



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Location: Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Haslett, MI 48840

DATE: February 11, 2020

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

EXCUSED: None

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

OTHERS: Richard Miksicek, Larry McCormick, Austin McCormick, Alexis Ayala, Phil Deschaine, Thomas Porter

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. WELCOME TO NEW PARK COMMISSIONER MARY NARDO FARRIS

Chair McDonald welcomed newly appointed Mary Nardo Farris to the Park Commission.

3. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Chair McDonald noted the amended agenda to include the second presentation of proposed Eagle Scout project.

Commissioner Stephens moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA **AS AMENDED** Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. **MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Project** - Derek Perry, Deputy Township Manager – Derek reviewed the map for phases I, II and III of the project. Phase II will be underway within the next 90 days. This project is funded by the Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage, Meridian Township Pathway Millage and a Federal Transportation Grant. Meridian Township recently received another grant from Ingham County to improve the pathway on Okemos Road from Gaylord Smith Court north to the Inter Urban Trail as well to build a new section of trail in the Towar Gardens area that connects Albert White Park to the East Lansing Aquatic Center. Meridian Township has captured over 3-million dollars of the Ingham County Millage for parks and trails over the last four years.

B. **Proposed Eagle Scout Project -Bat Houses** - Eagle Scout Candidate Austin McCormick has proposed to construct and install five bat houses in parks this summer. He explained the

importance of bats for insect control. The Commissioners applauded his presentation and project. Austin will return to make his final report when his project is completed.

- C. **Introduction of Stewardship Coordinator Emma Campbell** – Emma provided her background education and experience in natural resources management and environmental education and shared her proposal to engage and educate residents in stewardship called the Conservation Corp. She will be working on refining the details and looks forward to launching this program soon to improve habitat in our parks and land preserves. The Commissioners expressed their approval of this program and look forward to

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Lick moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp
VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
None
- B. Commission Information
1. Joint Meeting Park Commission Report
 2. Harris Nature Center Foundation updated Directors List
 3. Press Releases:
 - a. Celebrate Century Old Traditions with Chinese New Year – Chinese Spring Festival Hosted in Meridian Township
 - b. Get an Active Step to 2020 with Annual Winter 5K – Township to Host 13th Annual Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response
None

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

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Packets delivered or your own laptop or iPad
- B. Marketplace on the Green
1. Gordon Construction Services – site work
 2. Mid States Recreation/Coverworx –Pavilion and Stage
 3. Colors – posts light Gray; center roof-Copper; remaining roof-blue
 4. Stage – considering monoslope or curved roof
 5. Footings – will be poured in February
- C. Harris Nature Center Projects
1. Contracts signed

2. Pre-Construction Meeting tomorrow
- D. Central Park Projects – approving contracts today
- E. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021 beginning to update information now. Survey in 2021.
- F. Park Rx update –They are revising the MOU and will resend to us
- G. Skate Park update – meetings continue with Theils. Next steps include site selection, resolution of support, fundraising. Site consideration includes Central Park in from to Nokomis Center. Commissioners requested that staff contact CBL Properties to engage in a public/private partnership for utilizing unused parking. Staff will prepare a resolution for the March Meeting.
- H. Pathway and Trails Map – Staff and volunteer Bob Wilson are working on creating a user-friendly trail and pathway map for the Township.
- I. Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage – signs are located throughout the Township. There has been some confusion that the millage request is coming from the Township.
- J. Smash and Grab yesterday at Nancy Moore Park Parking lot at 2pm Feb. 10.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Proposed Eagle Scout Candidate Project / Bat Houses

Commissioner LICK moved, TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE PROJECT BY AUSTIN MCCORMICK TO CONSTRUCT BAT HOUSES FOR MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS. Supported by Commissioner Farris.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

1. Election of Chair:

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER LICK AS CHAIR. COMMISSIONER VAN ANTWERP SECONDED.

Commissioner Lick accepted the nomination.
Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nominations for Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Commissioners McDonald, Stephens, Van Antwerp, Farris, Lick

NAYS: None

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Election of Vice Chair

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER VAN ANTWERP AS VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER LICK SECONDED.

Commissioner Van Antwerp accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nomination for Vice Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Commissioners McDonald, Stephens, Van Antwerp, Farris, Lick

NAYS: None

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Appointment to the Land Preservation Advisory Board

Chair McDonald re-appointed Commissioner Stephens to the Land Preservation Advisory Board for 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Commissioners McDonald, Stephens, Van Antwerp, Farris, Lick

NAYS: None

Motion passed unanimously

C. Bid Results – Central Park Projects –for the

1. Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector Project

Director Maisner reported three bids were received from two contractors with the low bidder being OAK Construction Company with a quote of \$602,800.

Commissioner VanAntwerp moved TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE CENTRAL MERIDIAN REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTOR PROJECT TO OAK CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$602,800 WHICH WILL BE FUNDED BY THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK MILLAGE AND MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT. Supported by Commissioner Farris.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Lick, Farris, Stephens and Van Antwerp, Chair McDonald

Nays: None

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Gateway Bridge and Restroom Building

Director Maisner reported two bids were received for this project. During the review process, it was determined that items #2 and #4 could be removed and completed at another time. By removing those items, Gordon's Construction Services was the low bidder with an amount of \$308,343.39.

Commissioner Lick moved TO APPROVE THE BID RECEIVED FROM GORDON'S CONSTRUCTION SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$496,998.39 WITH AN IMMEDIATE CHANGE ORDER OF A REDUCTION OF \$188,655 FOR AN AMENDED CONTRACT PRICE OF \$308,343.39 FOR THE PROJECT FUNDED BY THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK MILLAGE FOR A NEW RESTROOM AND GATEWAY BRIDGE IN CENTRAL PARK. Supported by Commissioner VanAntwerp.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Lick, Farris, Stephens and Van Antwerp, Chair McDonald

Nays: None

Motion passed unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. CIP Review

Chair McDonald motioned to re-apply for the land acquisition grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the Okemos Road Parcel. The Commissioners agreed by consensus. Grants are due to the DNR April 1. Additional discussion regarding the CIP was moved to the March 10th meeting.

B. Park Videos

Director Maisner suggested that Commissioners consider a program to better promote our facilities by taping short videos for replay on Facebook, etc. We have so many wonderful resources available in our community to talk about. Details will be discussed at the March meeting.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Comments

B. Events Calendar:

1. Meridian Moonlight Sledding, Saturday, February 22, 6-9 pm, North Meridian Road Park
2. Meridian Swims, Sunday, February 23, 6-8:30 pm, Michigan Athletic Club (call to reserve spot 517.364.8888)
3. Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, Saturday, May 7, 8-11 am, 242 Community Church
4. Farmers' Market:
 - a. Winter Market, 1st and 3rd Saturday, December – April, 10 am – 2 pm, J. C. Penney Corridor, Meridian Mall

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm.

13. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2020 (3rd Tuesday of the month) at the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, at 6:30 pm.