



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION  
TUESDAY JUNE 24, 2014  
TOWN HALL ROOM



**WORK SESSION 5:30 PM**

(salmon)

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Interviews for Open position on Park Commission
4. Other
5. Public Comment
6. Adjournment

**REGULAR MEETING – 8 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Presentations
4. Public Comment
5. Commissioner Reports and Comments
6. Approval of Minutes (blue)
  - a. May 13, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
  - b. May 13, 2014 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 Final Report – Legg Park reset bridge – Eagle Scout Candidate Thomas Laub
  - b. Eagle Scout Project Presentation – North Meridian Road Park proposed boardwalk – Eagle Scout Candidate Ryan Nussdorfer
  - c. Park Commissioner Recommendation
  
10. **Unfinished Business** (green)  
PUBLIC COMMENT
  - a.
  
11. **Other Business** (cherry)  
PUBLIC COMMENT
  
12. **Discussion Items** (lilac)  
PUBLIC COMMENT
  - a. Park Millage Ballot Proposal
  
13. **Final Comments**
  
14. **Announcements**
  - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2014 Town Hall
  - b. Farmers' Market – Saturdays 8am-2 pm Central Park
  - c. Van Atta Road closed from Grand River south to bridge; access to Harris Nature Center from Jolly Road
  
15. **Public Remarks**
  
16. **Closed Session**
  
17. **Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting  
June 24, 2014

**WORK SESSION**

4. Open position on Park Commission Board

May 16, 2014

Dear Director Maisner/LuAnn, and Park Commission Colleagues:

It is with regret that I submit this letter of resignation from my current position as a Meridian Township Park Commissioner, effective June 1, 2014. I have enjoyed working with you over the past 2 terms to maintain and improve the township parks, which contribute so much to the enjoyment and well-being of our residents. I hope that the future will bring additional resources to make this task a bit easier, and I look forward to participating informally in some of these future projects.

I am confident that whoever takes my place will be as impressed as I am with the skill, dedication and spirit of the staff, and the talent and energy that they bring to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Aronoff". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marilyn Aronoff

## LuAnn Maisner

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**From:** Frank Walsh  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2014 9:36 AM  
**To:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Cc:** Aronoffm@msu.edu; banasteri9@gmail.com; jaramil4@yahoo.com; steph143@msu.edu; tdwilson@pplant.msu.edu  
**Subject:** RE: Park Commission Resignation

Hi LuAnn,

I spoke with Supervisor LeGoff regarding the Park Commission appointment process. She is pleased with the process as presented by the Park Commission and urges you to move forward. Under the Open Meetings Act I'm not able to poll the rest of the Township Board regarding the issue. However, I've heard no objections to the aforementioned process.

The Township Board anticipates a recommendation from the Parks Commission in late June or early July.

Thank you for providing leadership on this issue. We certainly will miss Marilyn's contributions to our vast park system.

Frank

**Frank L. Walsh**  
**Township Manager**  
**Charter Township of Meridian**  
**P: (517) 853-4254**  
**F: (517) 853-4251**

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)  
[www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship](http://www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship)  
[www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp](http://www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp)  
[www.myMeridian.net](http://www.myMeridian.net)

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**From:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2014 11:28 AM  
**To:** Board; Frank Walsh  
**Cc:** Aronoffm@msu.edu; banasteri9@gmail.com; jaramil4@yahoo.com; steph143@msu.edu; tdwilson@pplant.msu.edu  
**Subject:** Park Commission Resignation

**To:** Meridian Township Supervisor LeGoff  
and Township Trustees

**From:** Todd Wilson, Chair

**Date:** May 23, 2014

**RE:** Resignation of Marilyn Aronoff / Open seat on Park Commission

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Marilyn Aronoff has submitted her letter of resignation from the Park Commission effective June 1, 2014. Her current term expires in November, 2016.

The Park Commission is respectfully requesting the opportunity to solicit Application for Public Service on the Park Commission, and after careful review, offer a recommendation to the Township Board on the candidate to fill the open position.

Your consideration of our request would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



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

Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

## APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

I am interested in service on one or more of the following public bodies as checked below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assessing Board of Review*   | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Commission                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building and/or Fire Board of Appeals and Building Hearing Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Preservation Advisory Board           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cable Communications Commission*                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Commission (elected/appointed)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Area Transportation Authority (C.A.T.A.)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pension Trustees                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Resources Commission                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Development Authority*                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Township Board (elected/appointed)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Corporation                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Officials Compensation Commission*                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                      |

(\*Special conditions restrict eligibility for appointment)

Indicate areas not included above which may warrant special attention or study that are of interest to you:

I have a bachelor and juris doctorate degrees with an emphasis in land use.

Summarize your reasons for applying for this type of public service:

I am ready to get back into public service and feel this would be a good fit.

Describe education, experience or training which will assist you if appointed. (Attach resume if available)

Besides the above education, I was member of the planning commission and am currently a board member in three other arenas.

Name: Shane Goodale

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: 1223 Tihart Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Phone: (days) 5172308708 (evenings) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Shane@shanegoodale.com

Signature Shane Goodale Date 5-30-14

Other than the Downtown Development Authority Board, persons appointed to Meridian Township boards and commissions must be a resident and elector (if of voting age) of the Township during the term of office. Excessive absences may be cause for review of appointment.

(PLEASE USE BACK IF NEEDED)

The policy for appointment of candidates to the various public service positions is based on the following criteria: desire to serve, experience, expertise, availability of time to serve, and maintenance of equitable geographic representation. In most instances it will be desirable to develop further information through a personal interview. This application will be retained in township files for two years. Please return this form to the Office of the Clerk, Charter Township of Meridian.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY				
Date Received		Distro:	Application #	
Registered Voter:	Y / N			
Date Appointed:				

Revised: May 29, 2013

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

www.meridian.mi.us



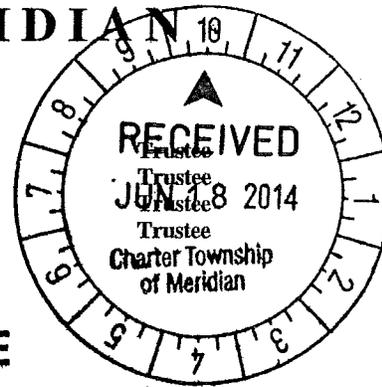
# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



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



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- |   |   |
|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Cable Communications Commission*                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park Commission (elected/appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Area Transportation Authority (C.A.T.A.)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pension Trustees                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Resources Commission                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Development Authority*                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Township Board (elected/appointed)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Corporation                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee*     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Officials Compensation Commission*                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

(\*Special conditions restrict eligibility for appointment)

Indicate areas not included above which may warrant special attention or study that are of interest to you:

*I can not think of anything else at this moment.*

Summarize your reasons for applying for this type of public service: *I would like to give back to the community that I have lived in, and benefited from, the majority of my life.*

Describe education, experience or training which will assist you if appointed. (Attach resume if available)

*\* See attached letter and resume.*

Name: TASS: A. Miller  
 Occupation: Insurance Agent Place of Employment: Bankers Life  
 Home Address: 2326 Hulett Road Okemos, MI 48864  
 Phone: (days) 517-347-4994 ext 214 (evenings) 517-382-6127 E-mail tassmeister@yahoo.com  
 Signature TASS: A. Miller Date 06/12/14

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(PLEASE USE BACK IF NEEDED)

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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date Received	<u>6.18.14</u>	Distro: <u>EL LM</u>	Application # <u>PK 1403</u>
Registered Voter:	<u>(Y)/N</u>	<u>FW</u>	
Date Appointed:		<u>BD MEMBERS</u>	

Revised: May 29, 2013

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

www.meridian.mi.us



Tassi A. Miller CLTCC, LUTCF  
2326 Hulett Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
517.347.4994 ext 214 517.282.6127  
Tassimeister@yahoo.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

In submitting my application for public service in the Parks Commission, I thank you for your time and consideration. I have lived in Meridian Township for most of my life and am excited about the possibility of giving back to our great community! I've been benefiting from the hard work and foresight of past and current Commissions since I was a child in the 1960's. I've attended and spoke at Township meetings, neighborhood events and kept my yard conscious of wildlife, plants and neighbors. Supporting my community through participation in Fourth of July Celebrations, Farmer's Market, Music in the Park, Lake Lansing, and this weekend Celebrate Downtown Okemos is important to me. I would like to do more! I look forward to continuing the legacy of our parks for future generations.

I enjoy our parks every week with my dog(Little Red). I have unique perspective, experience, talents and flexibility to bring to the Parks Commission. I have witnessed and experienced how Commission policies have grown, protected and positively effected our community. I have a talent for organizing, bringing people together and implementing new ideas. Not only do I have an easy-going personality, but my current position with Bankers Life affords me great flexibility in scheduling. Below is an outline of my education, training and experiences for your consideration. I also have attached my resume.

Sincerely,



Tassi A. Miller

#### Education

Okemos High School graduate with honor  
Bachelor of Fine Arts from Michigan State University with honor

#### Training and Certificates

Secondary Teaching Certificate from the State of Michigan  
Certificate of ServSafe Food Protection Manager Course- presented by MRA & MDA  
Life & Health Insurance Licenses from the State of Michigan  
LUTCF Designation from The American College  
CLTCC Designation from The Corporation For Long Term Care Certification

#### Experience

25 + years in the food and beverage industry - from washing dishes to management  
15 + years training/teaching  
9 + years protecting seniors and their families through Life and Health Insurance  
15+ years volunteer work - Operation Santa, Samaritan's purse, Valentines for Veterans, UCC Ladies Fellowship Director, church building & grounds beautification, secretarial, Minister Search Committee  
20 + years in the Fine Arts, Crafts communities  
20 + years responsible yard design and maintenance  
40 + years enjoying the Parks and Recreation opportunities in Meridian Township

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

*Tassi A. Miller*  
2326 Hulett Rd., Okemos, MI 48864  
(517) 282-6127 (517)347-4994 ext. 214  
*Tassimeister@yahoo.com*

### Bankers Life 10/04- current Insurance Agent

Helping seniors and their families by communicating complex ideas and planning for Health Care, LongTerm Care, Financial and Final Expense needs. Quickly **promoted** to management as Field Associate and Field Trainer. Strategy and understanding of marketing, prospecting, scheduling and time management, communication, multi-tasking, listening, flexibility, math, customer service, solving problems, strong work ethic, high moral values, team attitude, and attention to detail are all skills that help me work well with people.

### Ingham Intermediate School District 03/03-01/06 Substitute School Teacher

Teach Middle/High school children a variety of subjects including, art, language arts, earth/science and math. Requires quick thinking, learning student names, flexibility, organizational skills, classroom management and discipline, motivational skills, time and project management, and great confidence in one's ability.

### The Golden Rose 04/03-01/05 Server

General duties required of a server in a high-end restaurant. Table side service of salads, wine/champagne and flambe desserts are featured. Side/work duties such as laundry/ironing, making salad dressing, croutons, general cleaning, etc are performed while serving walk-in guests, parties, suggestive selling, bartending, cashier, hosting, training new personnel and answering the phone.

### Cappuccino Cafe, Inc 06/98-01/03 Store Manager

Front house restaurant manager. Responsibilities include management of main commissary for three stores, general equipment maintenance, management of 15+ employees, hiring, training, guest service, production, delivery and stock of food and beverage products, menu decisions, inventory and purchasing, scheduling, banking duties and more while serving counter guests at the same time.

### The Michigan Athletic Club Restaurant 09/92/05/98 Manager On Duty (MOD)

Hired as waitress and **promoted** to bartender/ MOD. Beverage purchasing, general and dry stock inventory, management and training of front house staff were some MOD responsibilities. Responsibilities included providing an enjoyable safe, family restaurant atmosphere for guests.

### The Final Curtain 10/87-02/88 Bartender

Responsible for running upstairs nightclub smoothly. Hired as a waitress and **promoted** to bartender. Broke all sales records for every week of December and won all competitive bonuses.

### R. L. Polk & Co. 10/86-03/88 Superintendent

Hired in as a canvasser and **promoted** to superintendent in charge of producing City Directories. Responsible for hiring, training staff, acquiring and managing office space (office set-up, including phone lines, etc.), gathering of accurate and detailed listings for books. Learned many organizational, communication, management and leadership skills.

## EDUCATION and TRAINING

Tassi A. Miller  
2326 Hulett Rd., Okemos, MI 48864  
(517) 282-6127 (517)347-4994 ext. 214  
Tassimeister@yahoo.com

Michigan State University East Lansing, MI	BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS WITH HONORS. MAJOR: Studio Art SECONDARY: Teaching Certificate in Art
Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MI	UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES. Math, Accounting, Statistics, and Psychology
Okemos High School Okemos, MI	DIPLOMA WITH HONORS MAJOR: Accounting, Business, and Art
Michigan Restaurant Association & State of Michigan Department of Agriculture	CERTIFICATE OF SERVSAFE FOOD PROTECTION MANAGER COURSE Presented by MRA & MDA
Dearborn Financial Services	PASSTRAK GRADUATE IN LIFE, ACCIDENT AND HEALTH INSURANCE
State of Michigan	LIFE INSURANCE LICENSE HEALTH INSURANCE LICENSE
The American College	LUTCF DESIGNATION
The Corporation For Long Term Care Certification	CLTCC DESIGNATION
Winners Edge Leadership Northeast Division BLC	SECOND PLACE IN NEW BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

## ACTIVITIES and INTERESTS

Life-long member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Received 1995 Janet Gallup Award for Excellence in Life-long Printmaking

Debuted as First MSU Student Show in Kresge Art Center Gallery 114

Great Lakes Christian College, Big Kids For Little Kids with Children's Miracle Network, The American Cancer Society, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Easter Seals, City Rescue Mission of Lansing, Operation Santa, The Alzheimer's Association, and Volunteers of America

University Christian Church (UCC)

Ladies Fellowship Director – We made 80 Valentines for Michigan Veterans January 25<sup>th</sup> 2014!!

Ladies Thursday Night Bible Study

## REFERENCES

Tassi A. Miller  
2326 Hulett Rd., Okemos, MI 48864  
(517) 282-6127 (517)347-4994 ext. 214  
[tassimeister@yahoo.com](mailto:tassimeister@yahoo.com)

Dawn Kollins Branch Office Administrator, Bankers Life and Casualty Company  
2174 Commons Parkway, Okemos, MI 48864  
517-347-4994 ext. 110

Terry Allen Elder- University christian Church  
310 N. Hagadorn Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-337-0770

Tom McNeil Owner- Golden Rose  
3056 Okemos Rd , Mason, MI 48854  
517- 349-9500

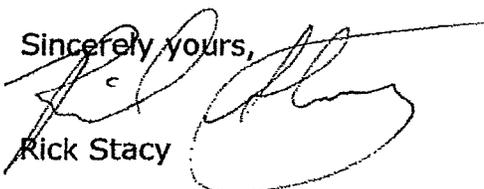
Rick Stacy Sr Pastor- Meridian Christian Church  
2600 Bennett Rd, Okemos, MI 48864  
517-332-8044  
[rickstacy@meridianchristian.org](mailto:rickstacy@meridianchristian.org)

“In the 15 years that I have known Tassi I have observed that she is a hard worker with excellent communication skills. She is willing to do whatever it takes to get a job done. An excellent organizer, Tassi is good at meeting the needs of the people she works with and will not quit until the job is completed

In addition, Tassi is a person of integrity. She is honest and uncompromising on issues of importance. She is a thoughtful and caring person who thinks of others when they are hurting or in need. She is friendly and has a good way with people.

I recommend her to you without reservation or qualification.”

Sincerely yours,



Rick Stacy

Sr. Pastor

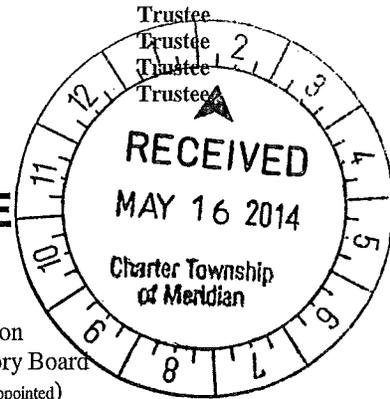
# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



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



## APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

I am interested in service on one or more of the following public bodies as checked below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Cable Communications Commission*                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park Commission (elected/appointed) |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Development Authority*                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Township Board (elected/appointed)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Corporation                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee*     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Officials Compensation Commission*                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

(\*Special conditions restrict eligibility for appointment)

*11 YEARS Ingham County Pk Commission (6 as Chair)*

Indicate areas not included above which may warrant special attention or study that are of interest to you:

Summarize your reasons for applying for this type of public service:

*I spent 32 years in the Parks & Recreation Field (604-DNR) where I got to see the value of state & Federal grants to the Township. That adds to a passion I already have.*

Name: MICHAEL McDONALD Various NPS, MRPA, State P&R  
Occupation: RETIRED Place of Employment: Training  
Home Address: 5616 WOOD VALLEY DRIVE, HASLET, MI  
Phone: (days) 517-339-3257 (evenings) 248-2505 E-mail mm@meridian.comcast.net  
Signature Michael L. McDonald Date 5/15/14

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(PLEASE USE BACK IF NEEDED)

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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date Received	5.16.14	Distro: EL FW	Application # E01401
Registered Voter:	(Y)N	LM	
Date Appointed:		BD MEMBERS	

Revised: May 29, 2013

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

www.meridian.mi.us



Park Commission Meeting  
June 24, 2014

6. MINUTES

- a. May 13, 2014 Work Session Minutes
- b. May 13, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

ABSENT: Commissioner Stephens - excused

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:07pm

**2. Roll Call**

The following Commissioners were present: Marilyn Aronoff, Teri Banas, Melanie Jaramillo, and Todd Wilson. Excused: Mark Stephens

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Remove item 4. Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area; add item 7a. Wooded Area Maintenance.

COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE WORK SESSION AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**4. Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area**

This item was removed from the agenda

**5. 2014 Park Millage Ballot Proposal Update**

Director Maisner reported that she has scheduled the following speaking engagements to discuss parks, recreation, and the Millage: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 – St. Luke's Sr. Luncheon; Wednesday, May 21 – Indian Hills Neighborhood Association; June 17 – Okemos Kiwanis Club. Commissioner Banas stated that Angie Wilson is speaking to the PTO at Kinawa School and Teri is working on speaking at an upcoming Haslett School Board Mtg. Commissioner Banas also reported that the [www.yesforparks.com](http://www.yesforparks.com) website is up and running. Director Maisner also reported that no action has occurred with Ingham County regarding the parks and trails millage they are considering.

**6. Orlando Park Future Amenities Pricing**

The Commissioners discussed the shade structure prices for Orlando Park that were included in the packet. It was suggested to check pricing for just a roof that connects to the structure itself.

**7. Other**

a. Wooded Area Maintenance

The Commissioners asked staff to research other communities to determine if they provide active maintenance in wooded areas of forest and any best practices utilized.

**8. Public Comment**

None

**9. Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 7:02 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Wilson  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

ABSENT: Mark Stephens - Excused

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Remove item 10. B. Kyle Nusdorfer Proposed Eagle Scout Project; add item 17. Closed Session for the purpose of property acquisition

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

**3. Presentations**

None

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Commissioner Reports and Comments**

**a. Friends of the Parks Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Recap**

The Commissioners discussed the 2013 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held on Monday, May 12 in Central Park. A total of 80 people attended the event to recognize residents who volunteered in the parks in 2013. Kelly Colflesh was named 2013 Park Friend of the Year for his contributions to improve fishing in the Historical Village pond and also for assisting with fishing classes and events held in Meridian Township.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

- a. April 8, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. April 8, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER ARONOFF MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2014 WORK SESSION AS AND APRIL 8, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**7. Communications**

**A. Items to/from the Public**

1. From: Barbara Bradford, Meridian Garden Club; RE: Invitation to National Arbor Day planting in Meridian Historical Village
2. To: Barbara Bradford, Meridian Garden Club; RE: Thank you for donation of a "River Birch" tree to the Historical Village
3. From: Drain Commissioners Office; RE: Controlled/Prescribed Burn in Towar Gardens Neighborhood
4. From: Jule Stafford, DNR Grant Coordinator; RE: Wonch Park Development
5. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Eastgate Park Report No. 2
6. From: Scooter Nowak, MSU Department of Entomology; To: Jane Greenway; RE: Permission to do research at Legg Park
7. From: Kristie Hannon, Howell Schools; To: Robin Faust; RE: Permission to release salmon in Ferguson Park
8. To: Roland Harnes, Jr.; RE: Welcome to Land Preservation Advisory Board

**B. Commission Information**

1. May Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Okemos Life Magazine: May issue

**C. Staff Inquiries/Response**

1. From: Martha Wyatt, Meridian Township Associate Planner/Landscape Architect; RE: Site Plan Review #14-07 (Meridian Township Parks & Recreation/Wonch Park proposed pathway)
2. From: Richard Brown, Meridian Township Associate Planner; RE: Special Use Permit (Meridian Township/Wonch Park proposed pathway)
3. From Richard Brown, Meridian Township Associate Planner; RE: Commission Review #14043 (Meridian Township) – Section 61 Review: Wonch Park Pathway

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

**8. Director's Report**

**1. Wonch Park Pathway**

**a. April 28, 2014: Planning Commission**

Received approval of Special Use Permit for work within 100-year floodplain. Also received approval of Section 61 Review of character and extent of proposed project.



9. **Controlled Burn at Snell-Towar Park**  
Held on Wednesday, April 23, 2014.
  10. **Scooter Nowak**  
Grad Entomology Student at MSU – request to collect mosquito larvae in Legg Park
  11. **Celebrate Downtown Okemos**  
Event scheduled for June 14, from 2-9 pm, at Okemos Road and Hamilton Road, with live music and beer/wine tent, children’s activities, 5K Race and more.
  12. **Farmers’ Market**  
Spring market opened May 3; it will be held on Saturdays from 8 am - 2 pm through June
  13. **Brush Pick-up**  
Collection sites are Wonch and Towner Road Parks; wood chips are going to MSU bio-fuel plant
9. **New Business** (pink)  
PUBLIC COMMENT
- a. **Peter Miklavcic, Eagle Scout Project Final Report**  
  
Mr. Miklavcic reported on his completed boardwalk construction project in Eastgate Park near the Harris Nature Center. His project engaged 20 volunteers for a total of 86.5 hours. He raised a total of \$510.06 which covered the cost of the project. The Commissioners congratulated and thanked Peter on his project.
  - b. **Kyle Nusdorfer – Proposed Eagle Scout project - North Meridian Road Park Boardwalk**  
  
This item was removed from agenda.
  - c. **PetSafe Dog Park Grant Contest**  
  
PetSafe Brand dog products is awarding five communities funds to build a dog park. The contest winners are determined by popular vote based on Facebook likes and comments. The five most enthusiastic communities will win either \$100,000 or \$25,000 toward construction of a dog park.
- COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF SECONDED, TO ENTER THE PETS SAFE DOG PARK GRANT CONTEST IN AN EFFORT TO WIN FUNDS TO BUILD A DOG PARK IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP. Voice vote. Motion approved unanimously.

**10. Unfinished Business** (green)

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. **Orlando Park Turf**

COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF SECONDED, TO POSTPONE SOD INSTALLATION AT ORLANDO PARK AND INSTEAD HYDRO-SEED THE LAWN TO IMPROVE FUNCTION AND APPEARANCE. Voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

**11. Other Business** (cherry)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**12. Discussion Items** (lilac)

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. **Park Millage Ballot Proposal**

The Commissioners discussed the documented need for additional funds to maintain and improve the Meridian Township Park System. A millage request of 2/3rds Mil will be on the August 5, 2014 ballot for voter consideration. The existing Park Millage of .317 will expire in 2016 creating a two year overlap which will assist with implementation of much needed park improvements.

**13. Final Comments**

None

**14. Announcements**

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 Town Hall
- b. Farmers' Market – Saturdays 8am-2 pm Central Park
- c. Van Atta Road closed from Grand River south to bridge; access to Harris Nature Center from Jolly Road
- d. Meridian Fishing Derby – Saturday, June 7, Central Park

**15. Public Remarks**

None

**16. Closed Session**

COMMISSION JARAMILLO MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Commissioners Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Wilson

NAYS: None

The Commission entered into closed session at 8:07 pm.

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

Roll Call:

AYES: Commissioners Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Wilson

NAYS: None

The Commission returned to open session at 8:34 pm.

**17. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

# Park Commission Meeting

June 24, 2014

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Larry Harb; Red Cedar National (Natural) Area wish list projects
2. From: Mark Kieselbach; To: Township Board; RE: 2005 Master Plan Goals and Objectives
3. From: James Wessinger; To: Associate Planner Brown; RE: Zoning Board of Appeals #14-05-28-1 (Meridian Township)—concerns with proposed pathway location
4. From: P. David Fisher; To: Associate Planner Brown; RE: Zoning Board of Appeals #14-05-28-1 (Meridian Township)—had questions and comments
5. To: Legg Park Neighbors; From: Jane Greenway; RE: summer park maintenance activities in Legg Park
6. From: Bruce Cohen; RE: Meridian Township Birds
7. Kiwanis Club of Haslett and Student Leadership Programs Day of Caring event on Saturday, June 21 in Orlando Park at 10 am

### B. Commission Information

1. June Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Tree Climber play activity
3. Lansing State Journal: **April 20:** Friends of Historic Meridian (nonprofit spotlight)
4. Towne Courier: **March 30:** Fishing guru honored by state assoc; Harris Nature Center offers native plants; You can build song bird box March 30; Stories in the Garden at HNC will occur April 8; Look for wildflowers at HNC April 22; Meridian Twp to host community clean-up; **April 6:** Stories in the Garden at HNC to take place April 22; **April 13:** Preschoolers can explore amphibians at HNC; Stories in the Garden at HNC; Walkers to see wildflowers; Look for wildflowers at HNC April 22; HNC offers badge for Scouts; **April 13:** Community clean-up April 19; Meridian Twp hosts Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt; **April 20:** Celebrate trees at HNC April 26; **April 27:** Stories in the Garden at HNC; **May 4:** Garden Club plant sale May 16; **May 11:** Meridian Garden Club plant sale set for May 16; Forage for frogs at HNC May 31; Preschoolers discover insects at nature center; Enjoy bird watching May 25

### C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. From: Richard Brown, Meridian Township Associate Planner; RE: ZBA Case No. 14-15-28-1 / Wonch Park – 4555 Okemos Road – proposed pathway variance request denial

## Jane Greenway

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**From:** Larry Harb <Larry@MOLGS.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 08, 2014 6:30 PM  
**To:** Jane Greenway  
**Cc:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** RCNA visit  
**Attachments:** RCNA wish list.docx

Jane,

Let me start out by thanking you and Denis for taking the time to walk the RCNA. Needless to say, we did not have to walk to far before you could see all of the dead trees that now litter the landscape. It is unfortunate that LuAnn was unable to make this outing. I trust that she is feeling better and that you have briefed her on your findings.

As we discussed, my primary concern is that there is so much dead timber in the woods that if a fire every started, it would be a major issue to control before it caused serous property damage. Therefore, I have contacted Fire Chief Cowper and asked him the question of how his team would fight this type of fire. Hopefully I will hear back from him soon.

I have put together a wish list of projects that I would like to see happen in the RCNA. I have broken the list into two topic areas. The first being safety and the second being habitat improvement. Needless to say, these are not mutually exclusive and I am hoping that with the DNR giving grants for public land habitat improvement, we might be able to get some of it complete.

I understand that this list is not going to get done overnight, but hopefully it can be the starting point.

I look forward to our next discussion.

Regards.

Larry Harb

517-381-9909 voice  
517-614-5159 cell

Red Cedar National Area  
as of May 6, 2014

While the Park & Recreation District (P&R) has its "Wish List" I have created a more expanded "Wish List". I have segmented the expanded "Wish List" into two segments being Safety and Habitat Improvements. All projects will be completed with the idea of improving the RCNA for nature and wildlife habitat.

Unfortunately the RCNA is more like the Red Cedar Neglected Area. The Township Parks are an asset paid for with taxpayer dollars and I would challenge them to manage it as such. To my knowledge, there have been no management projects done to this area since the early 2000 when an Eagle Scout project was done to create and mark a walking path along the river in this area.

Therefore, my goal is to first identify and then obtain approval for projects that need to be completed. Then we will work to find the resources that are needed to complete them. It is completely understood that we will need to find both human and financial resources to get these projects completed.

Safety

- Work to lower the risk of fires in this RCNA
- To reestablish the fire lane that once existed for the sole purpose of allow emergency equipment to enter the RCNA
- To establish predetermined emergency entry points for emergency equipment to be able to enter the RCNA
- Removal of dead ground timber
- Mark dead standing trees

Wish List

RCNA Habitat Improvement

- Scrub Park signage (P&R list)
- Trail restoration (P&R list)
- Trail signage (P&R list)
- Invasive species management (P&R list)
- Control burn (if possible)
- Allow homeowners that boarder the park to clear and maintain the under bush along property lines
- Build food plots to help keep the deer in the park
- Improve habitat for better wildlife management

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Township Board

**FROM :** Mark Kieselbach  
Mark Kieselbach  
Director of Community Planning and Development

**DATE:** May 15, 2014

**RE:** 2005 Master Plan Goals and Objectives

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The Planning Commission has returned the draft 2005 Master Plan Goals and Objectives to the Township Board without revisions and requests authorization to distribute the document for the Michigan Planning Enabling Act mandated 63-day review process. At the expiration of the 63-day review, the required public hearing will be held.

The following motion has been provided for the Board's consideration:

**MOTION:**

**Move to approve the distribution of the proposed amendment to the Goals and Objectives of the 2005 Master Plan and direct the Clerk to notify the secretary of the Planning Commission to distribute the proposed amendment in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.**

**Attachments**

1. Draft Goals and Objectives dated September 5, 2013

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The fundamental statement of community values, the personal values, the values relating to government and the vision for the year 2020 provide the foundation upon which subsequent policy decisions in this Plan rests. To guide the formulation of specific policy decisions, the Planning Commission established a more detailed set of goals and objectives, and strategies for pursuing them.

The Planning Commission presents the following set of specific goals, which are derived from the statements of community values (no priority is implied):

- *Goal 1:* Preserve and strengthen residential neighborhoods.
- *Goal 2:* Preserve open space and natural areas.
- *Goal 3:* Enhance the viability of Township businesses.
- *Goal 4:* Maintain and expand a diverse park system.
- *Goal 5:* Maintain essential public services.
- *Goal 6:* Provide and Support an Efficient, Safe, and Environmentally Sensitive Multi-modal Transportation Network.
- *Goal 7:* Promote efficient and sustainable growth principles.

For each of these goals, a series of objectives is stated, and for most of the objectives, one or more strategies for achieving this objective are specified.

### **GOAL 1: PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS**

#### **Objective A: Maintain a community of desirable, attractive residential neighborhoods.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Prevent inconsistent uses from encroaching into residential areas.
2. Continue to support the designation and preservation of historic neighborhoods and residences.
3. Designate appropriate neighborhoods as special land use areas and adopt zoning specific to their needs.
4. Encourage cluster developments, mixed use and other compact residential choices closer to shopping, public transit and other services.
5. Ensure that the Future Land Use Map has a range of residential densities which will result in a diversity of housing that meets the needs of various income levels and household types.

**Objective B: Ensure new residential developments meet high standards of visual attractiveness, health and safety, and environmental sensitivity.**

**Strategies:**

1. Minimize erosion and the intrusion of roads, pathways, houses, and driveways into wetlands and floodplains in residential developments.
2. Continue to require the planting of trees along rights-of-way, and the replacement of trees when they are damaged, destroyed, or diseased.
3. Encourage residential design that enhances use of outdoor areas for recreation, community walkability and integration with public transit.
4. Lay out new residential developments to accommodate public transit, for example, by providing pedestrian connections to bus stops and by designing for curb side bus stops near entrances.
5. In all subdivisions and residential developments, encourage layouts which maintain maximum green space and/or common open space.

**GOAL 2: PRESERVE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS**

**Objective A: Adopt policies and programs that maximize the preservation of open spaces, natural areas, other undeveloped areas and agricultural land uses in the Township.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue to develop and implement Township policies regarding the protection of open space land and natural areas via zoning, the public purchase of land, conservation easements, and development rights, and other appropriate techniques.
2. Encourage landowners to donate natural areas or open spaces to the Township, and to place their properties under the protection of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation (Part 361) or the Conservation and Historic Preservation Easement (Part 21) of PA 451 of 1994 Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, where appropriate.
3. Encourage landowners to donate land or development rights to non-profit land trusts.
4. Continue to coordinate efforts with the Park Commission to support and promote the preservation of open space and environmentally sensitive lands in the Meridian recreation areas through donations of land with natural, open space and ecological and/or historical significance.
5. Preserve the ecological integrity of the Red Cedar River through zoning, voluntary agreements with landowners, donation of land to the Township, or the purchase of land, scenic easements, and development rights, where appropriate.
6. Develop a tree preservation ordinance to protect significant mature trees.

**Objective B: Conserve wetlands, floodplains, and other water retention areas.**

**Strategies:**

1. Identify all wetlands, floodplains, and other water retention areas.
2. Continue to communicate and coordinate with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on activities affecting lakes, streams, and wetlands.
3. Discourage development within wetlands, floodplains, floodplain fringe areas, and water retention areas.
4. Support the Environmental Commission's educational efforts to minimize infiltration of salt, fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide.

**Objective C: Link open spaces and natural areas into a network of continuous greenways throughout the Township.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue to use the Greenspace Plan as a guide for determining how natural areas can be linked into continuous greenways throughout the Township.
2. Work with the Land Preservation Board and Park Commission to continue the establishment of a continuous greenway along the Red Cedar River through the identification of additional parcels of land which are important to the ecological and visual integrity of the Red Cedar River.
3. Utilize land planning methods, purchases of land and development rights, and plat, site plan, and other review processes to create and maintain continuous greenways.
4. Encourage the Environmental Commission to develop educational programs about the importance of protecting endangered animals and plants, ecosystems and other unique or sensitive natural features.

**Objective D: Protect groundwater recharge areas in the Township.**

**Strategies:**

1. Support regional efforts to protect groundwater recharge areas.
2. Continue to educate citizens about the importance of protecting groundwater recharge areas.
3. Use zoning and other appropriate land management techniques to protect important groundwater recharge areas.

**Objective E: Preserve greenbelts, open spaced and natural areas and create pathways by encouraging the use of planned unit development or other suitable zoning strategies for new residential developments.**

**Objective F. Work with the Park Commission, Department of Public Works and Engineering and the school districts, where appropriate, to maximize the amount of land left in a natural state as common open space to encourage developers and builders**

### **GOAL 3: ENHANCE THE VIABILITY OF TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES**

#### **Objective A: Upgrade commercial areas.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Participate in regional efforts to redevelop the Grand River corridor.
2. Identify strategies to maintain the Haslett Road commercial area's traditional character.
3. Encourage redevelopment of the downtown Okemos area using the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Integrated Plan as a guide.
4. Evaluate opportunities for walkable urban design.
5. Cooperate with regional partners and other entities to participate in studies.
6. Encourage attractive architecture which harmonizes with the environment through innovative design and landscaping.
7. Identify specific areas where the form-based code technique may be appropriately applied and make recommendations based on the results of the study.

#### **Objective B: Develop the Township's commercial core into a viable and vibrant district.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Conduct and/or participate in studies where appropriate.
2. Explore the viability of upper floor residences in the commercial core.
3. Continue to engage the public in deciding the direction for development in the commercial core.
4. Explore options for public-private partnerships to revitalize the Township's commercial core.
5. Develop the Township's center into a vibrant mixed use district, through the addition of planned or committed office and residential land uses in and adjacent to the core area.

#### **Objective C: Improve the attractiveness of the Township's entrances and transportation corridors.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Investigate grant-based funding opportunities to improve landscaping along major thoroughfares.
2. Create a series of well-designed and attractively landscaped entrances along the main roads entering into the community.

## **GOAL 4: MAINTAIN AND EXPAND A DIVERSE PARK SYSTEM**

**Objective A: Continue to expand the Meridian Township park and recreational system to meet the recreational needs of residents into the future.**

**Strategies:**

1. Pursue acquisitions that target current and future demands of residents.
2. Employ acquisition strategies that leverage available dollars to secure maximum property for the value.
3. Support Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway linkages to parks and recreation facilities.
4. Provide accessible facilities and leisure opportunities for persons of all physical abilities and socio-economic characteristics.

**Objective B: Develop and support Meridian Township park development and recreation programming that is diverse, widely distributed, fiscally responsible, and represents community needs.**

**Strategies:**

1. Support the Park Commission's continuing efforts to pursue public input in determining park and recreation development needs.
2. Utilize cooperative methods of providing recreation facilities by working with local recreation associations, schools, businesses, neighborhood groups and associations to provide diverse recreation programs.
3. Increase coordination between the Township Board, Park Commission and Land Preservation Advisory Board to maximize the potential benefits and enhance stewardship of open space, natural areas and park lands.
4. Encourage developers to incorporate parks and recreation amenities in new developments to complement the efforts of the Park Commission.
5. Continue to promote fiscal responsibility through partnerships and collaborative opportunities, grant support, sponsorships and donations, and encouraging volunteerism.
6. To provide resources necessary to maintain and develop a diverse parks and recreation system that:
  - a. Proves a high quality of life for our community residents.
  - b. Provides necessary support for maintenance and operation of these amenities.

## **GOAL 5: MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES**

**Objective A: Ensure that any future growth is consistent with the Township's present or planned capacity for sewage treatment, public water, and other utility systems.**

**Strategies:**

1. Focus growth into an urban services district to ensure efficient and fiscally responsible use of public services.
2. Routinely assess the demands on the utility systems from developments to determine available capacity for future development based on demographics.
3. Routinely inventory water, sewer and other utility systems capacity.
4. Maintain and upgrade the infrastructure (water, sewers, roads, community facilities) of the Township through the Capital Improvements Program's systematic scheduling of infrastructure construction, maintenance, and renovation.
5. Continue to use Special Assessment Districts to finance infrastructure projects.
6. Incorporate appropriate recommendations from Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Wellhead Protection Audit for regional best practices to protect the public water supply.

**Objective B: Maintain police, fire, and ambulance service to all areas of the community.**

**Objective C: Maintain quality library service for the community.**

**Objective D: Use land use policies to assist the public school districts which are a valued community asset that makes Meridian Township a unique and desirable place to live.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue and/or initiate land use policies that attract families with students.
2. Support the Park Commission's agreement with the School Districts to coordinate park facilities and programs.
3. Support street and pathway improvements that provide safe access routes for school children.

**Objective E: Promote cooperation between adjoining communities, school districts, and appropriate agencies.**

**GOAL 6: PROVIDE AND SUPPORT AN EFFICIENT, SAFE, AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK**

**Objective A: Evaluate the existing transportation network and identify problems, including traffic congestion, safety, environment, and aesthetics, which can be solved at acceptable cost.**

**Strategies:**

1. Cooperate with county, regional and state entities to develop strategies to improve traffic flow.

2. Consider zoning and other design strategies such as Complete Streets as effective means of ensuring safe and efficient travel for all modes of transportation.

**Objective B: Maintain local roads.**

**Strategies:**

1. Support improvements to local streets when a special assessment district request has been received from local residents.
2. Review reconstruction and expansion of local non-subdivision streets through the Capital Improvements Program process when 50 percent of the improvement's funding will be paid for by the Township or its residents through special assessment districts.

**Objective C: Develop a Complete Streets policy for all users of Township roads.**

**Strategies:**

1. Define a vision for a Complete Streets program.
2. Review current policies to identify inconsistencies and impediments to implementing a complete streets policy.
3. Conduct planning, regulatory and physical audits of current street designs as needed and financially feasible.
4. Coordinate the Pedestrian-Bicycle Pathway Plan with Safe Routes to School policies and other Township plans.
5. Share the Township's vision and work with transportation and road authorities.

**Objective D: Expand and improve the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Plan.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue to implement the requirement for sidewalks as determined necessary.
2. Continue to implement the pedestrian/bicycle pathway system through site plan review.
3. Continue to support the pedestrian/bicycle pathway millage for construction and maintenance of the Township's pedestrian/bicycle pathway system.
4. Investigate alternative surfacing materials to reduce the amount of impervious surface materials used in the construction of the pedestrian/bicycle system.
5. Continue to investigate strategies for safe and efficient travel for bicyclists and pedestrians.
6. Coordinate the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Plan with parks, schools, reserves, Greenspace Plan, neighborhoods, and other destinations.

**Objective E: Encourage the use of public transportation.**

**Strategies:**

1. Encourage and promote public transportation service to any new developments and in conjunction with redevelopment via site plan review.
2. Institute design standards for site plan review to ensure public transportation access to all segments of the population but particularly those with physical disabilities.

**Objective F: Coordinate Meridian Township's transportation planning with regional planning efforts administered by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and recorded in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.**

**Strategies:**

1. Coordinate transportation planning and road improvements for all non-local streets with the region's long range plan.
2. Advocate and promote the Township's needs and interests in transportation improvements with transportation and road authorities.

**GOAL 7: PROMOTE EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH PRACTICES**

**Objective A:** Implement sustainable energy and environmental practices throughout the Township utilizing the most current best practices

**Strategies:**

1. Budget funds to have Township buildings assessed for energy efficiency a minimum of once every five years.
2. For Meridian Township procurement purposes, when equivalent products or services are available, preference should be given to the more sustainable services or products.
3. Encourage electric car charging stations.
4. Establish a minimum level of LEED certification or the equivalent for all projects undertaken by the Township.
5. Establish ordinances providing incentives for redevelopment that emphasizes infill development, building reuse and/or deconstruction.
7. Increase the use of alternative transportation modes for commuting and recreation by encouraging the use of mixed use planned unit developments and implementing the Greenway Plan.
8. Explore methods through ordinances or by providing incentives for existing businesses to upgrade their parking lots and landscaping to increase tree cover and shade to be energy efficient and environmentally friendly.
9. Explore incentives for new or redeveloped projects to be LEED certified or equivalent.

**Objective B: Develop Township policies to balance and manage growth.**

**Objective C: Maintain open spaces and natural features in suburban and rural areas of the Township.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue to develop zoning standards and Township policies.
2. Continue to encourage and support voluntary citizen land conservancy efforts which maintain the Township's open spaces, natural features, and rural areas.

**Objective D: Define an urban services district to promote walkable community development and dynamic community improvement through redevelopment.**

**Strategies:**

1. Promote land use policies that emphasize compact infill development.
2. Investigate opportunities to maximize the use of existing infrastructure through development and redevelopment within the urban services district.
3. Investigate additional strategies to provide incentives for development and redevelopment within the urban services district.

**Objective E: Encourage development in Meridian Township that leads to sustainable land use.**

**Strategies:**

1. Engage all stakeholders to study new techniques for the control and management of development.
2. Review the legality and suitability of these techniques for Meridian Township.

**Objective F: Prepare and implement a redevelopment strategy**

**Strategies:**

1. Eliminate inflexible or obsolete zoning regulations.
2. Identify priority redevelopment sites.
3. Expand public participation.
4. Prepare annual reports to the Township Board reporting progress towards the stated benchmarks and recommending any needed changes.

g:\planning\glo\2005 Master Plan\2005 Master Plan Update\Goals\Goals 9-5-13 Clean

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

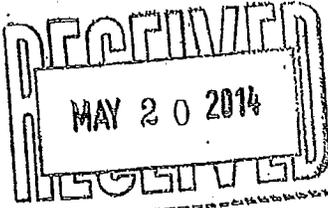
Elizabeth Ann LeGoff  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervis  
Clerk  
Treasure  
Manager



Sales  
Lyka  
ra  
son

Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee



May 15, 2014

33-02-02-21-378-003  
WESSINGER, JAMES B & MARJORI

4277 OKEMOS RD  
OKEMOS, MI, 48864

Need a  
guard rail

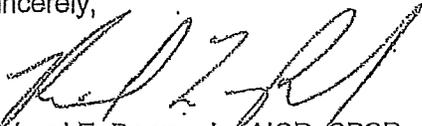
RE: Zoning Board of Appeals #14-05-28-1 (Meridian Township).

Dear Property Owner:

The legal notice mailed to you last week contained a minor typo in body of the letter. It mistakenly indicated the variance request was being made by Howard Green. It should have said the variance request was coming from the Meridian Township Department Parks & Recreation. All other information contained in the notice was correct and the variance case will be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals as planned.

We apologize for any initial confusion the typo may have caused. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (517) 853-4568 or email me at brown@meridian.mi.us.

Sincerely,

  
Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP  
Associate Planner

Cc. Ms. E. LeGoff - Supervisor  
JAMES B. WESSINGER, MD, PC  
4277 OKEMOS ROAD  
OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864

5/16/14 FROM: JAMES WESSINGER

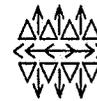
Mr. Brown -  
Re: 8ft. paved path along the river.  
Don't put it too close! This past week -  
and every year - it floods & high water flows  
fast along the bank. It is dangerous & could  
sweep children away! I live directly across  
the river. 4624 NAKOMA

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

www.meridian.mi.us

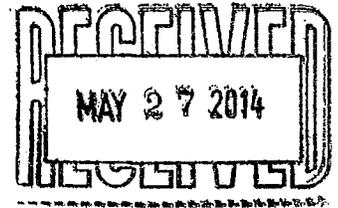


**P. DAVID FISHER**  
4658 Nakoma Drive  
Okemos, MI 48864-2023  
Phone: 517-349-4216  
E-mail: fisher@msu.edu



May 27, 2015

Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP  
Associate Planner, Meridian Charter Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864



**Re: Zoning Board of Appeals #14-05-28-1**

Dear Mr. Brown:

I have several questions and comments regarding the variance request referenced above.

**Questions:**

1. What is the current "*water features setback and natural vegetation strip*" regulation for Wonch Park?
2. What is the purpose of this regulation?
3. Why is the requested variance by Parks and Recreation required or even necessary?
4. How many trees and shrubs will be removed in order to accommodate the proposed paved pathway?
5. How many trees and shrubs will be planted to replace those removed?

**Comments:**

1. The purpose of the existing regulation is to protect the river bank and the area adjacent to it. Trees and shrubs help stabilize the bank. Wild animals use the area along the river for multiple purposes—e.g., hunting for food, protection from predators, and procreation. And shade for the river provides a means to keep the river water cool in the summer. Moreover, the current regulation would discourage people from disrupting wildlife and existing shrubbery, as well as discouraging trash to be discarded into the river.
2. If the request is denied, I believe that Parks and Recreation could easily reconfigure the proposed pathway to either be shortened by approximately 5 percent or to be moved to the East toward Okemos Road.

I hope these questions and comments will be addressed at the public hearing on May 28, 2014.

Sincerely,

P. David Fisher

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff     Supervisor  
Brett Dreyfus             Clerk  
Julie Brixie                Treasurer  
Frank L. Walsh             Manager



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

May 27, 2014

Dear Park Neighbor:

We are writing to you today to notify you of some upcoming maintenance that will occur in Legg Park during the summer of 2014. The park maintenance will include the following items:

- Paving a portion of the park entrance drive.
- Paving the small parking area near the entrance.
- Replacing two drainage culverts near the entrance.

#### Additional Project Details

- Asphalt paving will be applied to the existing drive and parking area.
- The pavement will extend just beyond the park gate. We do not plan to pave the entire entry drive at this time.
- No curb or gutter will be installed.
- We are replacing two drainage culverts: one culvert is within the Van Atta Road right-of-way and the second is further along the drive as you enter the park. Both culverts have required some attention for a long time and the Ingham County Department of Roads is working to improve the drainage in the ditch along Van Atta Road.
- The culvert within the Van Atta Road right-of-way will be replaced prior to the paving and **may occur sometime within the next two weeks.**
- A representative from the Ingham County Department of Roads may visit your home when they arrive to let you know that they will be working on the project.
- **The job will be less than one day.**
- The driveway will not be completely blocked for the day, only during the removal of the existing culvert.
- The Ingham County Department of Roads will work with the homeowners or anyone trying to enter the park.

Please contact me with any questions at 517-853-4610 or [greenway@meridian.mi.us](mailto:greenway@meridian.mi.us).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane L. Greenway". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jane L. Greenway, RLA  
Parks and Land Management Coordinator

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)



## Jane Greenway

---

**From:** Bruce Cohen <brcohen50@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 01, 2014 5:11 PM  
**To:** Jane Greenway  
**Subject:** Meridian Township Birds

Hi Jane,

Just wanted to update you on some birding news.

There appear to be several (at least three, but I suspect several more) singing male Henslow's sparrows at the Davis-Foster Preserve. Also numerous grasshopper sparrows. Many birders continue to go there to see these wonderful birds. There was also a field trip there recently that had 15 birders participate.

Last week I found a Prairie Warbler at North Meridian Road Park. The bird is common in the southern half of the U.S. and usually there are a few in Michigan each year. Mostly along Lake Michigan. I had never seen one in Ingham county before. In fact, the last known sighting in Ingham county was 1977, 37 years ago. Birders have been regularly "flocking" to see this bird also. It is exhibiting territorial behavior (singing persistently), but it is highly unlikely it will find a mate.

Just wanted to let you know how much I and other birders appreciate the efforts of Meridian Township, and you in particular, to preserve these habitats.

Bruce Cohen



# Kiwanis®

## KEY CLUB



Kiwanis Club of Haslett and Student Leadership Programs

Day of Caring

Saturday, June 21, 2014

Orlando Park in Haslett

10:00am - ?

Join the Kiwanis families of Haslett to spruce up Orlando Park for the summer. Weeding, mulching, planting and other assignments from the Meridian Parks Commission will be done this day. Bring your own gardening tools and wear your club t-shirts.

At Noon the Meridian Parks Commission will be celebrating the work done along with the neighborhood by supplying hot dogs!

Join us and celebrate your local park.

# Meridian Township Parks & Recreation

## June Calendar of Events



- June 5 – Preschool Science Exploration: Incredible Insects
- June 6 – Boys and Girls Hershey Track and Field Registration Deadline
- June 7 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class
- June 7 – **Meridian Fishing Derby**
- June 9 – Sporties for Shorties Camp
- June 9 – Junior and Adult Golf Clinics at Hawk Hollow Registration Deadline
- June 9 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class
- June 9 – Tee Fore Toddlers (ages 3-4) Golf Camp

- June 12 - **Meridian Blood Drive**
- June 13 – Meridian Sun Middle/High School Age Golf Leagues
- June 13 – Howl at the Moon
- June 13 – Meridian Sun Elementary School Age Golf League
- June 12 – Chipmunk Story Time: An Egg is Quiet
- June 12 – Tee Fore Toddlers (ages 5-6) Golf Camp
- June 14 – **Celebrate Downtown Okemos**



- June 15 – Insect Safari with Dad
- June 16 – Sporties for Shorties Camp
- June 16 – Youth & Adult Introduction to Target Archery Registration Deadline
- June 17 - Meridian Sun Competitive Best Ball League
- June 17 – My Cub and I Summer Camp
- June 17 – Timber Tots Summer Camp
- June 17 – Cool Critters Camp
- June 17 – Feathery Friends Camp
- June 17 – Grossology Camp
- June 17 – Earth Friends Camp
- June 18 – **Music in the Park** Concert Series in Meridian Historical Village
- June 19 – Nature Explorers Camp



- June 19 – Nature's Artists Camp
- June 19 – Nature's Artists II Camp
- June 19 – CSI: Critter Scene Investigation Camp
- June 20 – Ladies "Night Out" Clinic & Golf/Getting Started & On May Way registration deadline
- June 21 – HNC Stewardship Mornings
- June 22 – **Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace**
- June 23 – Outdoor Adventures Camp
- June 24 – Fur, Feathers, Scales and Slime Camp
- June 24 – Amazing Animals Camp
- June 24 – Things with Wings Camp
- June 25 – **Music in the Park** Concert Series in Meridian Historical Village
- June 28 – Summer Campfire Series: What's the Buzz?



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



Central Park - Fremont, CA

Sabertooth Tiger, Redwood Trees, Slides, Climbers



Add a comment

GameTime gametimeplay Member since 2012

Taken on August 6, 2011  
Canon EOS 5D Mark II  
146 Views

Additional info (show more)

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Central Park - Fremont, CA(album: 29)



This photo also appears in

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## NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

## Friends of Historic Meridian

The Friends of Historic Meridian was established in 1974 to create and sustain an active appreciation of local history. Since then, the Friends have rescued, relocated, and restored seven historic buildings to create the Meridian Historical Village. As part of our mission, the Friends educate over 2,000 area students each year about the life of a child in the 19th century. Day camps, community events, and public lectures also serve to educate the community about local and Michigan history and its impact on our lives today.

**How the community benefits:** Elementary students learn through hands-on, interactive activities about the life of children in the 19th century. Members of the community enjoy our summer music series in a lovely park surrounded by historic buildings. Local businesses, including hotels and restaurants, benefit from the ever-growing number of weddings held in the Village chapel.

**Some big news:** The Friends will recognize



Robert Pangman explains the trials and tribulations of transportation in the 19th century. COURTESY PHOTO

our 40th anniversary in 2014 with celebrations throughout the year, beginning with a three-concert series by the Okemos High School Chamber Orchestra to be held in the Village Chapel on May 1, May 3 and May 4.

**Making a difference:** The Friends have served as partners to several local Boy Scouts in their path to become Eagle Scouts.

The Scouts' assistance, motivation and leadership have served to maintain and improve the historic structures in the Village.

**Making a connection:** At the Village schoolchildren realize

children from previous times did not have the benefits and luxuries of today. Even better is when they realize there were many benefits of living at an earlier, more simple time when the children were an essential part of the success of the family farm or business. This realization is occasionally accompanied by a hug from one or more students ... the ultimate experience when working with children.

**What you might not know:** The Meridian Historical Village is a hidden gem in Okemos. The Village is not obvious to people driving along Marsh Road or

## FRIENDS OF HISTORIC MERIDIAN

» 5151 Marsh Rd.,  
Okemos, MI  
» (517) 285-4666  
» www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org

Central Park Drive. However, once you discover us hidden behind the Municipal Complex, you feel like you have stepped back in time and modern-day Okemos all but disappears.

**How can I help:** Volunteers are needed to serve as docents with the school groups who visit the Village in the spring and in autumn. Volunteers also are needed to help at community events, e.g. the Fall Heritage Festival and Christmas in the Village. Membership also helps the Friends generate the funds necessary to address ongoing maintenance needs.

*Nonprofit Spotlight runs each Sunday in the Life section. Want to be featured? Visit [www.lsj.com/nonprofit](http://www.lsj.com/nonprofit) to fill out the form.*

# Fishing guru honored by state assoc.

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP** — Park volunteer Kelly Colflesh has won the Community Service Award from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

He was formally recognized at the MRPA Community Service Award Ceremony March 19 at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing.

Kelly Colflesh helps adults and children learn to fish and has been involved with Project FISH — Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage — for more than 10 years.

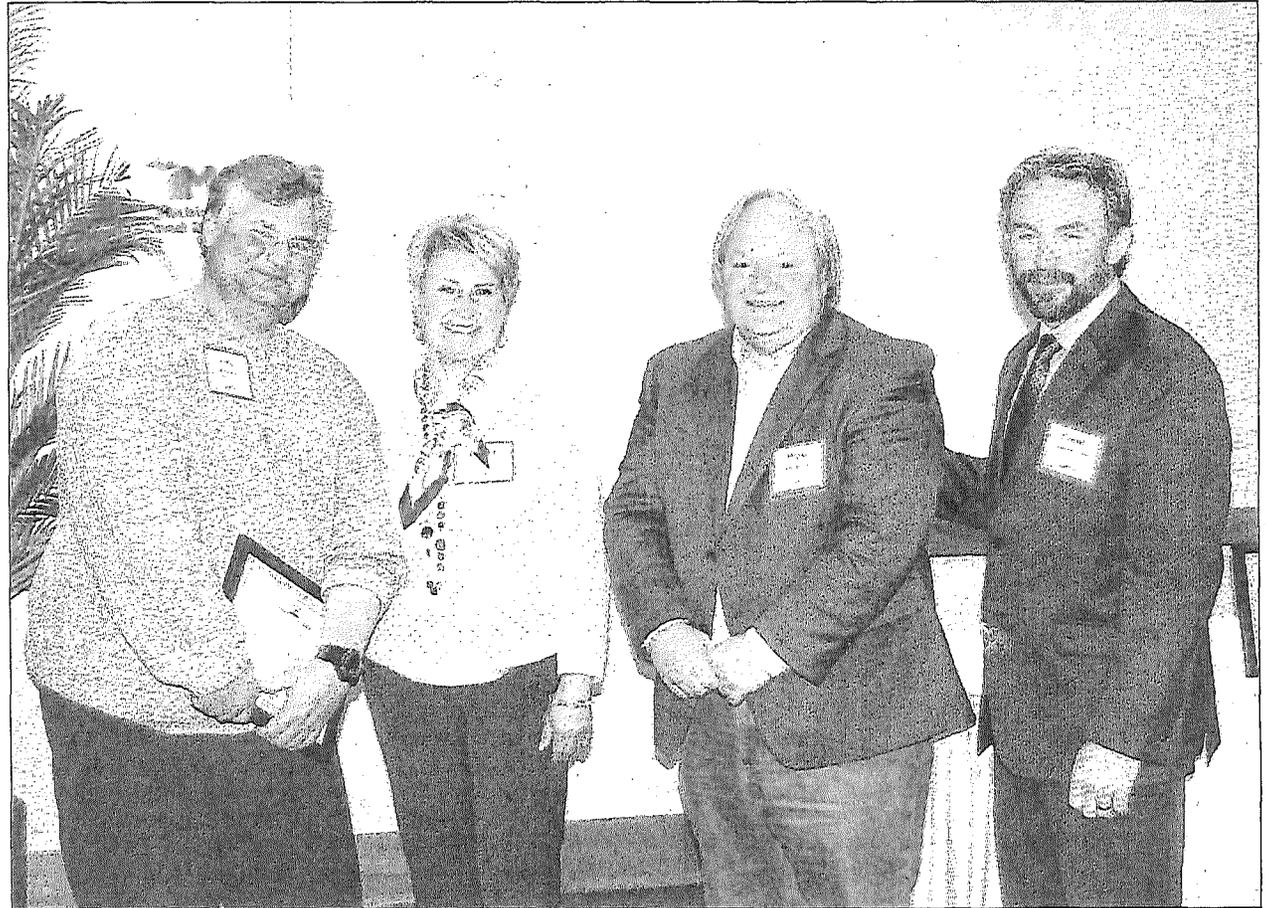
He also volunteers at every Meridian Township fishing event. These

range from fishing with youth from Haslett Schools in the Meridian Township Historical Village pond, free fishing on summer weekends and youth fishing events at Lake Lansing.

He monitors the tackle loaner program in the Historical Village and ensures the equipment is working order. He plans the event and donates bait, tackle, snacks for the kids and hours of volunteer time after the event.

For more information about volunteering in Meridian Township's parks, visit [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

— From Meridian Township



Park volunteer Kelly Colflesh has won the Community Service Award from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA). Pictured are (l. to r.): Kelly Colflesh, LuAnn Maisner (director of Meridian Township Parks and Recreation), Mark Stephens (Meridian Township park commissioner), Derek Smith (president of MRPA). COURTESY PHOTO

### Preschoolers can explore amphibians at HNC

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township on Thursday, May 1 at 12:30 p.m. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is Amazing Amphibians. The program is designed for 4-5-year-old children. The fee is \$4/child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

### Stories in the Garden at HNC

Children are invited to join the Meridian Garden Club at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township on Tuesday, April 22 at 10 a.m. for the story Earth Day Birthday and a planting activity. The story times are free and open to children 3 years and older. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

### Walkersto see wildflowers

Walk with a naturalist to see native wildflowers on Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m. at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. There is a \$3/person fee due at the time of the walk. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

### Look for wildflowers at HNC April 22

Celebrate Earth Day while looking for spring wildflowers with a naturalist on Tuesday, April 22 at 10:30 a.m. at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. There is a \$3/person fee due at the time of the walk. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

### HNC offers badge or Scouts

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, has badge programs for Junior Girl Scouts and Webelos Cub Scouts this fall. Scouts may enroll as individuals or as a troop or den. The fee is \$4.50 per scout. Junior Girl Scouts can earn their Animal Habitats badge on April 12 and Webelos Cub Scouts can earn their Forester pin on April 26. Both badge workshops are on these Saturdays at 10 a.m. and last two hours.

Groups of scouts on all age levels can arrange a separate date for any of the outdoor badges, by contacting the Harris Nature Center office at (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Harris Nature Center offers native plants

The pre-order forms for the Harris Nature Center's Annual Native Plants Sale are available now through April 21.

Pre-ordered plants can be picked up on May 3 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township. For more information, a pre-order form and plant list, contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

### You can build a song bird nest box March 30

Many of our favorite song birds can be attracted to our backyards, especially if a nest box is provided. Build your own box at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Sunday, March 30 at 3 p.m. Nest box kits are \$20 (\$12 for a robin shelf) and the event is free. For more information and to reserve a feeder, contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

### Stories in the Garden at HNC will occur April 8

Children are invited to join the Meridian Garden Club at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Tuesday, April 8 at 10 a.m. for the stories "Little Seed," "Frog and Toad in the Garden" and a planting activity. The story times are free and open to children 3 years and older. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

### Look for wildflowers at HNC April 22

Celebrate Earth Day while looking for spring wildflowers with a naturalist on Tuesday, April 22 at 10:30 a.m. at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. There is a \$3/person fee due at the time of the walk. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

### Stories in the Garden at HNC to take place April 8

Children are invited to join the Meridian Garden Club at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Tuesday, April 8 at 10 a.m. for the stories "Little Seed," "Frog and Toad in the Garden" and a planting activity.

The story times are free and open to children 3 years and older. For information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 349-3866.

### MERIDIAN TWP. HOSTS FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation will host the Flashlight Egg Hunt Saturday, April 19 for 3-12-year-olds at Nancy Moore Park. Activities and food vendors at 7 p.m.; Egg hunt at approximately 9:20 p.m. Features children's activities, carnival games, arts and crafts, a visit with the Easter Bunny, Meridian Township's Police K-9 Unit, Meridian Ambulance and bonfire.

Cost: \$6 pre-registration/child (parents are free); \$10 at door/child (parents are free). Pre-registration deadline: Thursday, April 17 at 4 p.m.

For more information, call Mike Devlin at (517) 853-4600 or e-mail devlin@meridian.mi.us.

Towne Courier • Sunday, April 13, 2014 • 3A

### Community clean-up April 19

As we welcome spring and celebrate Earth Week, the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department is organizing a community-wide clean-up event to encourage residents to help clean up local parks on Saturday, April 19 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Volunteers are needed to pick-up litter and stack branches in lawn areas or remove litter and

branches obstructing trails in Central Park, Nancy L. Moore Park, Wonch Park and Ferguson Park.

Those interested in volunteering can contact Jane Greenway at (517) 853-4610 to be assigned a park. Pizza will be provided to all volunteers after the event. For more information, visit [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

Towne Courier • Sunday, March 30, 2014 • Towne Courier

### QUICK HITS

#### MERIDIAN TWP. TO HOST COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

As we welcome spring and celebrate Earth Week, the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department is organizing a community-wide clean-up event to encourage residents to help clean up local parks on Saturday, April 19 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Volunteers are needed to pick-up litter and stack branches in lawn areas or remove litter and branches obstructing trails in Central Park, Nancy L. Moore Park, Wonch Park and Ferguson Park.

Those interested in volunteering can contact Jane Greenway at (517) 853-4610 to be assigned a park. Pizza will be provided to all volunteers after the event.

Towne Courier • Sunday, May 4, 2014 • 9A

### Garden Club plant sale May 16

On Friday, May 16, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Meridian Farmer's Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road (west of Meridian Township Buildings), Okemos, the Meridian Garden Club will have perennials, specialty and native plants, as well as house plants for sale. On-site garden specialists will be there to assist you. Proceeds go to gardens the club maintains in the township.

Towne Courier • Sunday, April 27, 2014 •

### Stories in the Garden at HNC

Children are invited to join the Meridian Garden Club at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Tuesday, May 6 at 10 a.m. for the story The Backyard Bestiary and an animal craft activity. The story times are free and open to children 3 years and older. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

Towne Courier • Sunday, April 20, 2014 •

### Celebrate trees at HNC April 26

Where would we be without trees to add shade and beauty to our lives? Celebrate trees and all of nature this Earth Week at a campfire program at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Saturday, April 26 at 7 p.m. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

## NEWS BRIEFS

10A • Sunday, May 11, 2014 • Towne Courier

### Meridian Garden Club plant sale set for May 16

On Friday, May 16, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Meridian Farmer's Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road (west of Meridian Township Buildings), Okemos, the Meridian Garden Club will have perennials, specialty and native plants, as well as house plants for sale. On-site garden specialists will be

there to assist you. Proceeds go to gardens the club maintains in the township.

### Forage for frogs at HNC May 31

Did you know that Michigan has 13 different species of frogs and many of them live right here? Find out more while enjoying a campfire on Saturday, May 31 at 7 p.m. at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. There is a \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more in-

formation, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

### Preschoolers discover insects at nature center

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township, on Thursday, June 5 at 12:30 p.m. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is Incredible Insects. The program is designed for 4-5-year-old children. The fee is \$4/child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

### Enjoy bird watching May 25

Enjoy bird watching with an experienced Capital Area Audubon Society (CAAS) leader on Sunday, May 25 at 8 a.m. at the Davis-Foster Preserve on Van Atta Road

(north of Grand River Ave.) in Meridian Township. There is no fee for this walk and participants must provide their own binoculars. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff    Supervisor  
Brett Dreyfus            Clerk  
Julie Brixie              Treasurer  
Frank L. Walsh          Manager



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

May 29, 2014

LuAnn Maisner  
Director of Parks & Recreation  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court  
Haslett, MI 48840

**RE:    ZBA Case No. 14-05-28-1  
        Wonch Park – 4555 Okemos Road**

Dear LuAnn:

The Zoning Board of Appeals, at its regular meeting held on May 28, 2014 voted to **deny** your request for variances from the following sections of the Code of Ordinances:

- Section 86-471(b)(3) which states all structures and grading activities shall be setback from the edge of a water feature as follows – 50 feet from the ordinary high water mark of the Red Cedar River.
- Section 86-471(c)(2) which states a natural vegetation strip shall be maintained from the edge of a water feature as follows – 25 feet as measured from the abutting ordinary high water mark of the Red Cedar River.
- Section 86-471(b)(1) which states all structures and grading activities shall be setback 40 feet from the edge of wetlands regulated by the township or state which are two acres or greater in size.
- Section 86-471(c)(1) which states a 20 foot natural vegetation strip shall be maintained from the edge of wetlands regulated by the township or state.

In making its determination, the Zoning Board of Appeals stated the variances as requested did not meet the review criteria listed in Section 86-221 of the Code of Ordinances, as there were no practical difficulties that would unreasonably prevent the use of the property for the permitted purpose, a pathway in a public park; the special circumstances were self-created; the variances were not the minimum action necessary; and the variances, if granted would adversely affect adjacent land and the essential character of the vicinity.

Per Section 86-225, no application for a variance, which has been denied wholly or in part by the Zoning Board of Appeals, shall be resubmitted until the expiration of one (1) year from the

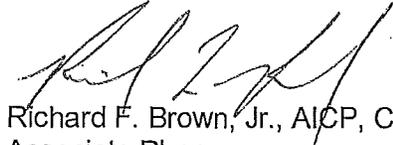


ZBA CASE NO. 14-05-28-1  
4555 Okemos Road (Wonch Park)  
May 29, 2014  
Page 2

date of such denial, except on the grounds of newly discovered evidence or proof of changed circumstances found by the Zoning Board of Appeals to be sufficient to justify consideration.

The effective date for the variance decision is May 28, 2014, the date the Zoning Board of Appeals denied the variance request. If you have any questions, please contact me at 517-853-4568.

Sincerely,



Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP  
Associate Planner

cc: Jane Greenway