



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

DATE: June 30, 2020

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

EXCUSED: Chair Lick

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

OTHERS: None

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice- Chair VanAntwerp called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

MNRTF GRANT APPLICATION – OKEMOS ROAD ACQUISITION: Vice Chair Van Antwerp opened the public hearing at 5:40pm.

Director of Parks and Recreation, LuAnn Maisner summarized the project outlining the specifics and project costs as follows:

The Parks and Recreation Department and Park Commission are interested in acquiring 5280 Okemos Road, a 1.85-acre property adjacent to Nancy Moore Park. Acquiring this property would allow the township to construct a separate and more direct access to Nancy Moore Park as well as create a trail hub along the upcoming MSU to Lake Lansing Trail whose construction will begin this summer.

This acquisition will improve access to our existing 40-acre Nancy Moore Park as well as provide a hub for non-motorized transportation along the 5.5-mile MSU to Lake Lansing Trail. Grant support for this project from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is our preferred method of funding a portion of this acquisition. Parks and Recreation staff submitted the application by the April 1, 2020 deadline, but due to COVID-19, the public hearing originally scheduled for March 17 was postponed until now. The proposed grant will have a total acquisition cost of \$170,000 comprised of a 25% local match from the

Township in the amount of \$42,500 and a 75% grant amount of \$127,500 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Acquisition Breakdown:

Acquisition Costs:	\$ 170,000
Grant Amount (75%)	\$ 127,000
Funds from Park Millage Fund (25%)	\$ 42,500

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

B. PARK COMMISSIONERS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Reviewed the grant amount percentages
- Ask for support letters from such groups as Tim Morgan, Tim McCaffrey, Michigan Mountain Bike Association, Julie Brixie, Tim Potter, Curtis Hertel, Ingham County Trails, etc.
- Support information is due in August.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

D. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Chair closed the public hearing at 5:19 pm and stated the Park Commission will take action to recommend approval of action to the Township Board later during this meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Marketplace on the Green is progressing quickly; projected completed date August 23; ribbon cutting first of September
- B. Farmers Market has been moved to the Meridian Mall parking area adjacent to the Marketplace on the Green; chance for visitors to see the progress of the Marketplace and its location. The Wednesday Market will begin July 1 with the hours of 3 – 7 pm. Both the Saturday and Wednesday Market will run until the end of October.
- C. Large Dog Park's electricity has been installed. Will be marking out the concrete pad for the fob system and the fencing will be installed July 17.
- D. Historical Village Restroom project had its first meeting today. The Footbridge has been removed and the new one installed by mid-August
- E. Harris Nature Center Restroom/Pavilion project is progressing

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. DNR Park Acquisition Grant Application

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

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

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 75% of the total project cost funded by the Natural Resources Trust Fund program; and

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

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for \$170,000 for the acquisition of 1.858 acres located at 5280 Okemos Road which will serve as the new entrance into the 40-acre Nancy Moore Park on Okemos Road as well as serve as a trail hub along the upcoming 5.5-mile MSU to Lake Lansing Trail; and

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

WHEREAS, park development and improvements are supported by Township Board Policy and 2019 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on June 30, 2020; and

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

TO SUPPORT SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND FOR THE ACQUISITION OF 1.858 ACRES LOCATED AT 5280 OKEMOS ROAD WITH THE INTENTION OF CREATING A HUB FOR NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION ALONG THE MSU TO LAKE LANSING TRAIL AND TO ALSO CREATE A NEW ENTRANCE INTO THE 40-ACRE NANCY MOORE PARK WITH A TOTAL ACQUISITION COST OF \$170,000. THE TWENTY-FIVE (25%) PERCENT LOCAL MATCH OF \$42,500 WILL BE FUNDED BY MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP WITH THE REMAINING SEVENTY-FIVE (75%) PERCENT (\$127,500) FUNDED BY THE MNRTF GRANT.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

Resolution passed unanimously (5-0)

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. July 14th Park Commission Meeting

Director Maisner stated she would like to keep this meeting scheduled to discuss the budget and the projects update. Commissioners agreed to Director Maisner’s suggestion to schedule it as a zoom meeting.

B. Nemoka Drain Meeting Update

Commissioner Stephens summarized the meeting. A portion of the trail traverses Hillbrook Park and the Drain office will be constructing a small footbridge over the ditch to maintain our current trail route in the park. A number of trees will be removed and replaced as part of this project. LSG is the contractor for the site. This project has been in the works for approximately 4 years. Commissioner Stephens asked the contractor to add any dirt/gravel that they are removing from the site to the low areas along the trail system in the park.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

9. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

A. Commissioner Comments

B. Events Calendar:

1. Summer/Fall Market, Saturdays, June-October, 8 am – 2 pm and Wednesdays, July-October, 3-7 pm; Meridian Mall parking area adjacent to Marketplace on the Green

10. CLOSED SESSION

None

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lick adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm.

15. NEXT MEETING: The virtual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 16 at 5 pm.