



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Location: Service Center Building
Okemos, MI 48864

DATE: June 9, 2019

PRESENT: Amanda Lick, Michael McDonald, Mark Stephens, Ami VanAntwerp

EXCUSED: Annika Schaetzl,

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation, Kelsey Dillon, Park Naturalist

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER 7:40PM

2. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Small Dog Park Ribbon Cutting held at 6:35 pm in Nancy Moore Park with approximately 25 dogs and owners in attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –STEPHENS LICK AS PRESENTED

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Stephens moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. Seconded by Commissioner VanAntwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Marketplace on the Green Bid Acceptance

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved TO APPROVE THE BID RECEIVED FROM GORDON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES I THE AMOUNT OF \$1,403,699 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF “MARKETPLACE ON THE GREEN” INCLUDING SITE WORK, RESTROOM BUILDING AND PAVILION , PENDING CONFIRMATION OF REFERENCES; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE

TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACTS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP.
Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

Roll call:

AYES: Amanda Lick, Mark Stephens, Ami VanAntwer, Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Vote carried unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. 2020 Budget Request – Staff will draft the 2020 budget request for review at the July meeting.
- B. Donation Opportunity –
 - Sculpture: a local real estate agent called on behalf of a client who is selling their home and are interested in donating one or two sculptures to the parks and inquired as to our interest. Staff confirmed our interest with her. The homeowner will be contacting us in the near future with details.
 - Contribution: a resident has offered to contribute an unspecified amount of money to the parks in memory of his late daughter and has requested a list of opportunities from which to choose. Staff will be getting back with him after the July 4 weekend to continue discussions.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Kit Rich announced her retirement effective August 23, 2019
- B. Jane Rose, Executive Director of the Friends of Historic Meridian announced her Retirement effective June 29, 2019.
- C. Red Cedar River Master Plan Project- The mitigation plan presented to the park Commission from a local developer will not be moving forward as the proposed work in the floodplain at the Elevation Project on Jolly Road is no longer necessary. The masterplan for stream improvements near Wonch Park have been made available to us if the Park Commission is interested in applying for grant funds.
- D. Central Park Project update – SLOW. Staff will be meeting with the consultant to obtain an updated schedule for construction.
- E. HNC Project update – Final Plans are moving forward for bidding in the next 304 weeks for fall construction.
- F. Celebrate Meridian Saturday June 29th 11-11:00pm
- G. Lights installed in patio at HNC
- H. Property donation Sleepy Hollow - moving forward
- I. Dr. Maureen Sander passed away on May 4, 2019 at age 85.
- J. The Pickleball courts at Hillbrook and Towner Road are receiving a lot of use. I have received a request to add screens on the fence at Towner to control the wind. Staff is looking into it.

- K. Ove the last few months, Ted Black Woods Park and the Harris Nature Center’s Nature Exploration Area have been vandalized. Police have stepped up patrols and have recommended a public awareness campaign be developed.
- L. DNR Site Visit – The Park Commission submitted a grant request in April for acquisition of the property on Okemos Road and Gaylord Smith Court to create a separate entrance to the park and to serve as a trail head once the boardwalk and the MSU – Lake Lansing trails are completed. Our DNR Grant Coordinator, Erin Campbell visited the site in May to assist in her evaluation of the request. We will be receiving a preliminary score in August with the final announcement in December.
- M. The Chimney Swift Tower was completed at Hartrick Park last week. The tower was a collaboration between Meridian Township, Okemos High School Earth Club, and Michigan Audubon. Michigan Audubon used grant funding to secure the materials for the tower, the Earth Club students built the tower and Meridian Township staff helped with the installation. The tower will not only serve the Chimney Swifts that will use it as critical roosting space, but it will also be a great educational outreach piece at a well visited park. An educational sign will be installed in the next few weeks.
- N. **The 2019 Summer Youth Fishing Derby** was a success at the Meridian Historical Village. There were 46 youth registrants and an estimated 60 total attendees. Many of the participants were first time anglers and were able to catch a fish! Mark Stephens and Ben Pineda (Haslett Middle School teacher) were essential to the success of the event.
- O. **Love a Park Day:** On Saturday, May 18 over 100 volunteers beautified seven Meridian Township parks, the Public Safety Building and the Central Fire Station. Numerous local groups participated in the Love A Park Day projects:
 - Hillbrook Park – 242 Church
 - Orlando Park – Treasurer Deschaine and the Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis
 - North Meridian Road Park – Webelos II of Haslett Cub Scout Pack 265
 - Ferguson and Wonch Park – Trustee Jackson and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
 - Forest Hills Natural Area – Forest Hills HOA
 - Harris Nature Center – HNC stewardship volunteers
 - Meridian Township Public Safety Building and Central Fire Station – Haslett and Okemos High School students
 - The projects included tasks such as planting flowers, weeding, mulching, laying a gravel trail at Hillbrook Park, spreading safety surface around playground equipment and establishing new flowerbeds.

11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

- A. Commissioner Comments - none
- B. Events Calendar:
 - Celebrate Meridian – June 29 11am-11pm Central Park
 - Farmers’ Market – Saturdays 8am-2pm. Starting Saturday, June 29 the Market will operate in the Mall Parking Lot on Saturdays and Wednesdays through the end of October.
- C. Next Park Commission Meeting – Tuesday, July 9, 6:30 pm at the Meridian Service Center

12. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Lick adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

13. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 9, 2019**, in the Service Center Building; 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI, with the non-televised regular meeting at 6:30 pm.