



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2015
TOWN HALL ROOM
MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING**



WORK SESSION 6 PM

(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Central Park RFQ**
4. **Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage**
5. **Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony**
6. **Other**
7. **Public Comment**
8. **Adjournment**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations** (goldenrod)
 - a. Eagle Scout Candidate Steven Harrelson, construct prairie fence behind log cabin in Historical Village
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. January 13, 2015 Work Session Minutes
 - b. January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)
8. **Director's Report** (yellow)

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.

9. **New Business** (pink)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Eagle Scout Project Approval
 - b. Sander Farm Natural Area Lease and Open Space Easement Renewal
 - c. 2015 Grant Projects – Set date for Public Hearings
 - d. Schedule interview meeting date for Central Park Master Plan RFQ

10. **Unfinished Business** (green)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.

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

12. **Discussion Items** (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.

13. **Final Comments**

14. **Announcements**
 - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2015, Town Hall
 - b. Farmers' Market: Saturdays; February 21 and March 7, 10 am-2 pm; Meridian Mall
 - c. Family Weekend Winter Fun Events:
 - February 14: Meridian Youth Ice Fishing Derby
 - February 20, 21 & 22: Target Practice at MSU Demmer Center
 - February 22: Wildlife Identification: Reptiles at Harris Nature Center
 - February 28: Moonlight Ski and Shoe at Harris Nature Center
 - d. 2nd Annual Meridian Township Snowman/Snow Sculpture Contest picture deadline, March 5
 - e. Chinese New Year Celebration: Saturday, February 21; 2-6 pm in Meridian Mall

15. **Public Remarks**

16. **Closed Session**

17. **Adjournment**

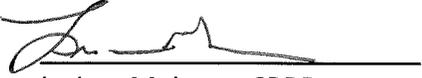
Park Commission Meeting
February 10, 2015

WORK SESSION

- 3. Central Park RFQ**
- 4. Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage**
- 5. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 5, 2015

RE: Work Session Agenda Items

Central Park Request for Qualifications

A total of five proposals were received for planning and design services for Central Park. All proposals will be forwarded to you for review. The next step is to schedule interviews with each firm. Evaluation criteria will be presented to you at the meeting for discussion. A tentative time for the interviews is 2pm-7m on either February 18, 19 or 20.

Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage

Commissioner McDonald and I attended a special meeting of the Ingham County Parks Commission meeting on January 26, 2015 to learn of the County's plan for implementation and disbursement of funds. The meeting consisted of a presentation of a state-wide trail system and public comment.

On February 5, I attended a meeting of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners Parks and Trails Task Force meeting which is chaired by former Meridian Township Park Commissioner, Teri Banas. I have included in your packet the information that was distributed to the task force from Ingham County staff.

Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony 2014

Once again it is time to honor our loyal volunteers from 2014. National Volunteer Week takes place April 12-18 and thought it would be nice to follow in this national campaign and host our event during our meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. I look forward to discussing the event in greater detail on Tuesday.

Chairperson
Teri Banas

Vice-Chairperson
Penelope Tsernoglou

**Ingham County
Trails And Parks Task Force**



Members
Sarah Anthony
Rebecca Bahar-Cook
Robin Case Naeyaert
Bryan Crenshaw
Kara Hope
Carol Koenig
Randy Maiville
Deb Nolan
Todd Tennis

THE TRAILS AND PARKS TASK FORCE WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5,
2015 AT 6:00 PM, IN CONFERENCE ROOMS D AND E OF THE HUMAN SERVICES
BUILDING, 5303 S. CEDAR, LANSING.

Agenda

Call to Order
Additions to the Agenda
Limited Public Comment

1. Long Range Planning
 - a. Overview of Master Plan
 - b. Trailways Component of Master Plan

2. Short Range (2015) Projects
 - a. Known Projects/Challenges (i.e. River Trail)
 - b. Municipal Participation/Partnerships
 - c. Prioritization

3. Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

Announcements
Public Comment
Adjournment

Informational Material is Attached

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners will be present.

Ingham County Park Projects / Maintenance

Park Specific Needs		
Burchfield	Lake Lansing	Hawk Island
Aquatic weed control	Ballfield upgrades	Aquatic weed control
Ballfield upgrades	Beach house renovation	Boardwalk/fishing dock maintenance
Basketball court maintenance	BL & LLN Entrance signs	Boat dock repair/replacement - 508
Bridge/boardwalk repair/replacement (trails)	BL gate replacement	Building mechanicals
Building staining & painting	Boat dock replacement LLS - 508	Dog park dock -508
Disc golf - upgrades - 508	Cross country ski rental - 508	Dog park improvements - 508
Ext. lighting repair	Perimeter fence replacement LLS	Fish stocking
Fish stocking	Playground replacement - LLN - 2	Pathway maintenance
Picnic area drain system	Sidewalk replacement	Pump house structure
Playground replacement	Trail maintenance	Splashpad maintenance/upgrades
Plumbing maintenance	Tree maintenance / reforestation	
Replace entrance gates	Trikes	
Sidewalk replacement	Wedding gazebo - 508	
Signage repair & replacement		
Tree maintenance		
Water line & fountain maintenance		
General Maintenance- All Parks		
Beach maintenance	Parking lot improvements	Turf maintenance
Building mechanicals	Playground maintenance - fibar	Volleyball court maintenance
Landscaping	Roof replacements	Fertilization
Parking lot improvements	Shelter ceiling maintenance - 508/208	
General		
Park Security	Reduce parking fees or # days charged	Boat replacement - 508
Vehicle replacement	Reinstate beach hours	Seasonal staffing -508/208
Equipment replacement	Reinstate free days	Funding for conferences and training
New		
AED's all parks	Cabana - Burchfield - 508	Off road wheelchairs
Archery equipment & instruction -DNR	County stewardship program + FT Naturalist	Pave LLS parking lot
Archery Tag - (508)	Disc golf - LLN - 508	Permanent ski rental building
Assistant Manager I *	Dog park – LLN - 508 (if fees)	POS system for all revenue areas
Beach waterslide - Burchfield	Funding for grant matches	Praire Restoration - Riverbend
Boardwalk extension - Hawk Island	Improve accessibility - all parks + dog park pathway	Replace WSB picnic tables with chairs and tables
Bounce house-Burchfield/Hawk Isl-508	Interactive trail signage	Restroom @ Burchfield (Overlook area)
Build yurts for rental - Burchfield	Marketing/outreach budget/ + staff	Eco friendly sealer-new Burchfield dock
Butterfly garden / Concert seating	New type watercraft rental-water trikes	Cabanas (2) – Hawk Island - 508
508 - Enterprise Fund 208 - Operating Fund	*Per Budget office Asst. Manager position was eliminated. To establish new position -County process would need to be followed.	

From: Morgan, Timothy
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 9:31 AM
To: Carol Koenig; Cypher, Jared; Czarnecki, John; Fraser, Karen; Jonathan Schelke (jonathanschelke31@gmail.com); Kevin Duffy; Matthew Bennett; Michael Rice; Monsma, Ralph; Nicholls, Sarah; Patrick Lindemann; Penelope Tsernoglou; Pratt, Paul; Wallace, Nicole
Subject: CDC Took kit for health through Parks and Trails

FYI-

Thought this was very interesting... I have attached the actual toolkit document it references.

See you all again on Monday....

I appreciated everyone's input at the Commission meeting last night. Look forward to the planning process that we are undertaking.

Sincerely,

Tim

Tim Morgan, CPRP
Director, Ingham County Parks
121 E. Maple St., Suite 102
Mason, Michigan 48854
517-676-2233
tmorgan@ingham.org
www.inghamcountyparks.org

For immediate release: Wednesday, November 12, 2014
Contact: NCEH/ATSDR Office of Communication, (770) 488-0700

Press Release

CDC releases new tools to improve community health through parks and trails

In the 19th century, Frederick Law Olmsted, famous landscape architect in the 1800s, said that great public parks, such as his proposed Greensward (New York's Central Park), would function as the "lungs of the city"—green open spaces where city residents could breathe clean air. -

To encourage outdoor activity today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed a parks and trails toolkit that will help communities create parks with expanded health benefits. In addition to Olmsted's observations, access to parks can help kids get the 60 minutes of aerobic physical activity each day recommended to maintain good health. According to the 2014 CDC State Indicator Report on Physical Activity, less than 30 percent of youth (grades 9-12) in the United States get this recommended amount of aerobic physical activity. Additionally, more than 25 percent of adults report no leisure-time physical activity. Being physically active is one of the most important steps Americans of all ages can take to improve their health.

The Parks and Trails Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Toolkit has six components to empower individuals and help community planners address health when designing parks and trails. This

framework allows public health departments, city planners, project managers, community groups, and other stakeholders work together to create healthier environments.

The toolkit includes:

- **Resources** that provide data about health issues in an area, for example, childhood obesity rates, mortality rates, or percent of low birth weight babies
- **Recommendations** from existing HIAs, including ways to improve access by evaluating park entry points and support physical activity that can help improve cardiovascular health
- **Citations** that support the recommendations

"The closer a person lives to a park or trail, the more likely they are to walk or bike to those places; and if they can walk or bike, research suggests they are more likely to use it," said Arthur Wendel, M.D., M.P.H., head of CDC's Healthy Community Design Initiative in the National Center for Environmental Health. "Unfortunately, lack of access, because of distance or dangerous routes, can create a barrier to healthy choices."

CDC is working with health departments throughout the country to learn about and use the principles of HIA. This tool focuses on how parks and trails can contribute to public health by highlighting key issues such as lack of access to parks and trails and encouraging physical activity.

In Omaha Nebraska, the Douglas County Health Department used funds from a 2011 CDC Healthy Community Design Initiative grant to complete an HIA on the Adams Park master plan. Before the Adams Park HIA, a park master plan had been completed that called for creating an urban farming and community gardening center in the park; however, the master plan did not address the neighborhood surrounding the park. The Adams Park HIA prompted the City of Omaha Planning Department to identify an oversight agency to implement gardening and food production in a series of empty lots near the park. The HIA also led to an increase in the number of entrances planned for the park, which will make the park more accessible to the 2,000 people living near Adams Park in the years to come.

In partnership with the City of Greenville, the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH) completed an HIA that was used to create the parks, trails, and green space component of the city's West Side Comprehensive Plan. The plan is part of the redevelopment of an economically depressed area just west of downtown. Recommendations include a park with easy access, walking paths, basketball courts, open grassy areas, playfields, a community garden, and event space. The community anticipates that increased access to the park will improve the area's low rates of physical activity. The HIA led to stronger local involvement in the planning process; as a result, the design of the park reflects residents' desires. A potential park site has been identified and the City adopted a park master plan informed by the HIA in 2013.

Parks and trails can be a crucial component of addressing physical inactivity, injuries, mental health, and exposures to pollution. "The toolkit can help communities assess how everyone— regardless of age, ethnicity, race, income, or ability—can enjoy parks and trails often, easily, and safely," Wendel said.

To learn more about CDC's new Parks and Trails HIA Toolkit, visit: http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/parks_trails/default.htm

To learn more about CDC's HIA grantees, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/stories/default.htm>

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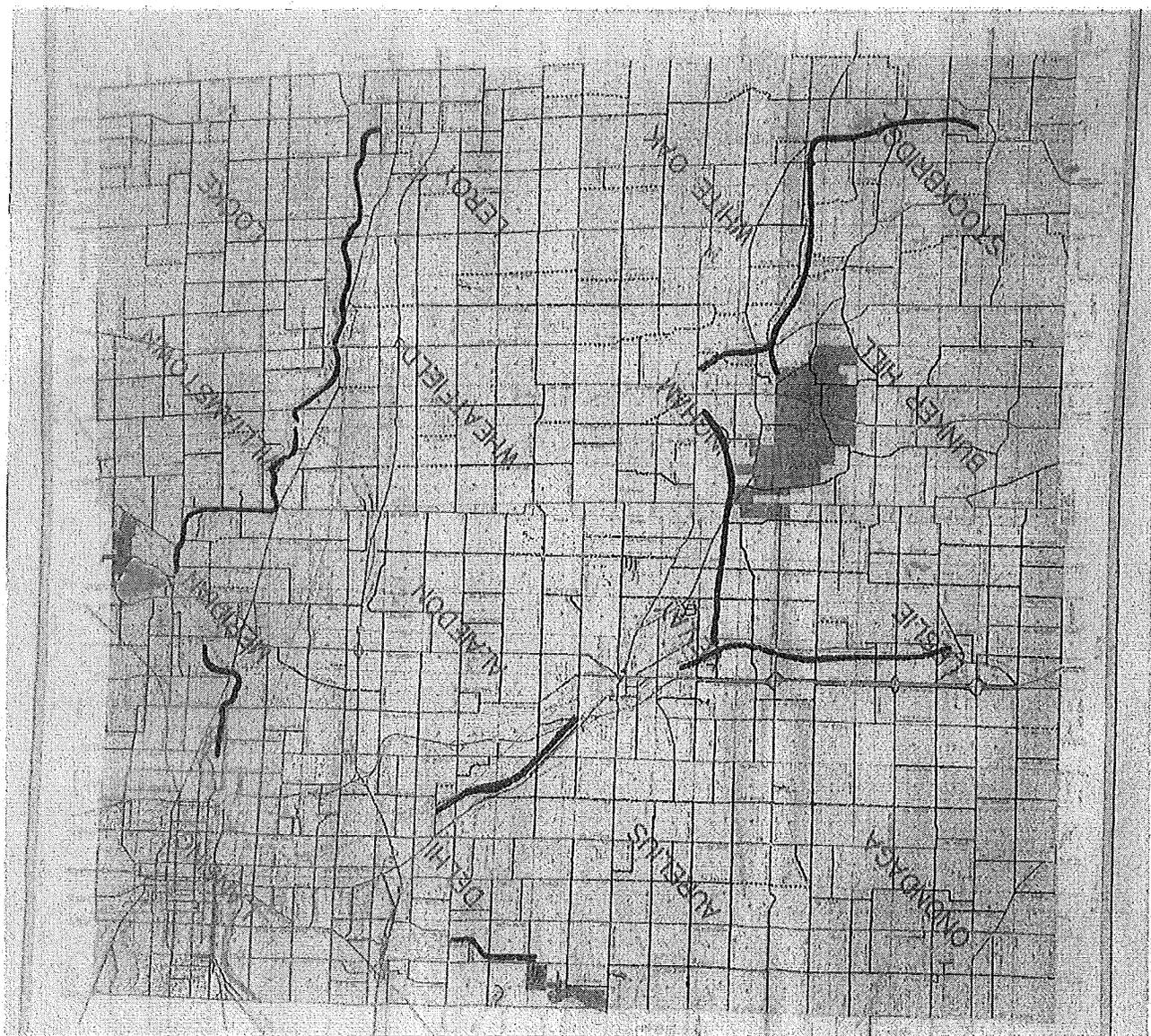
Potential non-motorized pathways

Priority	Location	Approx. Length	*Estimated Cost	**Estimated Completion Date
1	MSU to Meridian Township	3 miles	\$3	2017
2	Delhi Twp. To Mason	5 miles	\$5	2018
3	Holt HS (Delhi Twp.) to Burchfield	2.5 miles	\$2.5	2019
4	Meridian Twp. To Williamstown Twp.	7 miles	\$7	2020
5	Williamstown Twp. to Williamston	4 miles	\$4	2021
6	Mason to Dansville	5.7 miles	\$5.7	2022
7	Mason to Leslie	7 miles	\$7	2023
8	Dansville to Stockbridge	11.5 miles	\$11.5	2024
9	Williamston to Webberville	6 miles	\$6	2025

* Estimated cost are based upon Delhi Township costs related to their trail currently under construction at \$1,000,000 per mile. Cost estimates include (but not limited to) design and engineering, legal fees/easement acquisition, construction, contingency, etc.

** Estimated completion dates are based upon:

- millage funding available January 1, 2015 and the ability to start the projects in 2015
- grants are awarded for each project
- millage funding is available throughout the pathways schedule



Bennett, Willis

From: Kaschinske, Brett <Brett.Kaschinske@lansingmi.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 1:53 PM
To: Bennett, Willis
Cc: McGrain, Brian
Subject: Rivertrail Capital Improvements needed

This list would be the issues we currently have or know will be needed soon. This would be in addition to the regular trail maintenance, trash, mowing, plowing, brush clearing, graffiti etc.

1. \$400,000 for bridge replacement in Old Town under Grand River
2. \$90,000 for pavement repairs east of Potter Park towards Clippert/Crego
3. Stairs on North and South sides of Michigan Ave access to the Rivertrail. No costs as of yet
4. Plank replacement over the river by Moores Park. No costs as of yet. We have some patches on there now but this will probably need a total replacement in 5 years and this is a big project. No good way to replace the planks without working from under the bridge
5. \$20,000 in tree removals along the trail
6. Dietrich Park needs the stairs and retaining wall replaced. No estimate on costs
7. Gabion basket retaining walls are failing at E. Grand River Bridge and along GM River bank. No cost estimates
8. Oakland bridge needs total replacement. No cost estimates

Let me know if you have any questions or need further explanation.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
INGHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
121 E. Maple Street, Suite 102, Mason, Michigan 48854
January 21, 2015

The Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission held a Regularly Scheduled Meeting at the Human Services Building, Conference Room A, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Board Members

Present: Matt Bennett, John Czarnecki, Kevin Duffy, Commissioner Koenig, Chair Nicholls, Paul Pratt, Mike Rice, Jonathan Schelke, and Commissioner Tsernoglou

Absent: Ralph Monsma

Also Present: Director of Parks Tim Morgan, Hawk Island Park Manager Brian Collins, Lake Lansing Park Manager Pat Witte, Burchfield Park Manager Jeff Gehl, Financial Coordinator Karen Fraser, Recording Secretary Nicole Wallace, County Commissioner Teri Banas, Peggy Roberts-Board President of Fenner Conservancy, Ron Eggleston-Fenner Nature Center, and Todd Wilson-Meridian Township Park Commissioner Chair

Call to Order: Chair Nicholls called the Regularly Scheduled Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:03pm

Minutes: Moved by Mr. Czarnecki and **Supported** by Mr. Bennett to approve the December 8, 2014 minutes of the regular meeting as written. **Yes-8; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.**

Limited Public Comment: County Commissioner Teri Banas introduced herself. Todd Wilson, sitting Chair of the Meridian Township Park Commission introduced himself. Peggy Roberts introduced herself as the President of the Fenner Conservancy Board of Directors. She is interested in the discussion about trails and the millage. Ron Eggleston introduced himself, as former Ingham County Park Commissioner and now of Fenner Nature Center.

Late Items / Deletions: None.

Election of Officers: Moved by Mr. Bennett; **Supported** by Mr. Czarnecki that Sarah Nicholls be nominated to serve as the Chair of the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission. **Yes-8; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.**

Moved by Mr. Czarnecki; **Supported** by Commissioner Tsernoglou that Matt Bennett be nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission. **Yes-8; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.**

Moved by Mr. Czarnecki; **Supported** by Commissioner Koenig that Mr. Monsma be nominated to serve as Secretary of the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission. **Yes-8; No-0. MOTION CARRIED.**

PARK EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Mr. Morgan and Chair Nicholls introduced the idea of forming a new Park Commission subcommittee-an Executive Committee. Discussion ensued regarding the budget, history of per diem and stipends for the Park Commission and

other county departments, communication with the Park Director, and concerns for adding a new committee.

Commissioner Tsernoglou entered the meeting at 6:17pm.

Moved by Mr. Czarnecki; **Supported** by Commissioner Koenig to form an Executive Committee comprised of the Park Commission Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Chair Nicholls stated the Executive Committee should meet prior to the Planning Committee meeting. Discussion. **Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-1** (Mr. Bennett).

MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Mr. Czarnecki; **Supported** by Commissioner Tsernoglou that the Park Commissions not be paid for subcommittee meetings. Discussion. **Yes-2** (Mr. Czarnecki and Mr. Schelke); **No-7** (Mr. Duffy, Mr. Rice, Mr. Pratt, Commissioner Koenig, Commissioner Tsernoglou, Mr. Bennett, Chair Nicholls).

MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONERS TO CONSIDER 2015 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

All committee assignments remain the same as previous year.

ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION #01-15 TO COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT SETTING PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 2015

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Parks & Recreation Commission to adopt an annual resolution to comply with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act of 1976, P.A. 267, as amended, and set dates, time, location and meeting rules and regulations of Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission meetings for 2015, pursuant to the provisions of said Act;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks & Recreation Commission adopts the following meeting dates for 2015, time, location and amended meeting rules and regulations, pursuant to provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, as amended:

I. The Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission shall conduct meetings the fourth Monday of each month, except for the months of January, May, November, and December of 2015. These meetings shall be conducted on the 2nd and/or 3rd Monday of the month and the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings commence at 6:00pm and are held at the Ingham County Human Services Building, Conference Room A, Second Floor, 5303 S. Cedar, Lansing, Michigan unless otherwise posted.

January 21, 2015 (3rd Wednesday)

January 26, 2015

February 23, 2015

March 23, 2015

April 27, 2015

May 18, 2015 (3rd Monday)

June 22, 2015

July 27, 2015

August 24, 2015

September 28, 2015

October 26, 2015

November 16, 2015 (3rd Monday)

December 14, 2015 (2nd Monday)

In the event of a special meeting, rescheduled meeting or cancellation of a regularly scheduled meeting, a notice of same will be posted at the offices of the Ingham County Parks Department, 121 E. Maple St., Suite 102, Mason, MI 48854 at least 18 hours prior to the time of the meeting or canceled meeting.

II. All regularly scheduled meetings shall be held at the Ingham County Human Services Building, Conference Room A, Second Floor, 5303 S. Cedar, Lansing, Michigan unless otherwise posted. Notice of meeting will be posted at the offices of the Ingham County Parks Department, 121 E. Maple St., Suite 102, Mason, MI 48854 at least 18 hours prior to the time of the meeting. Requests for information regarding meetings are to be directed to the Ingham County Parks Department, 121 E. Maple St., Suite 102, Mason, Michigan 48854; telephone (517) 676-2233.

III. All meetings of the Parks & Recreation Commission shall be open to the public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting; except a closed meeting may be held in accordance with Sections (7) and (8), as required by the Open Meetings Act of 1976, Public Act 267, as amended.

IV. This Commission authorizes the Recording Secretary or his/her designee to post all required notices of regular, rescheduled or special meetings of this Commission, or any other postings, as required by the Open Meetings Act of 1976, Public Act 267, as amended.

V. The Recording Secretary or his/her designee shall be responsible for preparation, distribution and storage of all minutes of this Commission as required by the Open Meetings Act of 1976, Public Act 267, as amended.

VI. The minutes of open meetings shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Recording Secretary, Ingham County Parks Department, 121 E. Maple St., Suite 102, P.O. Box 178, Mason, Michigan 48854, and shall be available to the public at a reasonable copying cost, as required by the Open Meetings Act of 1976, Public Act 267, as amended.

VII. To provide the public its right to address this Commission during any regular or special meeting, any member of the public may address the Commission for up to three (3) minutes per individual as scheduled on the agenda at the beginning of each meeting, and up to three (3) minutes at the end of the meeting at the time scheduled on the agenda for public comment; except that comments on an item scheduled for a public hearing may be made at that time pursuant to Section VIII hereof. At the discretion of the Chairperson, this time may be extended by granting an additional one (1) minute. During an agenda item, members of the public may not address the Commission unless recognized by the Chairperson. To accommodate public comment, the Commission Chairperson, at his/her discretion, may combine an agenda item into the public comment portion of the meeting in order to facilitate input from the public.

VIII. To provide the public its right to address this Commission during scheduled public hearings, any member of the public may address the Commission for up to five (5) minutes per individual, when recognized by the Chairperson. All comments are to be directed to the Chairperson. Comments are to be specific and address only the subject of the public hearing, otherwise the speaker may be ruled out of order at the discretion of the Chairperson.

IX. The Chair may call to order any person who is ruled out of order or who otherwise disrupts the orderly conduct of business at meetings, including speaking without being recognized, interrupting speakers, the Chair, Commission members or staff, exceeding designated time limits, failure to be germane to the issue at hand, use of vulgarities, or otherwise being disruptive. A person may be

prohibited from speaking again at the same meeting, may be asked to leave the premises or may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the Chairperson and/or may be subject to arrest.

X. Members of the public desiring to speak to the Commission may be required to identify themselves before speaking, as required by the Open Meetings Act of 1976, Public Act 267, as amended.

XI. The Ingham County Parks Department will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at meetings to individuals with disabilities, at all public meetings and public hearings upon ten (10) days notice to the Ingham County Parks Department prior to the date set for the public hearing or meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the ADA Coordinator for the Ingham County Parks Department.

**Moved by Mr. Pratt and Supported by Mr. Czarnecki Resolution #01-15 be approved. Yes-9; No-0.
MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Trails & Park Millage Priorities~ Commissioner Koenig introduced County Commissioner Teri Banas who provided her background and previous involvement with parks. Mr. Morgan stated the Board of Commissioners established a Trails and Parks Task Force who will meet in early February. Commissioner Koenig stated the next phase of the task force is to set priorities for the millage. The task force is comprised of 11 of the 14 Board of Commissioners.

County Commissioner Banas stated it was easy to approve the millage since people have a great desire for recreation and a quality trail system. The hard part is to take that money and make improvements and new developments, not just do maintenance. The total cost of doing lots of new projects could be millions of dollars. It is necessary to plan together and to leverage these dollars that were approved to leverage grants and other money. There is a lot of competition for the 200 million in federal dollars Michigan receives and the money from the DNR. We need money to leverage other money. County Commissioner Banas stated there would be macro management from the Board of Commissioners. County Commissioner Banas said we need to be diligent and thoughtful putting this plan together. As you build out new projects, you have maintenance costs; and we don't have full accounting of maintenance costs. For example we don't have the River Trail maintenance costs.

Mr. Czarnecki thanked County Commissioner Banas for coming to the meeting. He stated Lansing, East Lansing, Delhi Township, and Meridian Township already have trails, how do you deal with a county system that we are going to create? Will there be a county trail through Meridian Township? County Commissioner Banas said it is important to know these questions---what are the responsibilities of local units and the county. This is where the conversation needs to begin. County Commissioner Banas stated she does not know the answer to this question, but this will come in time. If there are other questions, please provide them to County Commissioner Banas.

Mr. Czarnecki stated elected officials from local areas should voice their opinions. Mr. Duffy asked how will we receive input from the public, what is the timeline? Commissioner Tsernoglou said that is something we will be talking about in our upcoming meetings. She stated you can do Survey Monkeys, forum meetings, different specialty groups meetings, and have user groups to discuss their desires. Community input is always key; this is a concern of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Pratt stated the five-

year Master Plan is being done this year, and the public input for the millage can dovetail with the Master Plan process.

Mr. Czarnecki stated it is critical to know the commitment of the four local units to a county plan. Will these local units commit to maintain a portion of trails? We need to ask these questions.

Commissioner Koenig reviewed a conversation she had with former Board of Commissioner, Mark Grebner. The benefit of having millage dollars is that you can always revisit a project if there is not cooperation. Priorities can change. If we connect trails, another question to ask, is what is their plan to maintain their existing trails? Mr. Czarnecki stated local units should maintain the trails. Mr. Schelke stated the trails don't have to be owned by a city, county, or township; it could be owned by 501(c)3 (this could be a part of discussion).

Mr. Bennett said these are valid questions, but more for down the road. Mr. Bennett stated we should discuss priorities, so the Board of Commissioners can take these ideas to the task force meeting.

Mr. Czarnecki stated he would like to see a map of a county trail system. The question is, who is maintaining the trails? He thinks local units of governments should maintain the trails.

Commissioners Koenig asked if we are ready to discuss the priorities, maybe we need to brainstorm first. Commissioner Koenig said Mark Grebner's idea was to have a list of independent projects ready for the Board of Commissioners to review. Maybe the planning process is for the Park Commission to determine this and the Park Commission could give a list of priorities and the Board of Commissioners could choose a list of five. Commissioner Tsernoglou stated the Board of Commissioners would give the Park Commission direction. Chair Nicholls stated this is two different interpretations of the Board of Commissioners intent. Commissioner Tsernoglou stated the intent of the Board of Commissioners was they did not want the discussion to go to the Park Commission first, but to the Board of Commissioners first. Commissioner Tsernoglou stated we can brainstorm and submit ideas, but we need specific guidelines from the Board of Commissioners to start this process.

Mr. Pratt suggested the Park Commission do a go around about brainstorming ideas we want or items we don't want.

Mr. Pratt said it was his understanding that the Park's Z-list was not approved (sheriff patrols and maintenance supplies), but from the last Park Commission minutes, it stated we have \$50,000. Mr. Pratt asked which is it? Mr. Morgan clarified that if the millage passed, then the money for sheriff patrols and maintenance supplies would be returned to the budget. Mr. Pratt stated he does not want the millage money going to park police. In 2008, the county road patrol was taken out of the county fund. It is inconsistent to have park police, and not road patrols. Local units should provide their own policing. If you don't provide patrols for county roads, why provide patrols for parks?

Chair Nicholls asked the next Park Commissioner to comment. Mr. Rice and Mr. Collins declined to comment.

Mr. Witte stated he understands this train of thought on security. He would like local police to enforce our policies. Mr. Gehl said there has been a murder, suicide, and drowning at Burchfield Park in the past. Mr. Gehl stated having park police is a different issue than road patrols, and law enforcement presence in the

park is important.

Mr. Duffy stated generally speaking, his priority for the millage should be used to trend East in the county, have service to the out-county. We should trend to the East and South, for example, to Mason and Williamston.

Mr. Schelke would like to see the millage build off the trails we already have. For example, the River Trail in Lansing is unique; we should build off this trail. What we want to avoid are the trails to nowhere. We should utilize matching dollars. We should look at filling gaps and creating connections to have an integrated trail system. For example, the trail along the Red Cedar---connect Marsh Road along the Red Cedar to MSU.

Mr. Czarnecki asked about the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Master Plan and trails planning. Mr. Czarnecki stated he doesn't think the Parks Department has the staff resources to prepare a trail map. He has no priorities on specific trails, but he wants to see a trail map and timeline of how it will be developed over the next 40 years. He would like the plan to include the cost of trails. Mr. Morgan stated he has discussed the RFP with the Controller and there are certain things we can do internally, but we also need to bid out portions of this project.

Chair Nicholls stated her priority is to connect the trails we already have. The amount of money we have is relatively small, and we are competing with others in the state. We need to work on connectivity. We are forgetting that this is a trails and parks millage. Maintenance and safety are two big issues. We should use this money to keep our parks safe. We won't have any visitors if there is concern about safety in the parks.

Mr. Bennett stated he has three priorities. We have a tendency to lose sight that this is a park and trails millage. One priority is park maintenance. The number one priority for trails is interconnectivity. He would like to see all existing trails connected. For example, connect East Lansing and Meridian Township, and have MSU meet up with Delhi Township. We need interconnectivity between the focal points of the county, for example, Hawk Island and Fenner Nature Center---lets connect Fenner Nature Center to the River Trail. The second priority for trails is to extend trails to underserved areas. For example, Mason to Dansville, Leslie to Mason, and trails out to Stockbridge and Williamston. Mr. Bennett stated he would like to get to the point where you could bike from Stockbridge all the way to Potter Park in Lansing. He thinks every point in the community should have an access point to get to anywhere else in the county.

Commissioner Tsernoglou agrees with everyone who wants to connect trails. The Z-list items are in the budget and have already been approved and will not change unless the Board of Commissioners takes action. Ms. Fraser stated this money is coming into the budget in the first quarter adjustment. Mr. Morgan stated we are planning steps for scheduling of police patrols.

Commissioner Koenig stated her priority is to fill in gaps of trails. Matching dollars are important, and we should always have projects on the shelf ready to go and pull off if necessary. Projects should be ready to be executed if the opportunity arises. Commissioner Koenig stated we should be working with the Road Department, and utilize MDOT dollars.

Mr. Rice stated the parks needed to be served first. We need to bring as many people as possible to the parks and then to enjoy trails. Mr. Rice stated we should connect schools to the parks, by non-motorized pathways. \$30,000 is a small chunk of money, and will only get police patrols for high visitation days. If

you look at law enforcement as an attraction in the park, you should choose busy weekends to have patrols. Families with children will enjoy seeing police in the parks.

Mr. Gehl stated he would like to see trail connections from Holt High School to Burchfield Park.

Mr. Witte said he will be interested to hear what Stockbridge wants; maybe they want a trail within their own city, instead of connecting to other cities?

Mr. Bennett stated he supports police patrols in the park. Even if we have limited patrols, it will give the impression there are cops in the parks. In response, to Mr. Gehl's comments, he stated Delhi Township is working on connecting schools and parks.

Mr. Czarnecki said we will have to walk a fine line; he thinks the public's perception of the millage if for trails, not maintenances of parks. We need to demonstrate what trails we will connect, and where their dollars went.

Mr. Schelke said we should integrate our plan with what MDOT can do, for example, on Grand River, they have put in a place a five-foot shoulder for bike paths. Mr. Morgan stated he met with Bill Conklin, Director of the Road Department, and Deputy Controller, Jared Cypher. They agreed we should look at the federal highway monies administered through Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The two programs are Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

Mr. Morgan stated the parks are important and the maintenance of the parks are important and thanked the BOC for the funding of the \$50,000 for park police and maintenance supplies. We need to maximize the impact of \$30,000 for park police. Does the amount of millage money for parks vary from year to year, is there a not to exceed annual amount? We need direction from the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Morgan stated he wants to see trails regionally, so we are tied to a state trail system. Trails and parks are both important issues.

County Commissioner Banas stated we need to plan well and seek partnerships with municipalities, non-profits, and corporations. We need a comprehensive trail system that connects trails, takes advantage of water bodies, makes connections to population centers, and schools. We need to discuss how much money should go to maintenance and capital improvement budget (CIP), and do we want to offer grants to local municipalities. Overall, we want a comprehensive trail system that will be a value to the public. This is just a beginning process for planning.

CORRESPONDENCE & CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Morgan stated there was one citizen comment in the packet, and he responded by letter, with the help of Mr. Collins. Mr. Collins reported on the snow tubing hill at Hawk Island. There has been 600 hours of snowmaking, 3,000 snow tubing hill users, \$12,000 in ticket sales over the Martin Luther King Day holiday weekend, and there have been several reservations for the hill by school groups and churches. Mr. Morgan stated this Friday at 2pm and the following Saturday, January 31st at 10am we will have snow tubing for park staff, the Park Commissioners and Board of Commissioners.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Bennett inquired about the status of the Delhi Township to Mason connector trail project. Discussion.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Todd Wilson stated he wouldn't be too hesitant to recognize maintenance dollars from the millage, as long as there is an emphasis on identifiable successes. Mr. Eggleston stated the first priority for the Board of Commissioners is to decide how much money to put into parks. We should also be aware that there are existing plans for trails. You will need the support of the out-county and the majority of the population, who live in Lansing. For example, Fenner Nature Center could use \$50,000 and they would connect the trails. Connecting trails is an exciting prospect. Some of the millage money needs to go into maintenance. Peggy Roberts asked if interested citizens can sit on the Trails and Parks Task Force. County Commissioner Banas stated it is only Board of Commissioners.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by:

Nicole Wallace, Recording Secretary

Parks and Recreation Plan

- I. Community Description
- II. Administrative Structure
 - A. Board of Commissioners
 - B. Parks Commission
 - C. Parks Department
- III. Recreation Inventory
- IV. Resource Inventory
- V. Description of the Planning Process
 - A. Compliance with DNR guidelines
- VI. Description of the Public Input Process
 - A. Contract assistance
 - B. Other resources (MSU Extension, regional trails organizations, etc.)
- VII. Goals and Objectives
- VIII. Action Program
 - A. Annual budget
 - B. Long-range budget
 - C. Includes recreation trail component

DRAFT (1-12-15)
Scope of Work, Specifications, and Timeline
for Ingham County's Comprehensive "Community Park, Recreation Plan"
2016-2020 and Beyond Update

Mission Statement:

The Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission (Commission) and Ingham County Parks Department (ICPD) will provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities for all segments of our population. We will strive to enhance the quality of life for park visitors and county residents through active citizen involvement, planned acquisition, preservation and professional management of park lands.

Purpose (core values):

Provide the highest quality park system through effective and efficient use of resources, consistent, fair, and appropriate service delivery. Lastly, provide honest and open communication to the public in delivery of those services.

Priority:

Timeline for delivery should be in line with the Ingham County Parks Comprehensive (non-motorized) Trails, Greenways and Blueways Plan. Both shall be completed by January 5, 2016 with adoptions by their appropriate boards no later than February 2016.

MASTER PLAN

2020

"Vision for Ingham County Parks"

Purpose of Master Plan: *To develop a long-term vision for park and recreation services in Ingham County, establish implementation strategies and examine funding opportunities.*

- **Aspect #1:** Determine the current status of parks and recreation programs, the inventory and condition of parklands, facilities and recreational programs.
- **Aspect #2:** "Trails, Greenways and Blueways" Plan should be integrated and a component of the 2016-2020 Ingham County Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Plan.
- **Aspect #3:** Develop an Action Plan that outlines specific strategies for the initial five-year period and longer term twenty-year vision including a five-year budget projection.

Introduction:

A master plan should provide the framework in providing and parks & recreation opportunities in a community. This plan offers insight on the current trends, needs, and changing events within Ingham County. It is critical that we not just consider present needs within a community, but also projected needs of the community, as determined by local, state, and national surveys and information.

The purpose of this master plan is a guide for addressing Ingham County's diverse park needs and serve as a five-year road map for the park system. It is to provide a sound footing from which logical, orderly, and consistent decisions can be made concerning future park development. The following section should include of key issues, short & long priorities, park development recommendations, park maintenance recommendations, program recommendations, a five-year action plan and budget for the years 2016-2020. The Ingham County Parks and the citizens of Ingham County will be able to use this tool to help achieve the mission, goals, and objectives presented herein.

Why Plan the Future:

Our community is becoming dense and our population more diverse. We want to make sure that our current approach to parks and recreation meets the needs of this changing community and continues to contribute to the richness of Ingham County over the next five to twenty years.

Public parks are critical components of Ingham County's economic and social health. The opportunities offered by the Ingham County Parks allow residents the chance to participate in programs and activities that benefit their physical and mental health. The Ingham County park system represents a large investment, but one that pays enormous dividends by providing recreational areas and opportunities for our residents and visitors.

Parks can also be justified by the economic dividends they contribute to a community. The presence of parks raises property values of an area and is an important asset for attracting industry and visitors. Parks also protect the environment as well as the quality of life that our residents enjoy. Preservation of parkland is critical as Ingham County experiences development and population growth.

We all enjoy the services and opportunities that the Ingham County park system offers. Some of these benefits are obvious and others are not. Obvious benefits include exercise and relaxation, social and family activities, environmental awareness and education, and preservation of our natural resources. Economic benefits that are harvested are not as obvious as other benefits. These may include business relocation and expansion, multiplier effect of money as it travels through the economy, and often serves as a catalyst for visitors and tourists.

Ingham County Parks have the potential to transform and further enrich our County. The key is for community leaders, Park Commission members and others to think of Ingham County Parks and their surroundings as places for social and cultural exchange, business opportunities, and recreational activities for children, teens, adults and seniors, and as the protector of our natural resources and environment. It is critical to broaden the way we think about Ingham County and its parks, or lose an important opportunity for its parks to be a catalyst for the future. To develop *Good* parks, we have to be willing to develop a *Great* vision for our parks.

It is time to create a Dynamic vision for the Ingham County Parks for our future generations.

Scope of Work:

Will include, but not limited to, the following key priorities (these must align with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks, Recreation, and Greenways Plan Update)

1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming
- Current Funding Sources
- Role of Volunteers
- Relationship(s) with School Districts, Regional Plan Commission, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

3. RECREATION INVENTORY

- Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- Accessibility Assessment
- Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

4. RESOURCE INVENTORY

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Public input meetings combined with Park Commission meetings at the following County Parks:

- May 18th - Burchfield
- June 22nd - Hawk Island
- July 27th - Lake Lansing South

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan:

- Website
- Facebook
- Park office
- Park sites
- Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
- Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days)- plan to have available at Public Libraries
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Bodies

Types of methods to be considered to be used (minimum of two used):

- Questionnaires
- Social Media (i.e. Facebook, twitter, etc.)
- Community Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Stakeholder Groups
- Citizen Luncheons
- Community Workshops
- Planning Charrettes
- Public Information Resource Groups

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the recreation planning process. The overall goal of a park and recreation department (or the entity that provides recreation for your community) is, obviously, to provide recreation opportunities for the community and/or region it serves, and possibly for tourists. More specific goals must be based on the demographic characteristics of the population served and the physical and environmental characteristics of the area.

Goals and Objectives:

A goal defines the service to be produced. Objectives are specific statements that can be measured to accomplish the goals.

8. ACTION PROGRAM

The Action Program is the section of the plan where you identify how you intend to meet, or work towards meeting, your goals and objectives over the next five years. Specific projects that are identified during the planning process should be described and an explanation provided as to how they will meet the goals and objectives. You may also include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, operation, capital improvement schedule, and maintenance actions, as well as land acquisition and facility development, if applicable.

9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-INSPECTION REPORT

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

- Plans must be adopted by the highest level governing body (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Park and Recreation Commission, the plan should also include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.
- The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Park Commission Meeting
February 10, 2015

3. PRESENTATIONS

- Eagle Scout Candidate Steven Harrelson, construct prairie fence behind log cabin in Historical Village

**Meridian Township Parks and Recreation
Boy Scout Eagle Candidate Information**

Scout Name: Steven Harrelson Troop Number 97

Parents' Names: Scott Harrelson

Scout's Phone Numbers: home) 517-580-3038 cell) 517-455-6438

Scout's Address: 5409 Marsh Rd.

E-mail Address: styler@voyager.net (Suzette) gamerscout97@gmail.com(Steven)

Troop Master Name/ Phone: Stephen Shine/ 517-930-8155

Eagle Project Title: Stacked Split Rail Fence

Proposed Start Date: april 18-19 Projected Completion Date: April 26-28

Eagle Project Description: My eagle scout project is a stacked split rail fence near the cabin.

A stacked split rail fence will aid in the historical villages effort to educate the community

about how early pioneers lived and plotted out their land. My split rail fence will be re-cycled

red oak timbers and it will be up to 75 ft long.

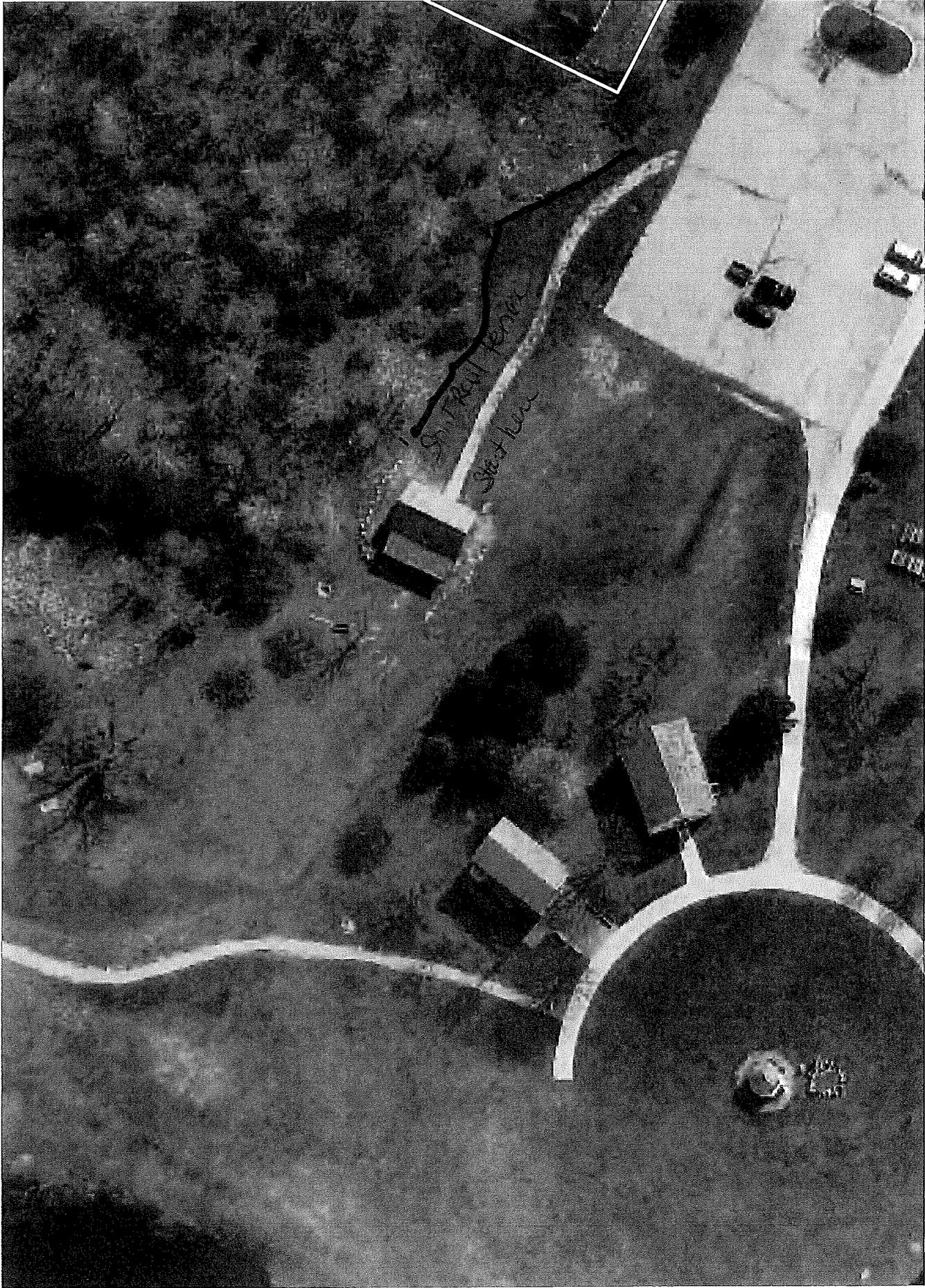
Date submitted: _____

Submit to: Meridian Township Parks and Recreation
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840
Phone: 517-853-4608
Fax: 517-853-4099
faust@meridian.mi.us / www.twp.meridian.mi.us



#1

Split rail fence along
pathway to cabin



HISTORICAL VILLAGE, 5151 MARSH ROAD
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN



80 40 0 80 Feet



Park Commission Meeting
February 10, 2015

6. MINUTES

- a. January 13, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:05 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE WORK SESSION AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.
Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Park Commissioner Candidate Interviews

Park Commission member Teri Banas submitted her resignation effective
December 31, 2014. A call for interested persons was made in the Towne
Courier and on the Township Website. Five (5) individuals submitted forms to
the Township Clerk's office and prior to January 13, 2015, one individual
withdrew his application.

The Commission conducted face to face interviews with each of the four (4)
candidates: Philip Deschaine, Shane Goodale, Tassi Miller and Christopher
Wickman. Each candidate was asked a prepared list of questions in an effort to
learn more about them.

4. Other

None

5. Public Comment

None

6. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 7:10 pm

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Item 9, New Business, item A, Park Commissioner Candidate Recommendation will be moved to Closed Session. Also during Closed Session, the Commissioners will consider a land acquisition item.

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

3. Presentations

a. Resolution of Appreciation – Teri Banas

Due to a meeting with her new position as County Commissioner, Teri Banas was unable to attend the meeting. Her spouse, John Foren, was present to accept the resolution. Chair Wilson and the Commissioners expressed appreciation for the time spent on the Commission with Ms. Banas, for her passion and support of the Commission, its activities, and this community.

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Stephens and supported by Chair Wilson,

WHEREAS, Teri Banas was first elected to the Park Commission in 2004 and has served as a Park Commissioner for ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Teri was the driving force behind many park projects including planning and development of Orlando Park, located at 1275 Orlando Drive in Haslett, that features a gazebo, play structure, paved loop walking path, bicycle rack, grill, game table, benches and butterfly gardens created in cooperation with Haslett area school children; and

WHEREAS, Teri provided leadership in development and adoption of the 2005-2010 and 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plans as well as site plans for the future development and improvements to Legg Park, Wonch Park and Towner Road Park; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Teri was instrumental in the passage of a new .667 mill Millage to improve funding for renovation, development, maintenance and acquisition of Township parkland for the next decade; and

WHEREAS, Teri gave generously of her time, talents and boundless energy in numerous ways and is held in high esteem by colleagues and citizens for her tireless efforts as a Park Commissioner and advocate for Meridian Township Parks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THAT TERI BANAS IS PRESENTED WITH THIS RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR HER DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE ON THE PARK COMMISSION THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF A PARK SYSTEM THAT ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP.

ADOPTED:

AYES: Commissioners Stephens, Jaramillo, McDonald, and
Chair Wilson

NAYS: None

Resolution passed

Mr. Foren thanked the Commission for the resolution and her name plate. He stated Teri is very passionate about parks and in her new role as County Commissioner, she will continue to support the Township, Park Commission and community.

4. Public Comment

Commissioner Stephens acknowledged the presence of five MSU students who were covering the Park Commission meeting for their class assignment.

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioners asked the status of the ice Rink in Hillbrook Park? Director Maisner reported that the weather has not been consistent enough to maintain ice. Not sure if volunteer has succeeded in his efforts. Staff will report back at next meeting.

Commissioner McDonald stated the Commission has received a copy of the communication from LINC regarding their recommendation to construct mini-dog parks throughout the Township. He stated the Commission has not adopted this recommendation. This topic has been discussed at national and state level parks and recreation meetings and there is not a successful model of this type in any community he is aware of. Chair Wilson stated that the topic will be discussed at a future meeting of the Commission.

Commissioner Stephens announced that the Michigan Recreation and Park Association will be holding its annual conference and trade show at the Lansing Center February 10-13. During this event, professionals from around the state exchange information, ideas, present new products and network.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 9, 2014 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

None

B. Commission Information

1. Meridian Township Parks – 2014 (distributed at Joint Meeting on 1/6/15)
2. 2015 Park Projects (distributed at Joint Meeting on 1/6/15)
3. January Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
4. Family Winter Sports Weekends Calendar of Events
5. Parks & Recreation Department December Monthly Report
6. Towne Courier: **Dec 7:** Christmas in the Village; Farmers Market in Meridian Mall; **Dec 14:** Chipmunk Story Time to be held; Meridian Township's Drive Thru Santa open Saturday; **Dec 28:** Registration set for annual Polar Bear run walk

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

D. Distributed at meeting

1. Press Releases: Meridian Township Park Commission looks to fill vacancy; Calling all Polar Bears: 5K Run/Walk registration now opens; Meridian Township Deer Management reports success; Meridian Township offers Family Winter Sports Weekends; Calling all Kickball Teams: Winter Tournament registration now opens

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

8. Director's Report

Director Maisner stated:

- a. 150 Deer have been taken October 1- January 1, 2015; program will continue with an extended harvest that will run from January 19 – February 28 at limited sites and with limited hunters; over 1,500 pounds of venison was donated to the local foods banks; the car/deer accident number is decreased from last year to 121
- b. Newton Road Park – the landscaping and fencing has been installed; staff is working on new sign design; the parking area was constructed to hold approximately 20 vehicles; Haslett Lacrosse teams will be practicing at the site in the spring; the Engineering Department was very helpful with this project
- c. Wonch Park – the 8 foot paved loop trail has been installed; there were people using the pathway as it was being constructed;
- d. The Engineering Department is in the process of supervising construction a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Red Cedar River adjacent to Wonch Park. This bridge will provide safer access to the park, schools, and the DDA District. The bridge will be completed in the spring; plans underway to hold a grand opening ceremony in April for both the bridge and the pathway.
- e. Farmers' Market – The winter market is indoors in the J C Penney Corridor at Meridian Mall on the first and third Saturdays December through April from 10am-2pm. Approximately 30 vendors enrolled each market day.
- f. Chinese New Year – will be held in the center court and J C Penney Corridor inside the Meridian Mall on Saturday, February 21 from 1:30-6 pm with a parade, entertainment, and family activities
- g. Christmas in the Village – Was held on Sunday, December 14, 2-5pm was well attended with over 300 visitors, Executive Director Jane Rose reported it was best one in years!
- h. Drive Thru Santa – held in December, hosted 24 cars with 60 participants.
- i. Family Fun Guide – has been prepared and should be in mailboxes today. There are 64 pages of activities covering the entire year
- j. Family Winter Weekends – something for everyone every weekend during the months of January and February
 - Saturday, January 17:
 - Cross Country Ski Class (\$15/\$20)--FULL
 - Snowshoe Class (\$15/\$20);

- Moonlight Ski and Shoe (\$3/\$9)
 - Sunday, January 18: Meridian Swim at Goldfish Swimming School (Free; pre-registration required/517-458-5555)
 - Saturday, January 24: Moonlight Sledding at North Meridian Road Park (Free)
 - Sunday, January 25:
 - Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk in Central Park (\$20);
 - Meridian Bowls at City Limits East Lansing Bowling Center (Shoe rental only, pre-registration required/517-337-7000)
 - Saturday, January 31: Winter Wonderland at Harris Nature Center –Snow Shoeing, cross-county skiing, dog sled demonstrations, ice sculptures, bon fire, games and more! (Free)
 - Friday, February 6: Howl at the Moon (\$3)
 - Saturday, February 7:
 - Cross Country Ski Class (\$15/\$20);
 - Winter Kickball Tournament (\$75/team)
 - Snowshoe Class (\$15/\$20);
 - Moonlight Ski and Shoe (\$3/\$9)
 - Moonlight Sledding (Free)
 - Sunday, February 8: Meridian Swims at the Michigan Athletic Club (Free; pre-registration required/517-364-8888)
 - Saturday, February 14: Meridian Ice Fishing Derby, Central Park pond (Free)
- k. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications – the RFQ has been prepared and will be mailed this week. Staff will forward a pdf copy of the RFQ to Commissioners
- l. Mini dog parks – Director Maisner and Parks & Land Management Coordinator Greenway met with Eckhart Dersch to discuss the recommendations contained in the LINC correspondence; she suggested this as a topic for a future Park Commission meeting
- m. Harris Nature Center's December report: 261 drop in visitors, 147 students attended seven nature programs; two school outreach programs to 53 students, 9 adults attended an outreach at the Meridian Senior Center. Cross country skis and snowshoes available during open hours at the center.
- n. Free Christmas tree drop off will be at Nancy Moore Park only during open park hours through the end of January.
- o. Maintenance staff has been busy clearing snow and ice from parks, pathways, bus stops, libraries, and trails. With the passage of the new Millage, an additional staff member will be added to Parks and Grounds Maintenance bringing staff total up to five members

- p. Legg Park gate is closed for the season but there is new and improved front parking area near the front of the park. Also, Hartrick Park gate is closed but there is parking at the front of the Park there as well.
- q. North Meridian Road Park restrooms heating units is improved from last year and are operating well providing heated restrooms for park visitors. Sledding hill is open down to dusk.
- r. Basketball season underway. Haslett has 292 registered (kindergarten through 6th grade) Williamston has 303 registered (kindergarten through 8th grade) – not including travel teams.

9. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Park Commissioner Candidate Recommendation

Commissioner Stephens stated the Commissioners interviewed four candidates for the vacancy created by Teri Banas being elected to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners were impressed with the candidates and their passion and commitment for the community.

b. Ingham County Trails Millage Meeting – January 26, 2015

The Ingham County Parks Board will be conducting a meeting on Monday, January 26 to discuss the implementation and distribution of the millage funds for trails and parks through new Ingham County millage. Director Maisner will be attending this meeting and encouraged the Commissioners to attend as well.

Discussion:

- Would like to see if the previously proposed multi-use pathway connecting Lake Lansing to MSU through the Rysberg Land Preservation parcel constructed with these funds
- Boardwalk on Okemos Road south of Nancy Moore Park entrance
- According to email, a draft scope of work for a Trails and Greenway and Blueways Master Plan request will be sent prior to the meeting; Commissioners asked to have this forwarded to them when received
- Unclear on the guidelines for this millage; a lot of information is up in the air
- Chair Wilson stated he will be out of state; Commissioner Stephens and McDonald indicated they will be attending

10. Unfinished Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. Other Business
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. Discussion Items
PUBLIC COMMENT

a. 2015 Park Projects

Director Maisner distributed the 2014/2015 Parks Budgeted Projects List in graph form and summarized the 2015 Project Plan as follows:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| ✓ Hartrick Park roof structure for players benches | \$4,000 |
| ○ With Okemos Baseball Club Feb-April | |
| ✓ Nancy Moore Park Pavilion residing | \$4,000 |
| ○ April-May | |
| ✓ Nancy Moore Park Safety Fencing | \$9,600 |
| ○ Bids received – installation Spring | |
| ✓ Harris Nature Center engineer and rebuild island drain | \$4,000 |
| ○ With Engineering Dept. – August-Sept | |
| ✓ Harris Nature Center crack seal/stripe parking area | \$5,250 |
| ○ May | |
| ✓ Ferguson Park crack seal/stripe parking area | \$5,250 |
| ○ May | |
| ✓ Wonch Park Pavilion | \$250,000 |
| ○ Proceed with construction without grant? | |
| ✓ Wonch Park parking lot paving | \$100,000 |
| ○ Engineering Department – July | |
| ✓ Hillbrook Park accessible playground | \$90,000 |
| ○ August- Sept | |
| ✓ Orlando Park swing/slide | \$35,000 |
| ○ August-Sept | |
| ✓ Legg Park parking area, dog park, stewardship | \$170,000 |
| ○ February Work Session | |
| ✓ Towner Road Park Phase I | \$224,000 |
| ○ March Work Session | |
| ✓ Central Park Master Plan | \$16,000 |

- RFQ distributed (Firm Selection by March 15)
- ✓ **Eagle Scout Projects** **\$1,500**
 - Ongoing – Jane/Kit
- ✓ **Legg Park Footbridge Replacement** **\$5,000**
 - Dennis – August-Sept
- There are over 15 budgeted projects planned for completion in 2015
- Greater details on the projects will be distributed at future Commission meetings
- The entire amount of \$250,000 was budgeted for a new pavilion in Wonch Park. In December, we were notified that this project was not approved for funding through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Is the Commission in favor of moving forward with this project with local funds?

Discussions:

- Wonch Park has been waiting a long time for updating; although we support applying for grants, this would be a positive step forward for the community
- Support applying for grants every year to leverage local park millage funds. This year we are submitting grant requests of \$50,000 each for the construction of a pavilion in Meridian Riverfront Park, North Meridian Road Park, and tennis courts at Hillbrook Park.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO CONSTRUCT THE PLANNED PAVILION UTILITIZING PARK MILLAGE FUNDING.

Roll Call:

AYES: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

13. Final Comments

None

14. Announcements

Chair Wilson announced:

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2015, Town Hall
- b. Farmers' Market – Saturday January 17, and February 7, 10am-2pm Meridian Mall
- c. Township Offices are closed January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Birthday

- d. Family Weekend Winter Fun Events: January 17th: Cross Country Ski Classes; Snowshoe Classes; Moonlight Ski and Shoe; January 18th: Meridian Swims; January 24: Moonlight Sledding; January 25: Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk; Meridian Bowls; January 30: Winter Wonderland; February 6: Howl at the Moon; February 7: Cross Country Ski Classes; Snowshoe Classes; Moonlight Ski and Shoe; Winter Kickball Tournament; Moonlight Sledding; February 8: Meridian Swim; February 14: Meridian Ice Fishing Derby

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PARK COMMISSION VACANCY RECOMMENDATION AND POSSIBLE LAND ACQUISITION ITEM.

Roll Call

AYES: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Chair Wilson, Melanie Jaramillo

NAYS: None

The Commission moved into closed session at 8:26 pm.

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Mike McDonald, Mark Stephens, Chair Wilson,

NAYS: None

The Commission returned to open session at 8:53 pm.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO DIRECT STAFF TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Mike McDonald, Mark Stephens, Chair Wilson,

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

17. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO
SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

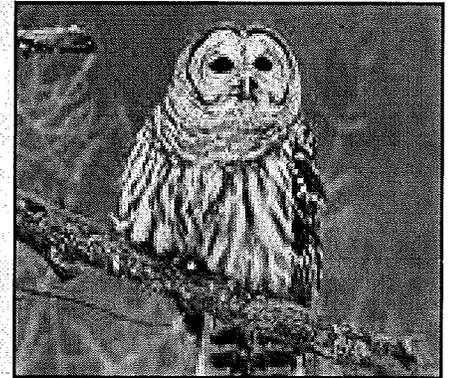
February 10, 2015

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
- B. Commission Information
 - 1. February Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
 - 2. Towne Courier: **Jan 11:** Nature center hosts story time for kids; **Jan 18:** Construction of Pedestrian bridge on Okemos Road begins; Meridian Township will host kickball tournament; Meridian's deer hunt yields 1,500 pounds of venison to food banks; **Jan 25:** Harris Nature Center to host Winter Wonderland
 - 3. State Journal: **Feb 1:** Howl at the Moon, Moonlight skiing and snowshoeing; Winter snowshoe night hike; Wonderland of dog sledding, ice sculpture
 - 4. City Pulse: **Feb 4:** Winter Wonderland
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation February Calendar of Events

February 4 – Photography Class with Ron St. Germain
February 5 – Preschool Science Exploration/Outstanding Owls
February 6 – Howl at the Moon at Harris Nature Center
February 6 – Weekday Science Program/Owls of Michigan
February 7 – Cross Country Ski Class
February 7 – Snowshoe Class
February 7 – Moonlight Ski and Shoe
February 7 – Winter Farmers Market



February 7 – Moonlight Sledding at North Meridian Road Park
February 8 – Meridian Swims at Michigan Athletic Club
February 14 – Meridian Ice Fishing Derby
February 18 – Meridian Police Youth Academy
February 19 – Chipmunk Story Time/Owl Moon
February 20 – Okemos Kindergarten-8th Grade Spring Soccer registration deadline
February 20 – Meridian Target Practice at MSU Demmer Center
February 21 - Chinese New Year Celebration

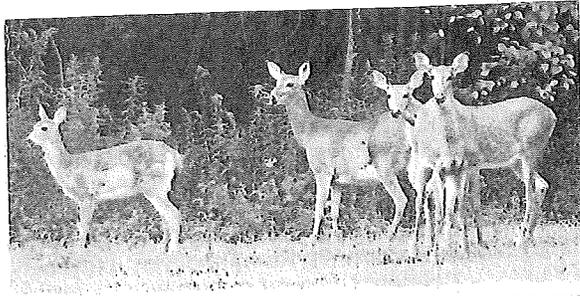


February 21 – Winter Farmers Market
February 21 – Meridian Target Practice at MSU Demmer Center
February 22 – Wildlife Identification: Reptiles
February 22 – Meridian Target Practice at MSU Demmer Center
February 28 – Moonlight Ski and Shoe



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





GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Deer have been a problem for Meridian Township homeowners.

Meridian's deer hunt yields 1,500 pounds of venison to food banks

MERIDIAN TWP. — Hunters in township's deer harvest took 150 deer in 2014, making it the most successful in the four-year history of the managed hunt program.

Volunteer hunters were allowed to keep one deer. Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger paid the processing fee, leading to 1,500 pounds of venison donated to local food banks.

"We are very pleased that our increased efforts have resulted in a greater harvest," said Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator.

"Reports from the residents are mixed — some are saying that they are definitely seeing a reduction in deer, while others are reporting large deer herds living in their yards or

nearby green spaces. Our hope is that sustained deer management will allow the native vegetation to flourish and will reduce the conflicts between deer and cars," she said.

The township recently received approval from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to extend the Deer Management Program into January and February of 2015.

This harvest will be conducted utilizing a Damage and Nuisance Animal Control Permit, which allows for an out-of-season harvest. The program is limited to township-owned properties only.

For more information about the Deer Management Program, visit the Township website at www.meridian-mi.us.

2A • Sunday, January 18, 2015 • Towne Courier

Meridian Township will host kickball tournament

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department is accepting registrations for its Winter Kickball Tournament at Nancy Moore Park. This three-game guarantee tournament will be held Saturday, Feb. 7. Prizes include a team award for the winner and runner up and t-shirts for the winning team. Entry is \$75 per team and the registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 30. Teams can register online at www.bit.ly/MTPRRReg or by contacting Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department at 517-853-4616 or by sending an email to: grothous@meridian.mi.us

• Sunday, January 25, 2015 • Towne Courier

Harris Nature Center to host Winter Wonderland

Embrace winter at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township on Saturday Jan. 31st, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during Winter Wonderland.

Experience winter hiking or try snowshoeing and cross country skiing on the natural trails. Cross country skis and a limited number of snowshoes will be available. Watch dog sledding demonstrations and visit with the dogs, warm up at the campfire, enjoy the children's activity area and watch ice sculptor Scott Miller create

Construction of pedestrian bridge on Okemos Road begins

MERIDIAN TWP. — Construction for a new pedestrian bridge on Okemos Road over the Red Cedar River near Wonch Park will be receiving an addition.

The pedestrian bridge will be completed in late March 2015 and open in mid-April.

For safety reasons pedestrians should seek an alternative route. The sidewalk will remain closed until the new pedestrian bridge is complete.

“For years, the pedestrians or bikers who needed to cross north or south bound across the bridge used a small sidewalk on the existing bridge. It was not in-

tended to be a sidewalk and can be unsafe,” said Raymond Severy, Meridian Township’s Director of Public Works & Engineering.

He said, “It is very narrow and if someone were to fall off they would fall into the traffic lane.”

The steel bridge is being built in New York and will be brought to Meridian Township in four sections for assembly at the site.

The preparation and installation of the bridge is being conducted by Toebe Construction LLC of Wixom, MI.

The new pedestrian bridge, which will cross the Red Cedar River west of the southbound



FILE PHOTO/LSJ

A narrow walkway along Okemos Road in Meridian Township poses a danger to walkers crossing a bridge over the Red Cedar River. A new pedestrian bridge will be constructed to make the walk safer.

vehicular bridge, will be separate from the existing bridge, used solely by non-motorized traffic, and will eliminate any connections to the existing narrow walkway on the existing bridge.

— Meridian Township

Calendar

Lansing State Journal
www.lsj.com

SUNDAY | FEB. 1, 2015

NATURE

Howl at the Moon, Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, 7 p.m. Feb. 6. Enjoy the full moon while taking a guided walk through the moonlit woods. Dogs are welcome, but must be on non-retractable leashes. Flashlights are permitted, but not a necessity. Info: 349-3866, www.meridian.mi.us. Cost: \$3.

Moonlight skiing and snowshoeing, Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, 6-9 p.m. Feb. 7. Glide along the moonlit trails as you ski or snowshoe through the snow. Call or email hric@meridian.mi.us to register and reserve skis and snowshoes if needed. Event will be canceled if there is no snow. Info: 349-3866, www.meridian.mi.us. Cost: \$3 per person with own equipment, \$9 per person to borrow equipment, \$2 for head lamps.

Winter snowshoe night hike, Fenner Nature Center, 2020 Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing, 6-8 p.m. Feb. 6. Lantern-guided walk through the snow that will be followed by a campfire and making s'mores. The walks are dependent upon snow conditions and limited to 10 participants. Register online or call to reserve your spot. Info: 483-4224, www.mynaturecenter.org. Cost: \$7 per person.

Wonderland of dog sledding, ice sculpture

Family fun in sun, snow at Harris Nature Center

Kate DuHadway
kduhadway@lsj.com

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP — Clipper was relishing the attention. As families and kids stopped by to pet her, she barked excitedly for her turn to pull the sled.

The fluffy white Samoyed sled dog and her team were one of the main attractions at the Winter Wonderland Festival in Meridian Township Saturday.

The free event featured dog sledding and ice sculpting demonstrations, outdoor games for kids, refreshments, a silent auction and free cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

"I think the sunshine really brought people out," said Harris Nature Center Coordinator Kit Rich as she served hot chocolate to visitors. "We've been packed since we started at 10 a.m."

As of 1 p.m., close to 300 people had stopped by, said Kati Adams, park naturalist at the Harris Nature Center. The event lasted until 3 p.m.

Danny and Andrea Wittenborn were at the festival with 18-month-old Oliver and 4-year-old Ethan, who they said tried cross-country skiing for the first time Saturday and loved it. The family recently moved to Okemos from Washington, D.C., and were exploring fun wintertime things to do in the area.

Becky Boudreau-Schultz of Mason said climbing and sliding down the snow piles, in addition to petting the sled dogs, was a big hit with her 4-year-old son, Simon. "The fresh air and the sunshine definitely make his day better," she said.

Kathryn Hoyt, a part-time assistant naturalist at the Harris Nature Center, directed a mini "snow golf" course in the snow and a scavenger hunt for brightly colored ice cubs and helped kids with the hula hoop toss and tic tac toe board. She said the mini snow golf, a game in which kids putted a golf ball through sticks and around colored globes of ice, was the most popular.

Donations from Saturday's festival and silent auction went toward the Harris Nature Center Foundation, which pays for projects above and beyond the nature center's daily operations, said Patty Robbins, president of the foundation.

While Meridian Township owns the Harris Nature Center and pays the salaries of the staff, the foundation supports bus scholarships, which help local school



Ice sculptor Scott Miller starts on a leaping fish at Harris Nature Center's Winter Wonderland Festival on Saturday.

ROBERT KILLIPS/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

districts offset the cost of bringing kids to the center for field trips, Robbins said.

The foundation is also raising money to build a nature exploration area at the center. Plans include a log gym, a fossil dig with real Michigan fossils, a "beaver lodge" play area with tunnels to crawl through, a giant spider web strung between trees for kids to climb, an outdoor gathering places for classes and events and a "tree surfing" walkway connecting a series of tree houses, Robbins said.

Everything in the nature exploration center will be focused on providing opportunities for kids and adults to "explore and experience nature," Robbins said. "It's meant to be hands on."

For daily reminders and ideas for living an active lifestyle in the greater Lansing community, follow reporter Kate DuHadway on Twitter @k8rouse or Instagram @movelansing.



People watch a dog sled demonstration during Harris Nature Center's Winter Wonderland Festival on Saturday.

ROBERT KILLIPS/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

HARRIS NATURE CENTER

For more information about the Harris Nature Center, including upcoming programs and events, visit www.meridian.mi.us/harrisnaturecenter. For more information about the Harris Nature Center Foundation, visit www.hncfoundation.org.

WINTER WONDERLAND

HARRIS NATURE CENTER PHOTO BY ARIEL ROGERS FUN • WINTER ACTIVITIES

Furry friends warmed hearts at Harris Nature Center's chilly Winter Wonderland event on Saturday. Several Samoyed dogs entertained the crowd with sledding demonstrations throughout the day, taking breaks between runs to receive petting and hugs from event-goers. A campfire thawed guests after a brisk morning of cross country skiing and snowshoeing on the nature trails. Scott Miller used a chisel and chainsaw to create an ice sculpture of a majestic eagle. Harris Nature Center coordinator Kit Rich said the free event, in its 16th year, drew about 600 attendees.

— ARIEL ROGERS



Photos by Ariel Rogers

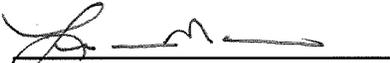


Park Commission Meeting
February 10, 2015

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Eagle Scout Project Proposal
- b. Sander Farm Natural Area – Lease and Open Space Easement Renewal
- c. 2015 Grant Projects – Set date for Public Hearing
- d. Central Park Master Plan RFQ interviews -set date

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation
DATE: February 5, 2015
RE: Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area Lease and Easement Renewal

Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area

In February 1995, Meridian Township entered into the first ten year Open Space Development Rights Easement and Lease Agreement with Dr. Maureen Sander for 31.9 acres located adjacent to Dr. Sander's home at 4275 Dobie Road, Okemos.

For the past 20 years, this agreement with Dr. Sander has allowed public access for passive recreation purposes. Also, Tacoma Hills resident, Larry Hennessey monitors, repairs and replaces (when necessary), the bluebird boxes placed in various locations along the existing nature trail.

Dr. Sander has conveyed her desire to renew the Open Space Development Easement and Lease Agreement with the Township through February 5, 2025.

The following motion is offered for Board consideration:

MOVE TO RECOMMEND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD EXTENTION OF THE EXISTING OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT EASEMENT AND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DR. MAUREEN SANDER FOR 31.9 ACRES OF NATURAL AREA FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2015 THROUGH FEBRUARY 5, 2025 FOR PARCEL #33-02-02-27-177-007.

LEASE

This Lease is entered into between Dr. Carla Maureen Sander, a single woman, who resides at 4275 Dobie Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 ("Dr. Sander") and the Charter Township of Meridian, with offices located at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 ("The Township").

In consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, and in consideration of One Dollar (\$1), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Dr. Sander and the Township agree as follows:

1. Leased Premises. Dr. Sander leases to the Township, on the terms and subject to the conditions herein contained, certain premises situated in the Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, which are legally described in Exhibit A, attached hereto.

2. Term. The term of this Lease shall commence on the date it is executed by the Township, and shall continue in effect for as long as a certain Open Space Development Rights Easement, executed by the Township on the same date, remains in effect, including any renewals or extensions thereof, described in Exhibit B.

3. Rent. As rent, the Township shall pay Dr. Sander One Dollar (\$1.00) per year that this Lease remains in effect. Dr. Sander hereby acknowledges receipt of said rent payments.

4. Use of the Premises.

(a) The premises shall be used by the Township as a preserved natural area.

(b) Non-vehicular access and entry to the premises by members of the general public shall be permitted, provided that such access or entry will not jeopardize the condition of the land. Such access shall be subject to the same restrictions as those placed on Township park land according to Chapter 54, Parks and Recreation, in the Meridian Township Code of Ordinances, as amended, see Exhibit C.

(d) The Township may use a portion of the premises as a tree farm and for the growing and raising of trees designed to be transplanted to other Township properties, which trees shall remain the sole property of the Township and may be removed by the Township at any time during the

4. Use of the Premises (continued) term of this Lease or any extensions hereof. The specific location or locations of such tree farming on the premises shall be subject to approval by Dr. Sander, in the manner provided in Section 4(e) of this Lease. Upon removal of said trees, the Township shall restore the premises as close to its natural or original state as possible.

(e) The Township may make or allow such other uses of the premises as are not inconsistent with its use as a nature preserve, upon approval granted by Dr. Sander, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Such additional uses may include, without limitation by way of enumeration, the erection of a sign or signs identifying the nature area for use by the public, and such other uses that are consistent with the use of the premises as a nature area. Notice of all such proposed additional uses shall be provided by the Township in writing to Dr. Sander. Dr. Sander shall be deemed to have approved such proposed additional uses unless she provides the Township written notice of disapproval within 30 days of the Township's written notice.

5. Indemnification and Insurance. Dr. Sander shall not be liable for any damage or injury occurring on or about the premises to any person or to any personal property, except in the case of Dr. Sander's failure to perform, or negligent performance of, a duty imposed by law. The Township hereby agrees to protect, indemnify and hold Dr. Sander harmless from and against any and all loss, costs, expense, damage or liability arising out of any accident or other occurrence on the premises or any part thereof, causing injury to any person or property, no matter how caused, except in the case of Dr. Sander's failure to perform or negligent performance of a duty imposed by law. The Township shall procure general property and liability insurance protecting against all such losses, costs, expenses, damages or liabilities arising out of any accident or other occurrence on the premises.

6. Possession. The Township shall have possession of the premises on the date of the commencement of the term of this Lease, and continuing throughout the term of this Lease and assume all maintenance practices necessary to reasonably ensure the safety of all users.

7. Police Protection. The Township shall use its best efforts to provide police protection to the premises, when necessary to help prevent members of the public from using the premises contrary to the terms of this Lease.

8. Taxes. Dr. Sander shall remain responsible for payment of all ad valorem property taxes and special assessments pertaining to the premises, except such ad valorem taxes and special assessment as are exempt under the Open Space Development Rights Easement. Such ad valorem property taxes shall be based on an assessed value of the premises equivalent to the residual rights, after the value of the development rights has been removed.

9. Rights of First Refusal. For additional consideration in the amount of One Dollar (\$1.00), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Dr. Sander agrees that she will not sell, convey or assign any interest in the subject premises to any party, on any terms, and at any price, until she first offers in writing to convey the premises to the Township on the same terms and at the same price, and until the Township, within 30 days after written notice of said offer is made, fails to accept the offer. This right of first refusal shall remain in effect during the entire term of this Lease and any renewals hereof.

10. Rights of Condemnation. Meridian Township shall forfeit all rights of condemnation of the premises for the extent of the Lease.

11. Binding Effect. The Lease shall bind the parties and their successors, assigns, vendees, heirs, administrators, executors and personal representatives.

12. Lease Alterations/Modification. Amendments to the lease can be made at any time during the tenure of the Lease by mutual consent of both parties. Any such alterations, addenda or modifications shall be made in writing and shall be attached to the Lease and considered an integral part of the lease.

13. Merger. This lease, together with the Open Space Development Rights Easement, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements.

14. Severability. If any section of this agreement should be held invalid by operation of law, or by any tribunal or court of competent jurisdiction, or if compliance with or enforcement of any sections should be restrained by such tribunal or court pending a final determination as to its validity, the remainder of this agreement shall not be affected.

15. Copies of Lease. Copies of said Lease shall be kept on file, in Meridian Township, with the following Departments: Administration, Township Clerk, Police, Assessing, Parks and Recreation, Supervisor and any other department deemed necessary by either Dr. Sander or Meridian Township.

16. Notices. Any notice which either party may, or is required, to give hereunder may be served personally or sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, as follows:

- (a) To the Township: 5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864
- (b) To Dr. Sander: 4275 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
- (c) In the alternative, at such other places as may be designated in writing by the

parties from time to time.

17. Exhibits. The following exhibits shall be considered inherent parts of this Lease:

- Exhibit A: Legal Description of the Premises.
- Exhibit B: Open Space Development Rights Easement.
- Exhibit C: Chapter 54, Parks and Recreation, Meridian Township Code of Ordinances.
- Exhibit D: Public Act 116 of 1974, as amended

WITNESSES:

Dr. Carla Maureen Sander

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS EASEMENT

This Open Space Development Rights Easement is entered into between Dr. Carla Maureen Sander, a single woman, residing at 4275 Dobie Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 ("Dr. Sander") and the Charter Township of Meridian, with offices at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 ("Township").

In consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, and in further consideration of One Dollar (\$1), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Dr. Sander and the Township agree as follows:

1. Subject Premises. The subject premises to which this Open Space Development Rights Easement pertains are situated in the Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan and are legally described in Exhibit A, attached hereto.

2. Statutory Authority. This Open Space Development Rights Easement is entered into pursuant to Section 7 of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, Act 116 of the Public Acts of 1974, as amended, and shall at all times be subject to the provision of that Act.

3. Term. The term of this Open Space Development Rights Easement shall commence on the date that it is executed by the Township, and shall continue in effect for a period of ten (10) years from that date. This Open Space Development Rights Easement may be relinquished or renewed as provided in Section 14 of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act.

4. Nature of the Easement. Pursuant to this Open Space Development Rights Easement, Dr. Sander hereby transfers all development rights in the subject premises to the Township during the terms of this Easement and any extensions or renewals hereof.

5. Use of the Subject Premises. The following restrictions and agreements shall apply to the use of the subject premises during the term of this Open Space Development Rights Easement and any extensions hereof:

- (a) No structure shall be built on the land without the approval of the Township.
- (b) No improvement to the land shall be made without the approval of the Township.

5. Use of the Subject Premises (continued)

(c) No interest in the land shall be sold, except as stipulated in section 9 or the Lease.

(d) Non-vehicular access and entry to the subject premises by members of the general public shall be permitted, provided that such access and entry will not jeopardize the conditions of the land. Such access shall be subject to the same restrictions as those placed on Township park land according to Chapter 54, Parks and Recreation, as published in the Meridian Township Code of Ordinances, as amended, see Exhibit C.

6. Tax Exemption. The development rights held by the Township as expressed in this Open space Development Rights Easement shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation.

7. Exhibits. The following exhibits shall be considered inherent parts of this Easement:

Exhibit A: Legal Description of Premises

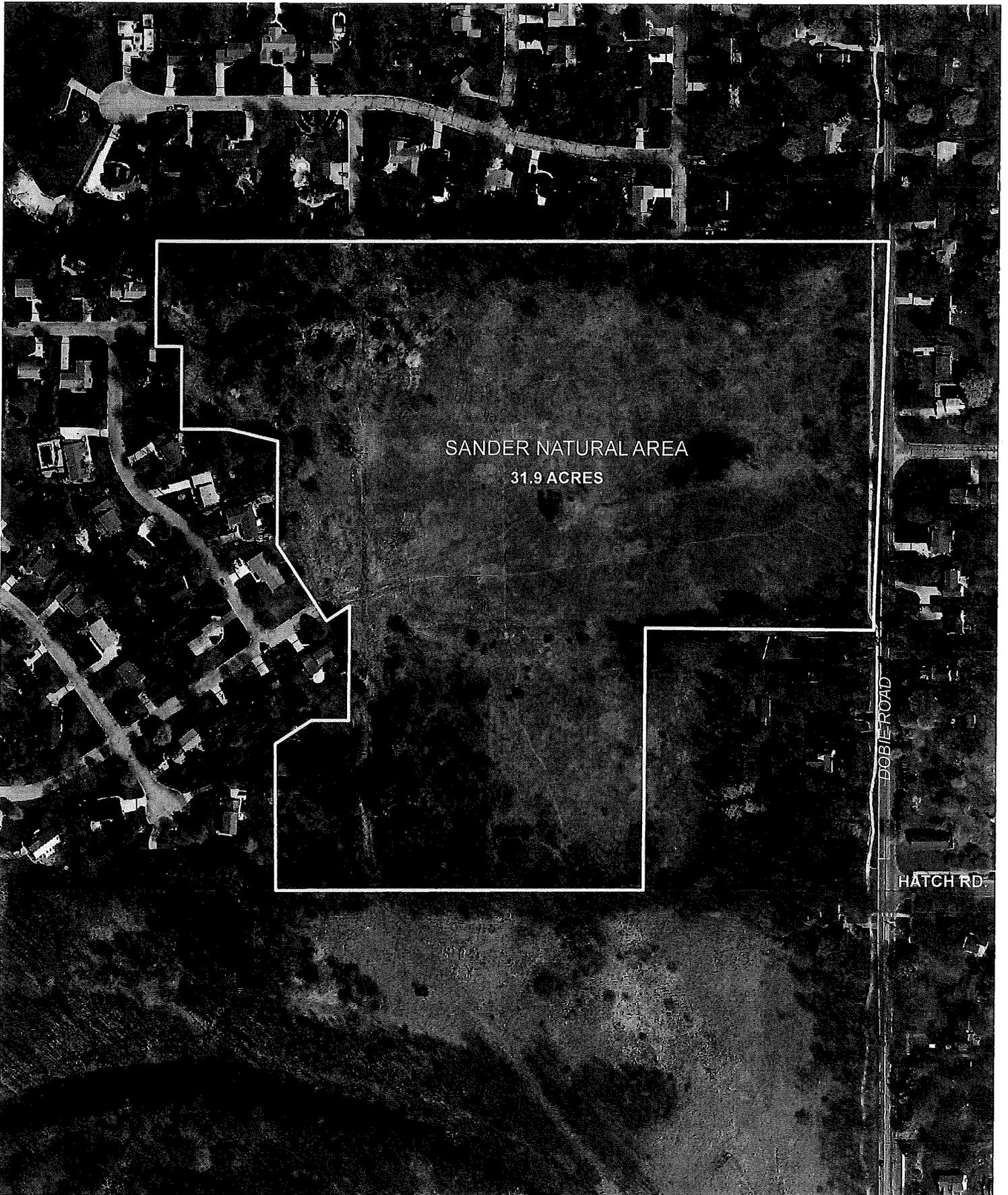
Exhibit B: Lease

Exhibit C: Chapter 54, Parks and Recreation, Meridian Township Code of Ordinances

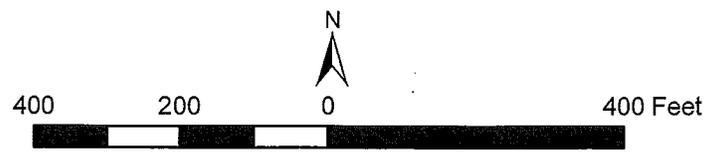
Exhibit D: Public Act 116 of 1974, as amended

8. Merger. This Open Space Development Rights Easement, together with the Lease (Exhibit E) constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements.

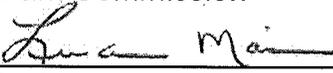
9. Severability. If any section of this agreement should be held invalid by operation of law, or by any tribunal or court of competent jurisdiction, or if compliance with or enforcement of any sections should be restrained by such tribunal or court pending a final determination as to its validity, the remainder of this agreement shall not be affected.



MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN



MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner CPRP
DATE: February 4, 2015
RE: Set Public Hearing Date for Grant Submissions

As discussed during previous Park Commission meetings, Staff is recommending the Park Commission schedule public hearings during its March 10, 2014 televised meeting date at 7 pm in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building for three grant submissions as listed below:

- **North Meridian Road Park, 5191 N. Meridian Road, Williamston** – pavilion construction project
- **Hillbrook Park, 1747 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett** - tennis court renovation project
- **Meridian Riverfront Park/Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos** - pavilion construction project

The following motion is for your consideration:

MOVED TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE PROPOSED GRANT SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NORTH MERIDIAN ROAD PARK PAVILION; HILLBROOK PARK TENNIS COURT RENOVATION; AND MERIDIAN RIVERFRONT PARK/HARRIS NATURE CENTER PAVILION ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015, 7 PM, TOWN HALL ROOM, MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MI





 NORTH

 SCALE: 1" = 60'



Outdoor Space Redefined

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[dodecagons](#)

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[shelter options](#)

[wood shelters](#)

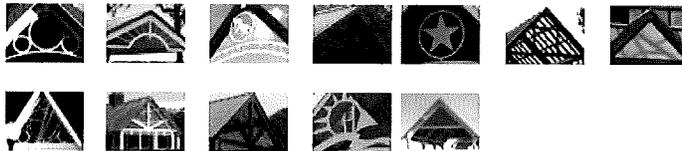
[fabric shelters](#)



CUSTOM GABLE ORNAMENTATION

Gable ornamentation dates back to ancient Greek times. It is a small detail that adds a unique touch to your shelter. Ornamentation can showcase artwork or announce a location. It can also make a first impression, create an interesting focal point or become a signature of fine craftsmanship.

Poligon's gable ornamentation is created by our team of designers. Standard designs are available or you can personalize for a custom look. Each design is cut out with our state of the art laser for a crisp clean look. The final product is powder coated with our signature Pol-5000 available in 40 standard colors allowing your design to blend in or stand out.



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HILLBROOK PARK

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

February 20, 2013

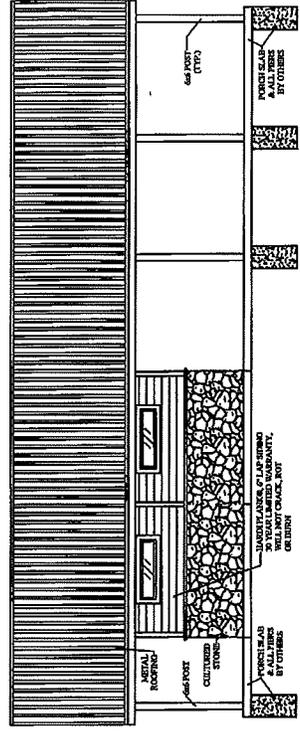

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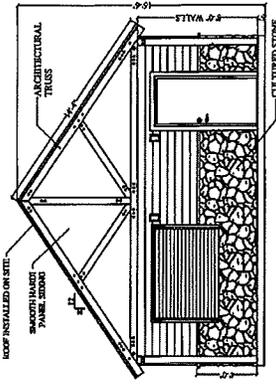
BMS
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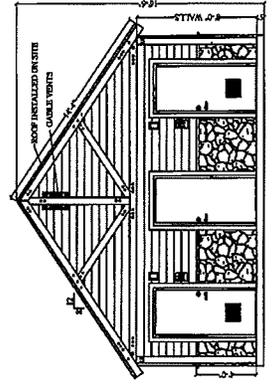
**BMS MODEL
 R42117 WITH ROCK &
 ARCHITECTURAL TRUSSES**



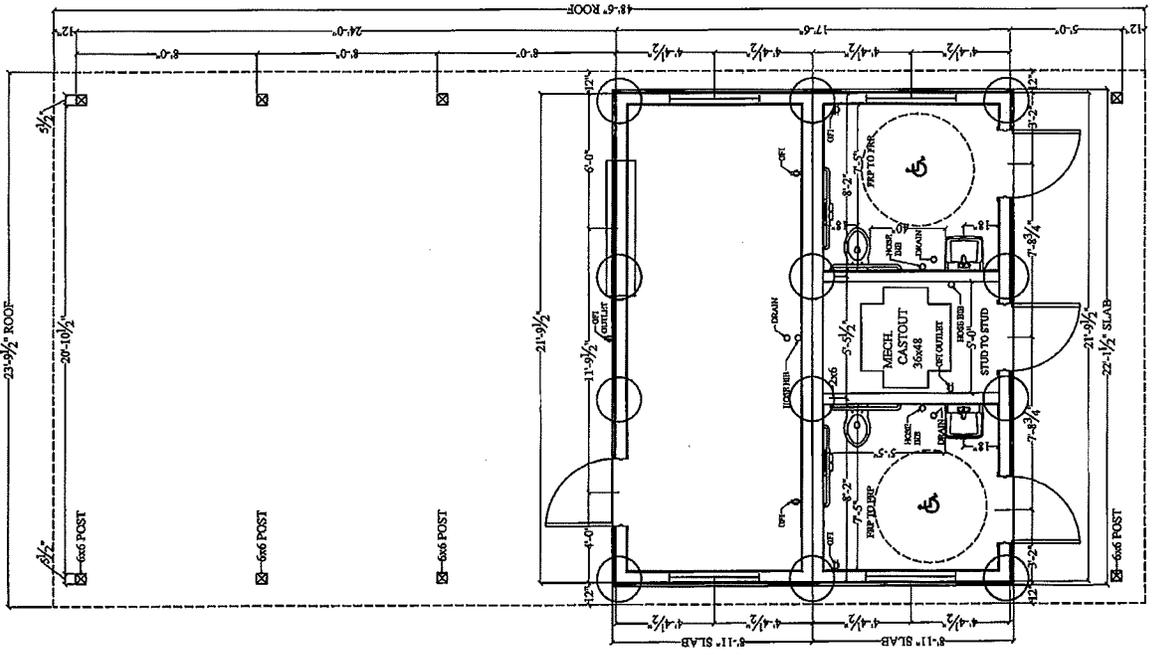
R. SIDE VIEW



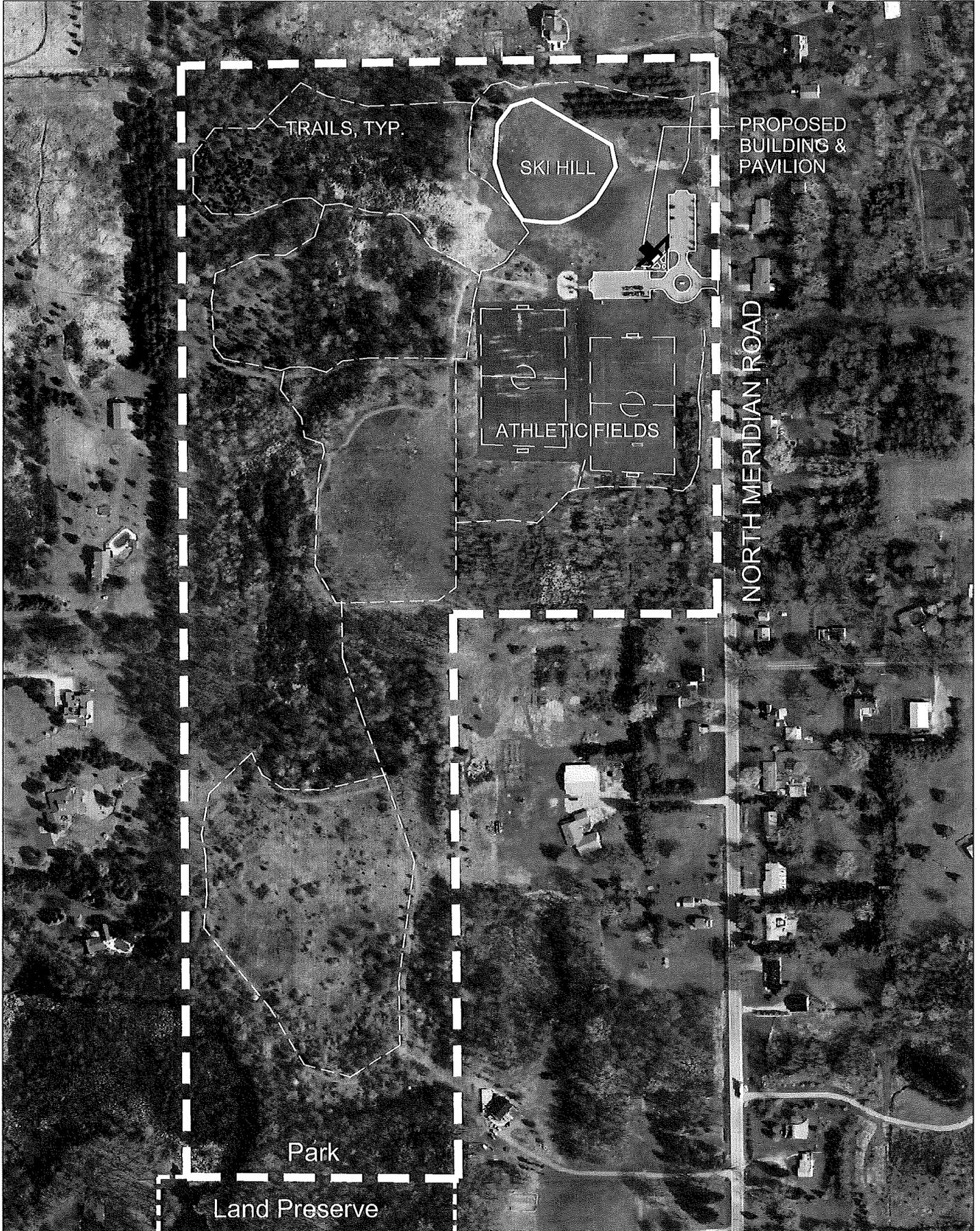
REAR VIEW

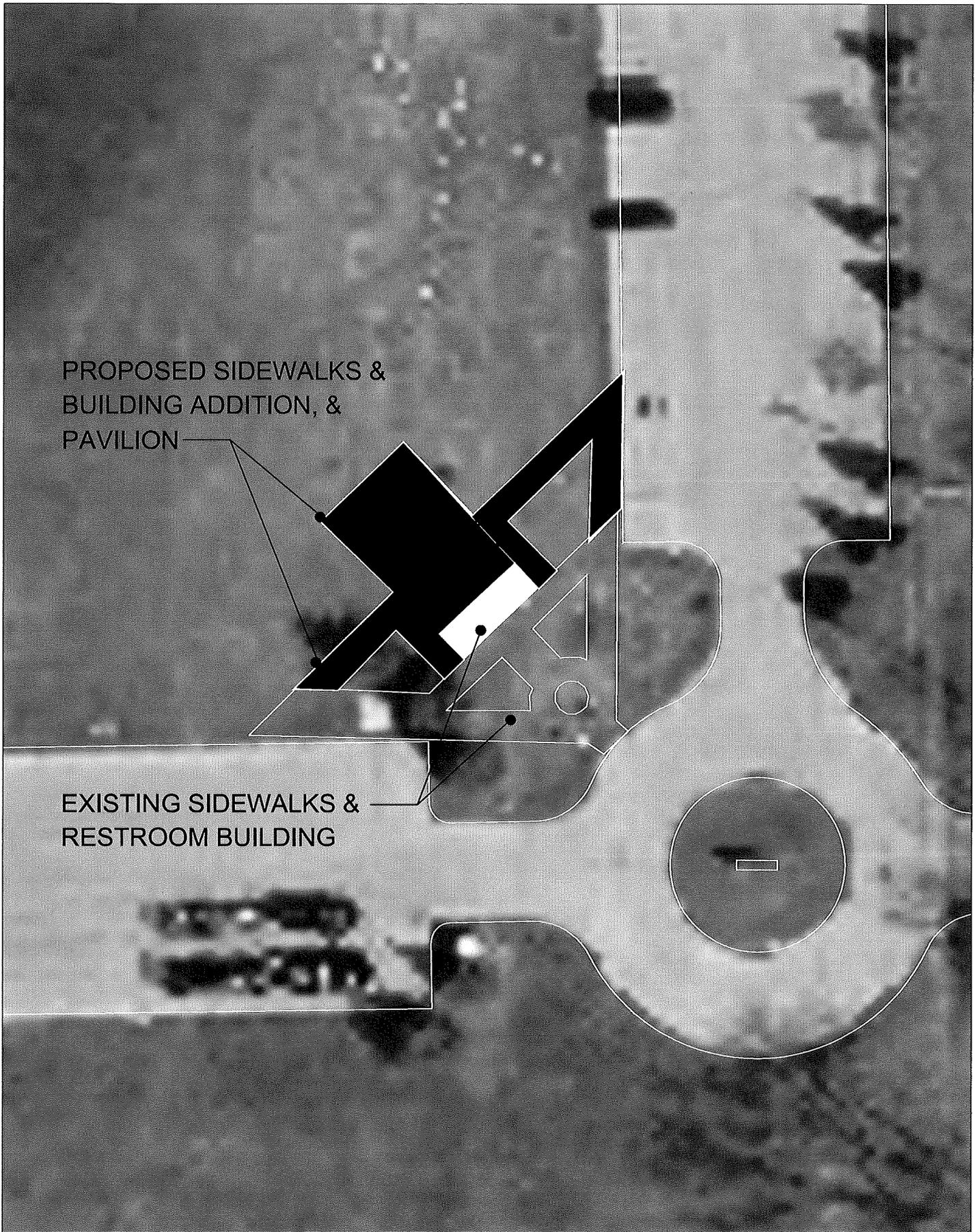


FRONT VIEW



FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 3/16"=1'-0"





PROPOSED SIDEWALKS &
BUILDING ADDITION, &
PAVILION

EXISTING SIDEWALKS &
RESTROOM BUILDING



MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner CPRP
DATE: February 4, 2015
RE: Central Park Master Plan RFQ Interviews – Set Date

The five proposals for the Central Park Master Plan were included in your meeting packet and discussed during the work session. The next step is to schedule interviews with each firm.

Staff is suggesting the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 18
- Thursday, February 19
- Friday, February 20

The interviews could be held from 2 pm – 7 pm; giving each firm one hour for their presentation including a question/answer session.

The following motion is for your consideration:

MOVED TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING TO CONDUCT CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN RFQ FIRM INTERVIEWS ON _____,