and one on Bird Watching.
 - 2 Public Service Announcements for Midwest Radio played multiple times on 4 different radio stations. One on the Mother's Day Wildflower Walk and one on our 1-day Nature Camps.
 - Monthly interviews about upcoming programs on WLNZ radio: Coffee Break Show.
 - Interviewed by HOM-TV about Summer Camp, Love Your Parks and Garlic Mustard.
- Staff applied for, and received, 2 free flats of Milkweed from Monarch Watch that were planted by a group of students in the meadow restoration demonstration area.
- The Nature Friends BBQ was held in June to honor 138 volunteers who donated their time, money and good will over the last year.
- The Log Jam climbing feature of the Nature Exploration Area has been completed with volunteer help from Brian Van Order, Tony Bauer, MSU Sparty Retail employees and Greater Lansing Islamic Center students. The Meridian Area Business Association donated \$1,000 to the project. This summer's campers are already enjoying playing on this latest addition!
- Ashley Fooy was hired as a part-time Assistant Naturalist, beginning in May, to teach school groups, lead summer camps and work in the building on weekends.
- Staff attended the MSU Department of Community Engagement and Sustainability's student projects presentation. HNC was the site for two of the projects. One about

grasslands restoration and one about developing a water feature for the Nature Exploration Area.

- Staff attended the Annie's Big Nature Lesson naturalist meeting.
- Senior Naturalist Kit Rich represented HNC at the Association for Nature Center Administrators Regional Meeting in May.
- The HNC Foundation nominated the Harris Nature Center to the LSJ Make a Difference Day contest for the Beaver Lodge and Tunnel feature of the Nature Exploration Area. We were one of five finalists. We did not win, but received a lot of very good publicity.
- All nature trails are open from dawn to dusk for walking, jogging and bicycling. The summer nature building open hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9am-4pm and Saturday 12pm-4pm. There is a porta-john available when the building is closed.

Upcoming Programs:

Nature Connection Summer Camps, July 1-August 7; children will make a nature connection through walks, stories, crafts and nature activities; multiple camp themes, dates, times and fees; more info: <http://bit.ly/HNCprg>

5 Elements Qigong Summer Classes, Mondays, July 6, 20, 27 and August 3, 17, 24 at 6:30 pm; qigong (pronounced chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. We will learn the 5 Elements, 8 Pieces of Silk Brocade and White Crane Looks Back. Qigong can be practiced by people of all ages and is enhanced by practicing in nature. (\$10/class, drop-in)

Fantastic Fireflies Campfire, Saturday July 11 at 7 pm; enjoy a program about fireflies, a campfire and make s'mores (\$3/person or \$7/family)

Stewardship Mornings: It's always Earth Day! Saturdays at 9-11 am; July 18, August 15, September 19; help keep our park and trails healthy and safe through removal of invasive plants, maintaining habitat areas and gardening around the building. Volunteer once or become a regular once each month (no fee)

Bat Time Campfire, Saturday July 25 at 7 pm; enjoy a program about bats, a campfire and make s'mores (\$3/person or \$7/family)

Howl at the Moon, Fridays; July 31 at 9 pm, August 28 at 8:30 pm, September 25 at 7:30 pm; guided night walk under the full moon; dogs welcome on a leash. Meet in the parking lot. (\$3/person)

Once in a Blue Moon Campfire, Saturday August 1 at 7 pm; enjoy a program about the moon, a campfire and make s'mores (\$3/person or \$7/family)

Edible Wild Plants Walk, Sunday August 16 at 3 pm; join Peter Carrington, Assistant Curator of the Beal Botanical Garden at MSU for a walk to look at and identify numerous edible plants common in mid-Michigan (\$3/person or \$7/family)

Chipmunk Story Time, Thursdays at 10 am; August 20 and September 17; preschool and elementary children join Chicory and Hickory Chipmunk for nature stories followed by a walk, game or craft (\$3/child)

Preschool Science Exploration, Thursdays at 1 pm; Dragonfly Dance on September 10; preschoolers (4 & 5 year olds) explore science topics through hands-on activities and time outdoors once each month (\$4/child)

Family Special: River Safari in Legg Park, Sunday September 13 at 3 pm; find out what's living in the Red Cedar River; guided by a naturalist you will use nets to dip in the water and discover a myriad of invertebrates (\$3/person or \$7/family)

Timber Tots: Nature for Young Preschoolers, Mondays at 9-10 am; September 21-October 26; parent and child enjoy nature activities and time outdoors. (\$35/child/6-week class) Please pre-register.

My Cub & I: Nature for Toddlers, Mondays at 10:30-11:30 am, September 21-October 26 or Tuesdays at 6:30-7:30 pm, September 22-October 27; parent and child enjoy nature activities and time outdoors. (\$35/child/6-week class) Please pre-register.

Harvest Moon: Tales around the Campfire, Saturday September 26 at 7 pm; gather around the campfire for marshmallow roasting and stories about the harvest moon, followed by a guided walk. (\$3/person or \$7/family)

Fun with Nature Haiku, Sunday September 27 at 2 pm. Class includes an introduction to haiku, simple mindfulness exercises and time in nature, followed by haiku writing. The class is designed for adults and teens and will be taught by Eric Ederer (\$5/person)

5 Elements Qigong, Mondays, September 28-November 30 at 6:30 pm (no class October 12 or November 9); qigong (pronounced chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. We will learn the 5 Elements, 8 Pieces of Silk Brocade and White Crane Looks Back. Qigong can be practiced by people of all ages and is enhanced by practicing in nature. (\$64/8-weeks or \$10/class, drop-in)

6. Meridian Senior Center

A. Events and Programs – held 753 events with 3,291 attendees

- 208 attended a variety of 31 events/activities such as Arts, Clubs, Genealogy, Computer Club, etc.
- 508 attended 23 lunch dates
- 810 attended 104 exercise classes
- 1,161 attended 187 game event offerings such as bingo, bridge, chess, etc.
- 168 attended 38 health screening events such as blood pressure, chair massage, foot care, etc.
- 10 attended 58 Resource Sharing events
- Loaned out equipment on 43 occasions
- 165 attended 57 media/cultural events, such as Friday Flicks, Documentary Monday, etc.
- 180 attended 62 social/special events
- 15 attended three (3) tax assistance/legal service dates
- 25 attended three (3) Advisory Board Meeting
- 28 attended three (3) off-site event
- 7 attended TCOA-Sanitation Training date

B. Volunteers

- 23 volunteers assisted the Center for a total of 430 volunteer hours

C. Professional Development/Networking

- Attended seven (7) networking events

7. The Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division

From April through June, had 8 interments to date, 0 disinterment, at Glendale Cemetery

Work Orders Completed:

- Parks: 131
- Pathways: 13
- Land Management: 2

Athletic Fields:

- Installed bases, groomed and lined baseball/softball fields; install goals, laid out and stripped soccer fields; and repaired poles, installed nets and groomed sand volleyball courts = from April-June prepared approximately 400 fields/courts for a total of approximately 458 hours (between 5-18 fields/courts per day)

Assisted staff with set up and cleaned up of 14 special events

Repaired fence along County Drain off Marsh Road, fence on Haslett Road (east of Park Lake) and other fences along Township pathways

Repaired parking bollards from Harris Nature Center

Installed gates along the Inter-Urban Pathway and at Raby Road

Staff met with Miss Digg Representative to understand the location of utilities in the Historical Village

Staff met with Nokomis Learning Center representative on assistance with grounds and building repairs

Assisted Meridian Garden Club members with garden projects in the Historical Village and in Central Park

Constructed new fence around garden in the Historical Village

Seasonal maintenance staff began work in May and June (7)

Removed and stored salt barrels used at various crosswalks and other Township locations

Opened park pavilion restrooms for the season and clean three times a week

Rolled and aerated Township parcels

Repaired and seeded around the Okemos Library building

Repaired loose boards on bridge into Historical Village

Fenced off sink hole for repairs at the Harris Nature Center

Installed new impact playground surface under play structures in the parks

Cold patched various pathway locations and Township lots

Removed trash and restocked dog waste receptacles in 18 Parks and at the Cemetery

Continued with off-road trail maintenance, removal of dead trees in building and park locations

Assisted building maintenance crew with repairs and water department with main breaks

Hung announcement banners on Township Hall site

Staff attended chain saw training and pesticide training classes

Contracted mosquito control for Central Park and Nancy Moore Park

Installed foul poles at Nancy Moore Park ball diamonds

Worked to place mulch around trees in all parks to serve as protection from mower damage

Meridian Township parks are getting lots of love

MERIDIAN TWP. — The township parks and recreation department hosted its first Love A Park Day on Saturday June 20 — and 60 volunteers turned out donating more than 200 hours of labor.

“Even though this is just our first year, we had had a terrific response from Meridian Township clubs and youth groups,” says event organizer and Park Commissioner Phil Deschaine. The Park Commission is five members elected township board and it is chaired by Todd Wilson, Mike McDonald is the Vice Chair, and Melanie Jaramillo, and Mark Stevens also serve as Park Commissioners.

Several community groups participated including the Haslett Kiwa-



COURTESY PHOTOS

Volunteers work at Harris Nature Center do clean-up work during Love a Park Day.



Boy Scout Troop 97 and the local Kiwanis Club “love” Orlando Park in Meridian Township.

washed play equipment, benches and gazebos. “Events like Love A Park Day helps us keep our parks beautiful and open as a safe place for Meridian Township residents to play and feel close to our natural environment” says Jane Greenway, Parks & Land Management Coordinator for Meridian township.

“The township staff does an outstanding job of maintaining the infrastructure. And the thousands of hours donated by our volunteer, like this Love A Park Day,” really make the parks shine and reflect the high value township residents place on our parks and nature preserves” says Deschaine.

— Meridian Township Parks and Recreation

sive species, cleaned up litter clean up, improved and maintaining natural paths, pruned trees, trimmed bushes, spread mulch, planted flowers, The volunteers pulled weeds and removed inva-

Scouts Troop 97. The parks that were “loved” were Hillbrook Park in Haslett, Harris Nature Center in Okemos, Orlando Park in Haslett, North Meridian Road

nis Club, Haslett Beautification Association, the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club, Meridian Democratic Club, Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownie troops, and Haslett Boy

Frog forage campfire at nature center June 27

Nothing says “summer in Michigan” like an evening around the campfire. Enjoy one of the best parts of camping while staying close to home by attending the Frog Forage campfire program at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, 7 p.m., Saturday June 27. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee for this activity. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866. Participants will also be roasting marshmallows and taking a guided walk through the evening woods.

Meridian Fishing Derby this Sunday

The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department is hosting its annual Meridian Fishing Derby for youth ages 5-16 on Sunday. This free event will take place at the Central Park pond in the Meridian Historical Village from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers will provide assistance with bait and a limited number of poles will be available as well. Prizes will be awarded for the largest fish, second largest fish, and most fish caught.

This event is held in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Free Fishing Weekend. This opportunity allows all residents and visitors to Michigan to fish without a license for two days. Although a license is not required for this weekend, a fishing license is recommended. The DNR offers two free fishing events to encourage outdoor recreation participation.

• Sunday, July 19, 2015 • Towne Courier

Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center

If your camper's schedule doesn't permit a week of camp, they can still connect with nature at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road by participating in a two-day nature camp for children entering kindergarten through 6th grades on July 21-22 July 28-31 and Aug. 4-5. The camps meet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and have a \$65 fee. All campers will receive a camp tee shirt. Campers must bring a sack lunch and should dress for the weather. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866.

The camps also include games, crafts, nature activities and time with live animals. Registration for all Nature Camps is ongoing.

Two-day Nature Camps include themes of *Feathery Friends*, *Animal Seekers* and *Nature's Artists* for kids entering kindergarten and 1st grade; *Grossology*, *Bug Me*, and *Nature's Artists II* for kids entering 2nd and 3rd grades; *CSI: Critter Scene Investigations*, *River Explorations* and *Earth Friends* for kids entering 4th through 6th grades. Please call or check the Meridian Township website for the exact dates of each camp.

• Sunday, July 12, 2015 • Towne Courier

Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center

If your camper's schedule doesn't permit a week of camp, they can still connect with nature at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road by participating in a two-day

nature camp for children entering kindergarten through 6th grades on July 21-22 July 28-31 and Aug. 4-5. The camps meet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and have a \$65 fee. All campers will receive a camp tee shirt. Campers must bring a sack lunch and should dress for the weather. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866.

The camps also include games, crafts, nature activities and time with live animals. Registration for all Nature Camps is ongoing.

Two-day Nature Camps include themes of *Feathery Friends*, *Animal Seekers* and *Nature's Artists* for kids entering kindergarten and 1st grade; *Grossology*, *Bug Me*, and *Nature's Artists II* for kids entering 2nd and 3rd grades; *CSI: Critter Scene Investigations*, *River Explorations* and *Earth Friends* for kids entering 4th through 6th grades. Please call or check the Meridian Township website for the exact dates of each camp.

• Sunday, July 5, 2015 • Towne Courier

Meridian hosts Music in Village each Wednesday

The Meridian Historical Village hosts music concerts Wednesday evenings to enjoy a 20-year-old township tradition. The Music in the Village Concert Series is a six-week series that offers a wide range of musical styles. All concerts begin at 7 p.m. and most evenings include two groups: one begins at 7 p.m. and the second begins at 7:45 p.m.

Concerts will be

Wednesdays through July 29. Admission is free and refreshments will be available for purchase.

• Sunday, July 12, 2015 • Towne Courier

Meridian seeks input for Central Park improvements

The Meridian Township Park Commission is seeking input for improvements to Central Park in group meetings 3:30-4:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday July 15, Town Hall room Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road.

Residents are invited to attend one of the meetings to share thoughts and creative ideas on ways to update the park. Consisting of 279 acres, not only is Central Park in the heart of the Township, but it also houses the Meridian Historical Village, Farmers' Market, Central Park South, and Nancy Moore Park. This heavily trafficked area is in need of improvements to better use the space. Follow-up meetings will be held on July 28 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and July 29, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. To learn more about the design process and future Open Studio times, call 517-853-4608.

• Sunday, July 5, 2015 • Towne Courier

Harris Nature Center campfire set for July 11

Nothing says "summer in Michigan" like an evening around the campfire. Enjoy one of the best parts of campin while staying close to home by attending the Fantastic Fireflies campfire program at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, 7 p.m. Saturday July 11. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee for this activity. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866. Participants will roast marshmallows and take guided walk through the woods.

• Sunday, July 5, 2015 • Towne Courier

Nature camps offered at Harris Nature Center

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road is offering a camps for toddlers through eighth graders through Aug. 7. This year there will be one-day camps, two-day camps and four-day camps. The fees vary, depending on the camp, but all campers will receive a camp T-shirt. Participants can receive an "early bird" discount by registering before June 1. Families can choose between 1-day, 2-day or 4-day as fits into their personal schedule. Many camps include lunch with the counselors. Each week there are different camp topics available for preschool through 6th grade campers. A full description of the Nature Connection Camp is available at www.meridian.mi.us or people can call the nature center at 517-349-3866 to receive a camp brochure. For a registration form or more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Meridian Township seeking input on Central Park's future

MERIDIAN TWP. — The Meridian Township Park Commission is seeking input for planned improvements to Central Park.

Comprised of 279 acres, the park is in the heart of the township and houses the Meridian Historical Village, Farmers' Market, Central Park South, and Nancy Moore Park. This heavily trafficked needs improvements to better utilize the space and the Park Commission wants residents

and stake holders to attend an important planning session.

The design team from O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates will lead a two-day participatory design meeting to obtain input regarding a vision for Central Park and develop the ideas.

Here is the meeting schedule: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, July 28; 9 a.m. 2 p.m., July 29 at the Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road.

The public is invited to drop in at any point during either of the sessions to share their ideas. Once the final draft is adopted, the park commission will work toward implementation.

To learn more about the design process and future Open Studio times, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 517-853-4608.

— Meridian Township Park Commission

Towne Courier • Sunday, July 26, 2015

Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center

If your camper's schedule doesn't permit a week of camp, they can still connect with nature at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road by participating in a two-day nature camp for children entering kindergarten through 6th grades July 28-31 and Aug. 4-5. The camps meet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and have a \$65 fee. All campers will receive a camp tee shirt. Campers must bring a sack lunch and should dress for the weather. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866.

Nature Camps include themes of *Feathery Friends*, *Animal Seekers* and *Nature's Artists* for kids entering kindergarten and 1st grade; *Grossology*, *Bug Me*, and *Nature's Artists II* for kids entering 2nd and 3rd grades; *CSI: Critter Scene Investigations*, *River Explorations* and *Earth Friends* for kids entering 4th through 6th grades. Call or check the Meridian Township website for the dates of each camp.

Towne Courier • Sunday, July 26, 2015

Full moon walk in woods takes place July 31

Enjoy the full moon while taking a guided walk through the moonlit woods of the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, 9 p.m. July 31. Meet in the parking lot. The fee for the walk is \$3/person due at the time of the walk. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866. Participants are reminded that dogs must be on non-retractable leashes and flashlights are permitted but not a necessity.

For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Towne Courier • Sunday, July 19, 2015

Nature center hosts Bat time campfire

Enjoy one of the best parts of camping while staying close to home by attending the Bat Time campfire program at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, 7 p.m. Saturday July 25. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee for this activity. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866. Participants will also be roasting marshmallows and taking a guided walk through the evening woods. The final date for Summer Campfires is Aug. 1 for the program *Once Upon a Blue Moon*. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 517-349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us.

MONDAY
 JUNE 22, 2015



PHOTOS BY ROBERT KILLIPS/THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Ashley Fooy, left, assistant naturalist at the Harris Nature Center, shows a technique for capturing insects during the Insect Safari with Dad on Sunday.

JUSTIN A. HINKLEY
 LANSING STATE JOURNAL

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP — The hunters moved tentatively into the tall grass — taller than some of their heads — and steered their gaze on their prey as sweat came to their brows and their backs.

A flick of the wrist, a swoop of the net.

“Daddy, I got one! I got one!”

A handful of families gathered Sunday at Legg Park for an Insect Safari with Dad event, hosted by the Harris Nature Center in honor of Father’s Day.

Ashley Fooy, assistant naturalist at the center, showed the youngsters proper net-swooping techniques — “Sneaking in that aspect of respecting nature,” Fooy said — while dads followed with jars for collecting the ants, beetles, grasshoppers and other crawlers captured by the kids. The program was strictly catch-and-release, but it gave the kids a chance to see the bugs up close and learn a bit about thoraxes, antlers and six-legged beings.

Among the hunters was 8-year-old Lexie Wilson, of

BUGGIN’ DAD ON DAD’S DAY



Todd Wilson and his son, Ethan, 4, check out the insect they caught at the Insect Safari with Dad event at Legg Park on Sunday.

Okemos, toting an insect field guide she’d discovered among her dad’s old books. While she hunted with Dad, Todd, her 4-year-old brother Ethan worked with Mom, Nicole.

Todd Wilson said the family had come out just looking for something to do on the warm, sunny Sunday, but he said he hoped the kids would walk away with “an appreciation for nature, enjoying being outside, a love of learning.”

Fooy said the Insect Safari was the perfect way to celebrate Father’s Day. It was time out in the field with her own father that fostered her affection for the outdoors.

“A love of nature is something that’s meant to be shared,” she said. “It’s something I always loved doing with my dad.”

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2015

Media Contact: LuAnn Maisner
Director of Parks & Recreation
maisner@meridian.mi.us
517.853.4608

Meridian Township Park Commission Requests Residents' Input *Focus Groups Scheduled to Discuss Central Park Master Plan*

Meridian Township, MI — The Meridian Township Park Commission is seeking input for planned improvements to Central Park and will be holding focus group meetings later this month. Residents are invited to attend one of the meetings to share thoughts and creative ideas on ways to update the park.

Consisting of 279 acres, not only is Central Park in the heart of the Township, but it also houses the Meridian Historical Village, Farmers' Market, Central Park South, and Nancy Moore Park. This heavily trafficked area is in need of improvements to better utilize the space.

Focus Group Meetings:

When: Wednesday, July 15th

Time: 3:30 - 4:30 pm and 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Where: Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos 48864)

Follow-up meetings of Open Studio times will be held on July 28th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and July 29th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Once the final draft is adopted, the Park Commission will work toward implementation.

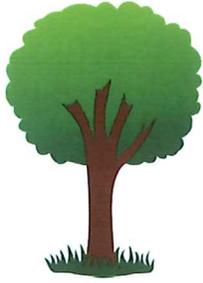
To learn more about the design process and future Open Studio times, please call the Parks & Recreation at 517.853.4608.

###

2100 GAYLORD C. SMITH COURT, HASLETT, MICHIGAN 48840 517.853.4600

www.meridian.mi.us





FOCUS GROUP INVITATION CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN We need your ideas!

New and Improved Central Park

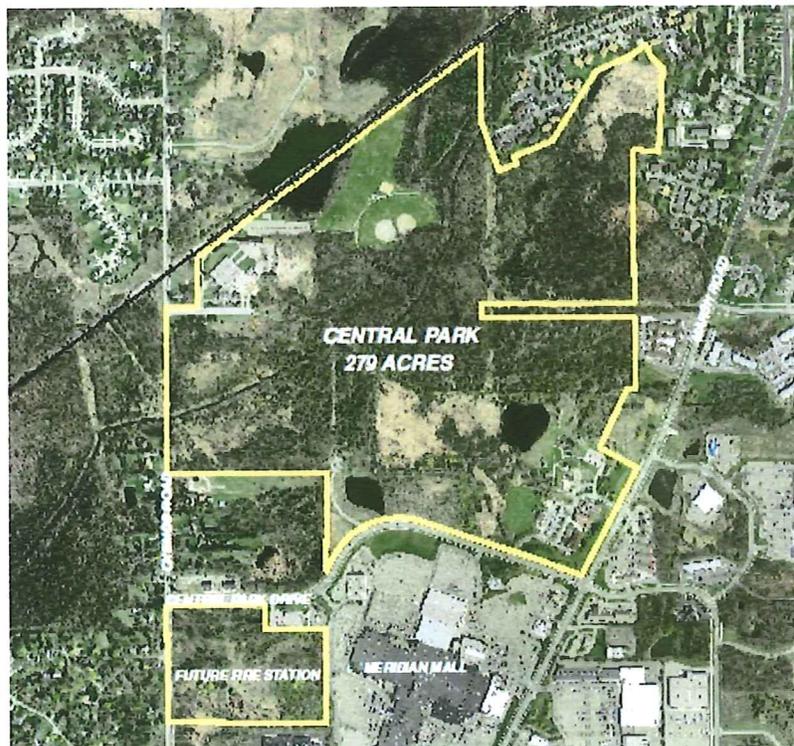
- The Meridian Township Park Commission is seeking input for planned improvements to Central Park
- Central Park consists of 279 acres in the heart of Meridian that include the Historical Village, Farmers' Market, Central Park South, and Nancy Moore Park
- Please join us to share your thoughts and creative ideas

Focus Group Meetings

You are invited to attend one of the following focus group meetings on **Wednesday, July 15, 2015:**

- 3:30pm – 4:30pm
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm

The meetings will take place at the Meridian Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos 48864



To learn more about the design process and future Open Studio times, visit our website at www.meridian.mi.us or call us at 517-853-4604

Please RSVP to faust@meridian.mi.us



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24, 2015

Media Contact:

LuAnn Maisner, Director
Department of Parks & Recreation
maisner@meridian.mi.us
517.853.4600

Participatory Design Charrettes Planned

Two-day Open Studio Meeting to Discuss Central Park Master Plan

Meridian Township, MI — The Meridian Township Park Commission is seeking input for planned improvements to Central Park. Consisting of 279 acres, Central Park is located the heart of the township and houses the Meridian Historical Village, Farmers' Market, Central Park South, and Nancy Moore Park. This heavily trafficked area is in need of improvements to better utilize the space.

The Park Commission is inviting residents and stake holders to this very important open studio planning session.

Design Charrette/Open Studio Meetings:

When: Tuesday, July 28th

Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Where: Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos 48864)

When: Wednesday, July 29th

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos 48864)

The design team from O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates will lead a two-day participatory design charrette, which will provide the opportunity to obtain a great deal of input regarding the vision for Central Park, quickly communicate the input graphically, and develop the ideas. In this manner, creative, dynamic design ideas can be explored and refined in a collaborative manner with stakeholder's direct involvement.

The public is invited to drop in at any point during either of the sessions to provide their input. Once the final draft is adopted, the Park Commission will work toward implementation. To learn more about the design process and future Open Studio times, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 517.853.4608.

###

2100 GAYLORD C. SMITH COURT, HASLETT, MICHIGAN 48840 517.853.4600

www.meridian.mi.us



Park Commission Meeting
August 11, 2015

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Central Park Master Plan Update
(Focus Groups and Open Studio)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: August 7, 2015

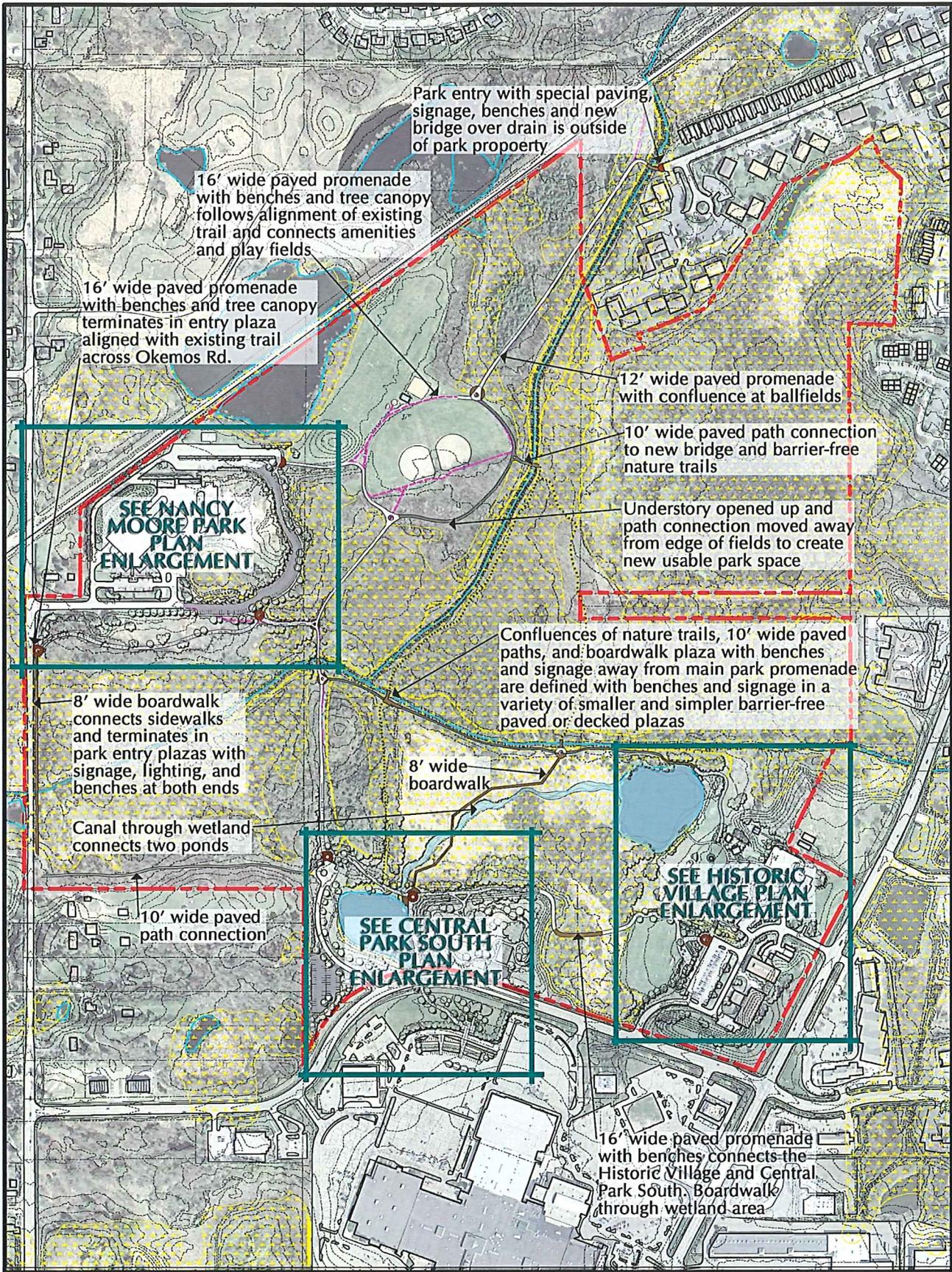
RE: Central Park Master Plan

Planning for the Central Park Master Plan began with the kick-off meeting on May 28 with staff members of the Parks and Recreation Department, Sandy Bleisener from O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Associates and Wes Langdon from GEI Consultants. The first part of the day was spent providing and reviewing former documents about the park, base maps, site maps and current information about the park. The second half was spend on evaluating site conditions and determining opportunities and constraints. (meeting minutes attached)

Focus group meetings were held on July 15 to obtain community input for consideration during the Open Studio/Charrette phase. Two meeting times were offered; 3:30-4:30 and 5:30-6:30pm. (meeting minutes attached)

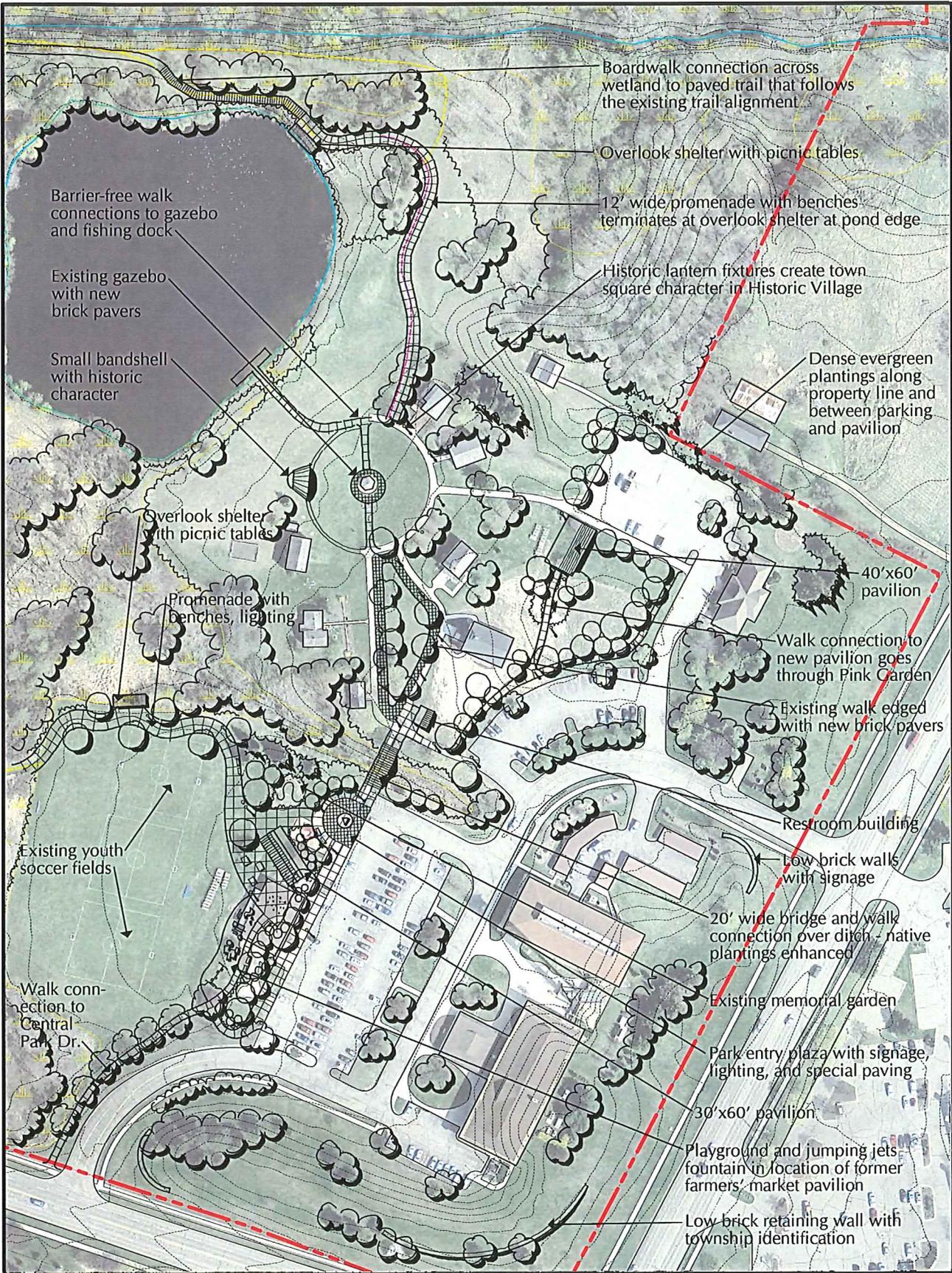
The Open Studio sessions were held on July 28 and 29 where Sandy and Wes drew various versions of plan ideas while the public dropped in to visit and offer their ideas.

Draft plans are included in your packet for discussion. I will make a power point presentation on Tuesday to discuss in detail the elements of the plan thus far.



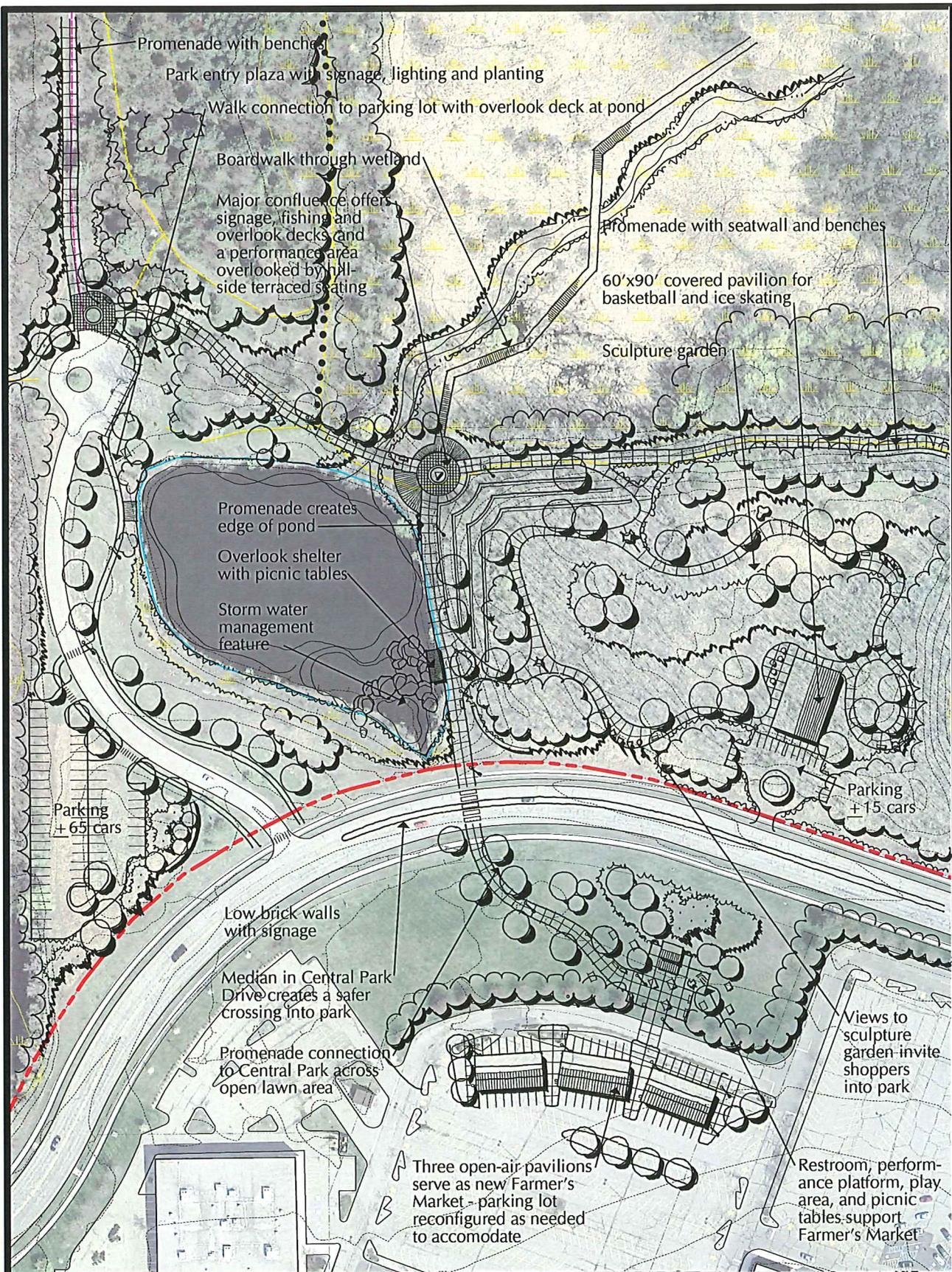
Overall Park Development Plan

Central Park Master Plan



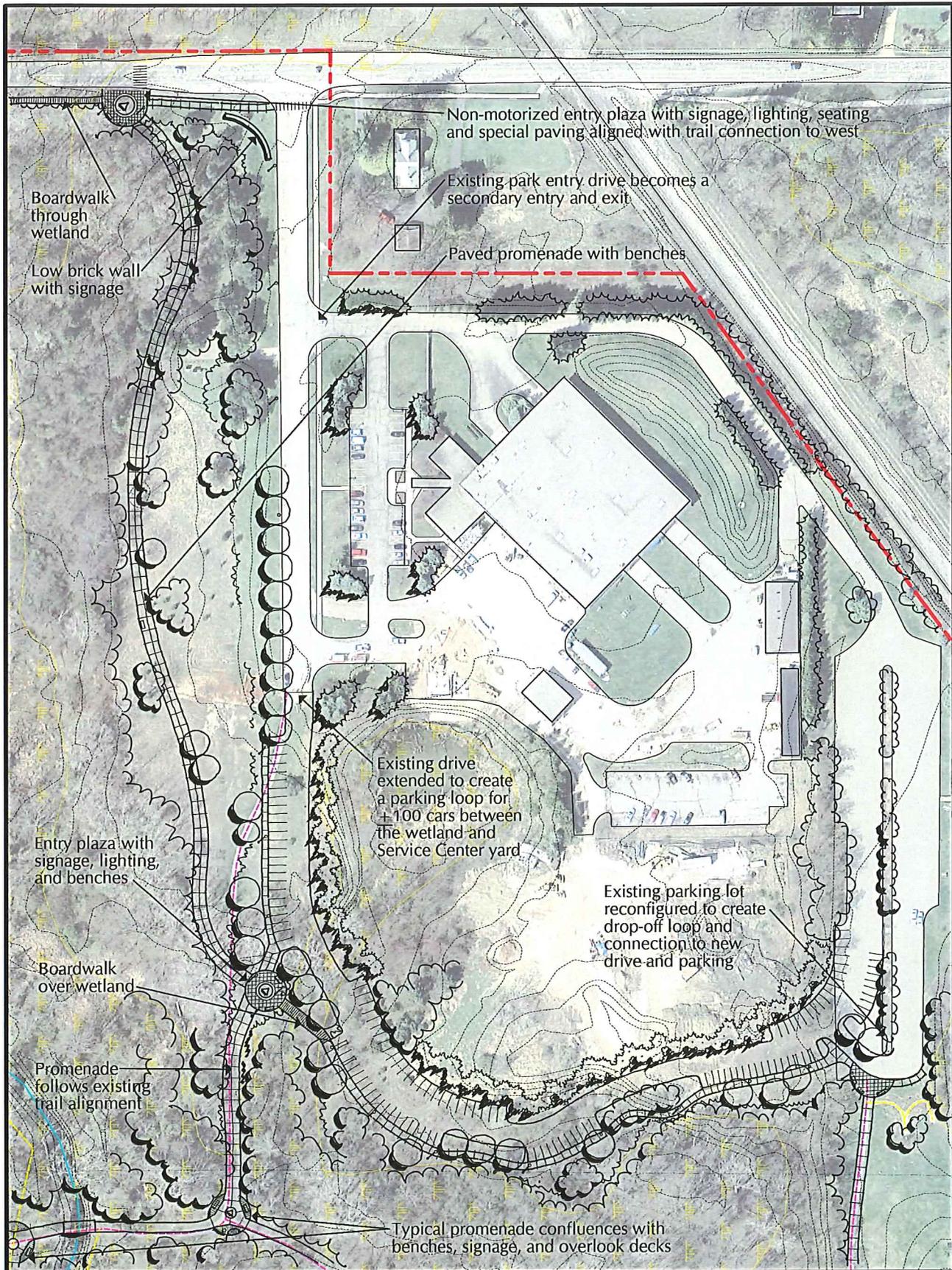
Historic Village Plan Enlargement

Central Park Master Plan



Central Park South Plan Enlargement

Central Park Master Plan



Nancy Moore Plan Enlargement

Central Park Master Plan

Minutes of Meeting



Date: 2 June 2015

Present: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation
Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator
Wes Landon, GEI Consultants
Sandy Bliesener, O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc. (OCBA)

Date Held: 28 May 2015

Project: Central Park Master Plan
Meridian Township, Michigan

A start-up meeting was held to review the scope of the project, discuss the work plan and schedule, and pick up plans and reports that have been previously prepared. The following items were discussed:

1. The goal of the project is to create an identity for, spruce up, and renovate the park; provide curb appeal for the township buildings; and explore creative opportunities for the development of a community-wide recreation and activity destination.
2. LuAnn and Jane provided a Development Plan for the park that was created in 2012. It includes a mission, intent, design process outline, site and natural features inventory, list of stakeholders, and many design ideas which we discussed in greater detail as follows:
 - a. The Lederbuhr property is one of the few areas of the park that is high and dry, but the soils are unstable and not suitable for building construction. The idea of developing a covered basketball court with coils built into the slab to facilitate ice skating in winter has been discussed.
 - b. The Farmer's Market could be moved to the unused portion of the mall parking lot that is south of the Central Park South lot and pond. An open air structure could be built in the paved area, and park elements such as picnic areas, restrooms, area for music performance, etc. could be located in the large adjacent lawn area.
 - c. The existing Famer's Market pavilion needs to be rebuilt, and could serve many groups that it doesn't currently because of the intensive all-day Saturday use, including soccer picnics, wedding receptions, school groups, etc. The concept could be drawn both with and without the Farmer's Market.

- d. The Historic Village could use restrooms and a pavilion so that receptions could be held there to support the many weddings that occur in the chapel.
 - e. An opportunity exists to create a "100 years in 100 yards" experience between the Nokomis Center and the log cabin in the Historic Village to tell the story of the Native American history in the area. The Nokomis Center is struggling however, and its future is unclear at this point.
 - f. The idea of placing some sort of feature that identifies the township in the berm along the east and south sides of the buildings has been discussed.
3. After a lengthy discussion about the process and public input sessions, the following project schedule and dates were determined:

17 June 2015 – Nelson Room, Public Safety Building

1:00- 3:00 – Input Session with Parks Department Staff

OCBA and GEI present site analysis and opportunities and constraints diagrams and a list of potential program elements for Central Park. Parks Department Staff provide feedback and input, and add to (or delete from) the list.

3:30-4:30 and 5:30-6:30 – Focus Group Meetings

OCBA and GEI will provide a condensed presentation of the information from the staff session, and elicit focused input from the groups (determined by Meridian Township) represented.

15-16 July 2015 – Commission Meeting Room, Township Administration Bldg.

1st Day

9:00 -10:00 – Visioning session with Parks Commission – OCBA and GEI present site analysis and opportunities and constraints diagrams and the list of potential program elements as determined by staff and the focus groups.

10:00 – 5:00 – Open Studio – Stakeholders (commission members, focus group invitees, etc.), staff and the public are welcome to drop in to see where we're at and provide input. (It would be helpful if Parks Staff could be available intermittently throughout the day – especially around the lunch hour - to walk drop-ins through the process).

7:00 – 8:00 – Public Reporting Session – OCBA and GEI present the work completed during the day, and document input and feedback.

2nd Day

8:00 – 2:00 – Open Studio – Stakeholders (commission members, focus group invitees, etc.), staff and the public are welcome to drop in to see where we're at and provide input. (It would be helpful if Parks Staff could be available intermittently throughout the day – especially around the lunch hour - to walk drop-ins through the process).

3:00 – 4:00 – Public Meeting Presentation – OCBA and GEI present the final charrette master plan and supporting graphics.

4. Jane asked Sandy to send examples of invitations to the various sessions so they can get invitations out soon.

The aforementioned constitutes our opinion of matters discussed with decisions reached. If there are any corrections, additions, or deletions, please contact the undersigned within five (5) days of receipt of this memo.

Respectfully,

O'BOYLE, COWELL, BLALOCK, & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Sandra J. Bliesener, LLA, LEED AP
Principal

SJB/atr

Copies: Attendees

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 22 July 2015

Present: See attached sign-in sheets

Date Held: 15 July 2015

Project: Central Park Master Plan
Meridian Township, Michigan

Three separate focus group meetings were held on July 15, 2015, to review inventory and analysis findings, potential program elements, and goals and objectives of project stakeholders. The first focus group meeting was held at 1pm with Central Park Staff members, and the last two meetings were held at 3:30pm and 5:30pm with stakeholders from throughout the community. The notes from these meetings have been consolidated and are outlined below. Items mentioned multiple times are preceded with an asterisk (*).

1pm Focus group Meeting Comments – Central Park Staff Members

Nancy Moore Park

- Pavilion should be closer to parking lot.
- Maintenance area and dumping facility to the east of the Meridian Township Service Center is larger than the space the maintenance staff needs and could be repurposed if needed.

Central Park South

- *One of the most popular destinations within the park. Needs to be made prominent feature.
- Possible pavilion location.
- Want fishing opportunities here
- *Need improved water quality
- *Want paved trails in this area

Farmers' Market

- *Current facility too small to accommodate farmers' market.
- *Move the farmers' market!
- *Restroom facilities not adequate.

- Bigger play structures.
- *Separate pavilion and restrooms.
- *Parking is dangerous and inadequate especially on Saturdays.

Historical Village

- Open up pond.
- *Restroom facilities not adequate.
- *Any development must have the historical feel.

Central Park - Miscellaneous

- *Need better N/S & E/W connections throughout park.
- Paths need to facilitate maintenance equipment.
- *Want more paved trails.
- *Want more open connections.
- Nokomis needs better identification to help draw people in from off-site and on-site.
- *Need more universal accessibility for fields (access to baseball, soccer, etc.)
- Off-leash dog park not needed and wouldn't be utilized.
- *Many existing trail areas are very wet and would need to become boardwalks if they were developed.
- Make safe connection to inter-urban trail.
- Add wigwam to Nokomis site.

3:30pm & 5:30pm Focus group Meeting Comments – Community Stakeholders

Nancy Moore Park

- More options for sports fields.
- *Feels like a separate park.

Central Park South

- *Needs water quality improved.
- More benches.
- *Skywalk from Mall to Central Park.
- *Covered ice rink with pavilion and basketball in the summer. Mixed use spaces. Ledebuhr site.
- Zip Line – Ledebuhr site.

- Ledebuhr site can accommodate light development.

Farmers' Market

- *Parking not adequate.
- *Move market across road to mall site.
- *Not enough space at current site.
- *Keep pavilion.
- *Farmers' market should stay; it's a gathering point and draws people into the Historical Village and surrounding areas.
- Expand farmers' market.
- *Use as anchor for site.
- Poor visibility.
- *Very challenging site when busy.
- Playground is a hazard due to proximity to vehicles.
- Move the soccer fields.
- Good spot for splash pad.

Historical Village

- *Have canoe and paddle boat rental.
- Have bait shop to be run by local kids for fishing near pond.
- Create a fishable boardwalk all around pond.
- *Need better navigational signage and educational signage for Historical Village buildings.
- *Pavilion behind chapel.
- *New restrooms (currently no public bathrooms).
- Act as focal point for village square.
- *Building for reception near Historical Village.
- *No visibility due to berms. Remove and make off-site and on-site visibility better.
- *Want amphitheater for music in the park.
- *Define entry better.
- *Parking not sufficient.
- Water fowl waste around pond an issue.
- More gathering areas.

Central Park – Miscellaneous

- *Signage: Welcome signs, navigational signs, and educational signs.
- *Support and celebrate Meridian Township's diverse community demographics.
- *Celebrate community heritage.
- Heritage tree program: Highlight natural resources (have champion big tree on-site)
- *Natural features inventory.
- *Treat invasive species.
- *Create safe linkage between park and mall.
- *Community garden
- Recycling
- *Improve connections to off-site features.
- Fitness stations
- *Ice rink/Splash pad
- Interactive destination for kids of all ages.
- Maintain existing features of the park that are doing well.
- Dog park.
- *Create gateways for entering site. Create sense of place.
- *More activities.

Trails

- *Want more paved trail connections.
- *Safe connection to inter-urban trail – tunnel under tracks?
- *Fix wet trails that are currently unusable.
- *Create mountain bike trail
- *Want accessible paths.
- *Repair damaged bridge.
- *Numbered trail map with appropriate wayfinding signage.
- River trail.
- *Want improved access to natural areas.
- *Want mixed purpose trails; running, biking.

Nokomis

- Botanical garden focused on Native American Plants.
- Amphitheater for Heritage Festival.
- Outdoor learning circle with natural seating, path, and fire pit.
- *Improve landscaping.

At the end of the discussion groups were asked to vote for the type of development they'd like to see implemented at Central Park based on their reactions to representative photos of three different development styles. These styles were;

- (A) Nature as the focal point of the design, with development becoming secondary
- (B) Nature and development mixed and balanced regarding their implementation and significance
- (C) Development becoming the focal point with nature as a backdrop.

The results of the votes are as follows: A-7, B-24, and C-3. It also should be noted that not everyone voted, and some stakeholders expressed that they'd like to blend all three development styles.

The aforementioned constitutes our opinion of matters discussed with decisions reached. If there are any corrections, additions, or deletions, please contact the undersigned within five (5) days of receipt of this memo.

Respectfully,

O'BOYLE, COWELL, BLALOCK, & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Sandra J. Bliesener, LLA, LEED AP
Principal

SJB/wl

Copies: LuAnn Maisner
Jane Greenway
Wes Landon
Sandy Bliesener