



**MINUTES**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING  
Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 4:30pm  
Town Hall - Televised

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**REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- A. Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

- A. Present: Chair Nardo-Farris; Commissioners Lick, McDonald, Phelps, and Stephens  
B. Staff: Director Wisinski, Administrative Assistant Pachucki  
C. Guest: Township Attorney Beyea

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. There was no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Commissioner Lick motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 14, 2026 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes  
1. Commissioner Stephens motioned to approve the April 14, 2026 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Meridian Conservation Corps Calendar  
1. Director Wisinski reviewed the May Stewardship Calendar, and shared that the Land Stewardship team is hard at work not only removing invasive species but also seeding native plants at parks and preserves. There is an upcoming Trailside Ecology event that is open to the public at Ted Black Woods on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, where residents can learn more about land management practices and the effect that invasive species has on native ecosystems.
- B. Harris Nature Center Events  
1. Director Wisinski highlighted the early May upcoming event calendar, and noted that in addition, there are a lot of school groups using Harris Nature Center programming in the month of May. Director Wisinski shared that the Native Plant Sale at the beginning of the month went well, and that the Harris Nature Center will be receiving a new owl from a wildlife rehabilitator once the paperwork is finalized, with the owl going in a new enclosure outside.
- C. Commissioner Lick motioned to approve the communications and place them on file. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Parks & Recreation 5-Year Plan Survey  
1. Director Wisinski thanked Chair Nardo-Farris for providing feedback on the 5-Year Plan Survey. Mannik-Smith, the Parks department consultant company, compiled all the feedback, and sent the survey to our Communications department for

distribution. The Communications department will post on social media, and in our e-mail communications. Township Manager Dempsey and Director Wisinski will share the survey at the Township Board Listening sessions. Mannik-Smith will provide posterboards at the 5-Year Plan Public meetings, and flyers will be posted in parks and preserves. The survey will be open for feedback until after the last 5-Year Plan Public meeting in the middle of August.

B. Parks & Recreation 5-Year Plan Public Meetings

1. July 9, 2026 – Central Park Pavilion
2. July 30, 2026 – Harris Nature Center
3. August 13, 2026 – Towner Road Park
4. Director Wisinski shared the public meeting dates for the 5-Year plan and asked the Commission to plan on attending these meetings. Mannik-Smith will lead the meetings.

C. Township Board Listening Sessions

1. May 12, 2026 – 2|42 Community Center
2. July 28, 2026 – Central Park Pavilion
3. October 27, 2026 – St. Luke Lutheran Church
4. Director Wisinski discussed the upcoming Township Board Listening Sessions, including one that happened simultaneously with the Park Commission on May 12, 2026. Director Wisinski will be present at the July 28 and October 27 meetings, and at the July 28 meeting will share the 5-Year Plan Survey and Public Meeting information.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. There were no action items.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Red Cedar Regatta

1. Director Wisinski reminded the Park Commissioners of the upcoming Red Cedar Regatta on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 AM with a ribbon cutting at McCormick Park in Williamston. The ribbon cutting is celebrating the Red Cedar being designated as a water trail by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Director Wisinski thanked Tri-county Regional Planning Commission for their assistance. The floating dock at Harris Nature Center will be installed on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – just in time for the event. Commissioner Lick asked about safety out on the water trail, and Director Wisinski shared that emergency responders are aware of the event, participants sign a waiver, and will be encouraged to use the WhatThreeWords app.

B. Small Dog Park Shelter Update

1. Director Wisinski reported that Parks and Land Superintendent Adams has ordered the shelter and secured a contractor for the concrete installation. It will take a few weeks for the shelter to come in and then be installed. Director Wisinski noted that there will also be a ribbon cutting for this event, and she will invite the Commission.

C. Hillbrook – Pine Lake Outlet Drain

1. Director Wisinski gave a brief overview of the work done by the Ingham County Drain Commission on the Pine Lake Outlet Drain at Hillbrook Park, and the concerns that she had about the wetland and riparian buffer zone. Director Wisinski has had several follow-up meetings with the Drain Commission and the contractors working on the Pine Lake Outlet Drain. A challenge that the Drain Commissioner's office has run into is the amount of heavy rain and lack of sun to dry out the affected area. The contractor will use Michigan Wildflower Farm to plant rye or wheat grass in the riparian buffer zone. There are no other parks on the work schedule from the drain commission's office at this time, and the work only occurs like this every twenty-five to thirty years. The work is necessary for watershed management. Commissioner Stephens appreciated the two signs put out by the drain commission office.

D. Upcoming Events

1. Director Wisinski asked if all of the Park Commissioners received the Meridan Playbook in their inbox. The commissioners were unsure, so Director Wisinski said

that she would send the sign-up link to their e-mails. The Playbook goes out to thousands of residents monthly, and has all of the upcoming events on it. Some events that are coming up are the Summer Concert Series (beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup>), Wednesday Night Farmer's Market (beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup>), Harris Nature Center Foundation's Motivated by Nature run (June 3<sup>rd</sup>), and Meridian Pride at Marketplace on the Green (June 6<sup>th</sup>). The commissioners were invited to attend these events as able. Director Wisinski also highlighted the spring and summer athletic programs, such as soccer, t-ball, baseball, softball for youth, and softball and volleyball for adults. Youth sports registration has been consistent for the last five years, but adult sports registration has been on the decline. Director Wisinski will work with the Parks and Recreation specialists to review why this is happening, and what the department can offer in terms of new programming.

E. Farmer's Market

1. Director Wisinski informed the Park Commission that the Meridian Township Farmer's Market has officially moved outside as of Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will continue to be every Saturday until the end of October. Wednesday Farmer's Market will begin on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and continue until the end of October as well. Commissioner Lick asked if the Farmer's Market Advisory Board could present at a televised Park Commission meeting about the Farmer's Market, and if we could also include other advisory groups.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. There was no public comment.

11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Commissioner Phelps met with Director Cordill and Board President Tierney from the Friends of Historical Meridian. The meeting was productive, with the Historical Village representatives asking questions about the 5-Year Plan and sharing about building their own strategic plan. Their strategic plan is focused on strengthening membership. The Historical Village received a grant to digitize documents and is looking for volunteers to assist. They also have hosted several school groups recently and continue to do so.
- B. Commissioner Lick expressed her excitement at the upcoming Red Cedar Regatta, and that the small dog park shelter construction will commence. She also apologized to her fellow commissioners for missing the last two regularly scheduled meetings.
- C. Chair Nardo-Farris noted the Township Listening Boards, and that the Commission was looking forward to any feedback from the public regarding the Park Commission.
- D. Commissioner McDonald wished former Township employee Leroy Harvey well amidst on-going health challenges and expressed support for his family and friends.
- E. Commissioner Stephens shared that he has been out to the Historical Village Pond several times over the last few weeks, including environmental studies training with pre-service teachers.

12. CLOSED SESSION – CLOSED SESSION– Motion for the Park Commission enter into closed session Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act to consult with the Township Attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with ordinance enforcement litigation involving 5837 Carlton Street now pending in Ingham County District Court, namely case number 25M93588-ON because an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Township.

- A. Commissioner Stephens motioned for the Park Commission enter into closed session Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act to consult with the Township Attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with ordinance enforcement litigation involving 5837 Carlton Street now pending in Ingham County District Court, namely case number 25M93588-ON because an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Township. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS: Commissioners Stephens, McDonald, Lick and Phelps, Chair Nardo-Farris

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 5-0

At 5:24 PM, the Park Commission entered closed session.

At 6:40 PM, the Park Commission returned to open session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chair Nardo-Farris reminded the Park Commission that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Meridian Township Service Center at 4:30 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM.

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All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Parks & Recreation Director, Courtney Wisinski: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.