



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Location: Service Center Building  
Okemos, MI 48864

**DATE:** February 13, 2019

**PRESENT:** Chair Michael McDonald; Commissioner Annika Schaetzl; Commissioner Mark Stephen

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Amanda Lick

**STAFF:** LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation, Kit Rich, Sr. Park Naturalist, Kati Adams, Senior Park Naturalist

**GUESTS:** Harris Nature Center Foundation Board Members

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair McDonald called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Sports Equipment Bins/Lending Boxes – Eagle Scout Candidate William Jenness – William explained his project of building four sports ball/lending boxes for our parks. The Commissioners were appreciative of the project and asked him to work directly with staff to determine the best locations.

B. MParks Awards Recognition

1. Park Design Award – HNC Exploration Area – Director Maisner shared that Meridian Township received the Outstanding Park Design Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association at the annual conference held in Kalamazoo January 29-February 1, 2019. This is a competitive award throughout the state. The Commission recognized the efforts of the Harris Nature Center for their efforts in making the plan a reality through grants and volunteer support. The plaque will be hung on the wall at the Harris Nature Center.
2. Fellowship Award – Also receiving an award at the MRPA (MParks) Annual Conference was Director Maisner. The Fellowship Award is presented each year to a longtime professional recognizing accomplishments and professional engagement throughout your career and is the highest honor bestowed upon a member. Director Maisner expressed her appreciation to the Commissioners for attending the ceremony.

**3. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Stephens moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 15, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Schaetzl moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Items to/from the Public

None

B. Commission Information

1. Joint Meeting: Park Commission Report, January 15, 2019
2. Harris Nature Center Nature Exploration Area MParks Design Award Outstanding Park Application
3. Chinese New Year Celebration Program – February 10, 2019
4. Email from The Patronicity Team, To: Director Maisner congratulating Township for reaching the goal and Township Manager Walsh congratulating team
5. Press Releases:
  - A. Get an Active Start to 2019 with Annual Winter 5K – Township to Host 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk
  - B. Mackinac Bridge Tower Adventure with HNC Foundation – Harris Nature Center Foundation Auctions Mackinac Adventure Package
  - C. Embrace Winter with a Wonderland of Activities – Harris Nature Center Hosts Seasonal Event
  - D. Township Welcomes Commissioner Courtney Wisinski as New Trustee – Park Commissioner Joins Township Board
  - E. Haslett – Okemos Kiwanis Club Donates \$25,000 Toward the Marketplace on the Green Project – Marketplace on the Green Project is Halfway to Fundraising Goal
  - F. Donate While You Dine with Marketplace on the Green – Parks and Recreation Department Hosts Fundraising Event with Culver’s
  - G. Meridian Celebrates New Park Pavilion – Township to Host Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
  - H. \$67,145 Raised for the Marketplace on the Green Project! – Patronicity Crowdfunding Campaign Exceeds Fundraising Efforts

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. HNC Foundation - \$2,700 was raised by on the online auction
- B. Patronicity – Meridian Township exceeded its crowdfunding goal of \$50,000 and qualified for the \$50,000 match from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for construction for the Marketplace on the Green Project.
- C. Culvers Fundraiser – was held on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> were a total of \$600 was donated to the crowdfunding effort for Marketplace on the Green.
- D. CBL Agreement – CBL and Meridian Township are close to executing an agreement for shared parking on Mall property as well as the land transfer agreement with MilMar Mall, LLC.
- E. Pavilion and playground
- F. Prime Meridian Magazine
- G. Evaluations
- H. Larry Bobb – Pole Barn at HNC

**8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Park Commission Vacancy – The Commissioners reviewed the applications submitted for the vacancy.
- B. MParks Conference Sessions – The Commissioners reviewed the session offerings at the upcoming conference.

**9. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Candidate recommendation to Park Commission** – The Commissioners reviewed the six applications that were submitted to fill the vacancy left by Commissioner Wisinski. After careful review, the following a motion was made.

Commissioner Stephens moved TO RECOMMEND AMI VANANTWERP TO FILL THE OPEN PARK COMMISSION SEAT UNTIL THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Eagle Scout Project –Sports Ball Boxes**

Commissioner Stephens moved TO APPROVE THE EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FROM WILLIAM JENNESS OF CONSTRUCTING FOUR SPORTS BALL LENDING BOXES FOR OUR PARKS. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

- C. **Disposal of Property** – Pole Barn HNC – This topic was moved to the March 12 meeting.

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

- A. Commissioner Comments - None
- B. Event Calendar:
  - 1. Howl at the Moon: Friday, February 15 and March 22, 7 pm; Harris Nature Center
  - 2. Meridian Ice Fishing Derby; Saturday, February 16, 9 am – 12 Noon; Central Park South Pond
  - 3. Moonlight Ski and Shoe; Saturday, February 23, 6-9 pm; Harris Nature Center
  - 4. Owl Prowl Campfire; Saturday, March 2, 7 pm; Harris Nature Center
  - 5. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Benefit Pancake Breakfast; Saturday, March 9, 8-11 am; 242 Community Church
  - 6. Family Special: Lucky Shamrocks; Saturday, March 17, 2 pm; Harris Nature Center
- C. Next Park Commission Meeting – Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 pm; non-televised; Meridian Service Center

**12. CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Stephens moved, THAT THE PARK COMMISSION GO INTO A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PROPERTY CONSIDERATION. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS: Annika Schaetzl; Mark Stephen; Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Commission entered into closed session at 7:30 pm.

Commissioner Schaetzl moved, FOR THE PARK COMMISSION RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS: Annika Schaetzl; Mark Stephen; Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

The Park Commission returned to open session at 7:39 pm.

Commissioner Stephens moved, FOR STAFF TO SUCH ACTION AS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl.

VOICE VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

**14. NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 12, 2019**, in the Service Center Building; 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI, with the non-televised regular meeting at 6:30 pm.