



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY JANUARY 13, 2015
MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER



WORK SESSION 6 PM

(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Park Commissioner Candidate Interviews**
4. **Other**
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Adjournment**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations** (goldenrod)
 - a. Resolution of Appreciation – Teri Banas
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)
8. **Director's Report** (yellow)
9. **New Business** (pink)

PUBLIC COMMENT

 - a. Park Commissioner Candidate Recommendation
 - b. Ingham County Trails Millage Meeting – January 26, 2015

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.

- 10. Unfinished Business** (green)
PUBLIC COMMENT
- 11. Other Business** (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT
- 12. Discussion Items** (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. 2015 Park Projects
- 13. Final Comments**
- 14. Announcements**
 - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2015, Town Hall
 - b. Farmers' Market – Saturday January 17, and February 7, 10am-2pm Meridian Mall
 - c. Township Offices are closed January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Birthday
 - d. Family Weekend Winter Fun Events: January 17th: Cross Country Ski Classes; Snowshoe Classes; Moonlight Ski and Shoe; January 18th: Meridian Swims; January 24: Moonlight Sledding; January 25: Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk; Meridian Bowls; January 30: Winter Wonderland; February 6: Howl at the Moon; February 7: Cross Country Ski Classes; Snowshoe Classes; Moonlight Ski and Shoe; Winter Kickball Tournament; Moonlight Sledding; February 8: Meridian Swim; February 14: Meridian Ice Fishing Derby
- 15. Public Remarks**
- 16. Closed Session**
- 17. Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting
January 13, 2015

WORK SESSION

3. Park Commissioner Candidate Interviews

- Philip Deschaine
- Shane Goodale
- Christopher Wickman

Robin Faust

From: LuAnn Maisner
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 4:50 PM
To: LuAnn Maisner
Subject: Park Commission Interviews

Dear Christopher, Phil and Shane,

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Meridian Township Park Commission. The Park Commissioners are elected to four-year terms with the current term ending in December, 2016. Since Teri Banas was elected to a new post with Ingham County, the Township Board has the responsibility of appointing someone to fulfill the vacancy.

The process begins with an interview with the four current Park Commissioners, (Todd Wilson, Mike McDonald, Mark Stephens and Melanie Jaramillo). The Commissioners will make a recommendation to the Township Board for their approval. The Township Board will make the official appointment on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

You are invited to participate in the interview process on Tuesday, January 13 at 6pm at the Meridian Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. Please confirm your participation with me by return email or phone at 853-4604. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation
Charter Township of Meridian
517-853-4604

Park Commission Meeting
January 13, 2015

6. MINUTES

- a. December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Banas, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and noted all members of the Commission were present.

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Presentations

None

4. Public Comment

Eckhart Dersch, Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC) President, distributed a communication outlining LINC's supported of the creation of a dog park, but recommended creating mini-dog parks throughout the Township (copy in the minute book). Director Maisner thanked Mr. Dersch for his reports on the trails and park maintenance items. Mr. Dersch thanked the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Staff for their hard work and quick response.

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Wilson acknowledged the nice article on Township residents Howard and Helen Tanner. They are wonderful supporters of the parks and Harris Nature Center. He also reported the Haslett Robotics Club which he coaches, won the state tournament.

Commissioner Stephens reported he will be a presenter and have a booth at the upcoming Michigan Recreation and Park Association Conference in February. Staff will forward information and asked Commissioners to reply by end of next week in order to obtain the early bird registration fee.

Commissioner Jaramillo reported she participated in the Salmon Run at MSU. It was a great day and nice event.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. October 21, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. October 21, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEMBER MCDONALD MOVED, BOARD MEMBER JARAMILLO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 21, 2014 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed (Board Member Banas abstained from vote).

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Friend of the Park/Central Park Report
2. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Friend of the Park/North Meridian Road Park Report
3. From: Eckhart Dersch; Re: Friend of the Park/Ted Black Woods Report
4. From: DNR; RE MNRTF Development Application Evaluation Worksheet
5. From: Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation; RE: Recommend mini-dog parks
6. From: Haslett Food Bank; RE: Thank you for venison for Food Bank

B. Commission Information

1. November & December Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Parks & Recreation Department October and November Monthly Reports
3. Press Release: Local Parks See Improvements – Projects Completed at Wonch and Newton Road Parks
4. Township Focus Magazine: Oh Deer! Townships, hunting and deer management
5. Towne Courier: **Sept 14:** Qigong Classes offered at HNC; Preschool Science Exploration at HNC Oct 2; Build a bird feeder at HNC Sept 28; Chipmunk Story Time on Sept 18; Meridian Announces Another Deer Harvest; Annual Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's rich history; **Oct 12:** Qigong Classes offered at HNC; Build a fairy house Oct 16; **Oct 19:** HNC has Halloween adventures Oct 25; **Oct 26:** Hunters harvest 45 deer in managed hunt in twp; **Oct 26:** Learn about ducks at HNC Nov 9; **Nov 30:** Meridian Township touts practice fields, walking path
6. Mary Helmbrecht Butterfly Garden Report

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. To: Assistant Planner Wyatt; Re: Comments on Aldi Development
2. To: Jon Mayes, DNR; RE: Meridian Riverfront Park, Project No. 26-01426; removal of backstop and player benches from Eastgate Park

D. Distributed at the meeting:

1. Harris Nature Center Foundation Minutes – October 13, 2014 and November 10, 2014

2. Invitation to the joint meeting of the Township Board with other boards and commissions on Tuesday, January 6 at 6 pm in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building
3. Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage Voter Results Summary
4. Family Winter Sports Weekends events calendar for January and February 2015

When asked about the request to rezone the Land Preservation Parcels, Commissioner Stephens replied it was initiated and withdrawn by the Planning Commission at the Land Preservation Board's request.

Commissioner Stephens reported the school groups were unable to distribute all of the mulch around the plants in the Mary Helmbrecht garden around the Central Park pond and is looking for volunteers to complete the project.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNIATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

8. Director's Report

Director Maisner reported:

- Park and Grounds Maintenance staff has completed a large amount of work improving and clearing trails in our parks.
- Wonch Park Pavilion Grant: Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant results are out and the Wonch Park Pavilion Grant funding request was unsuccessful;
- New Maintenance Position: – posted with interviews in January. Larry Bobb from the Sewer Department is filling the vacancy in Parks and Grounds.
- Hillbrook Park: the ice rink is framed in, but due to the weather, there is no ice yet.
- Deer Management: 120 Deer have been taken since October 1. The program continues through December.
- Gaga Ball Courts: the hardware has arrived; the containment areas will be constructed over the winter and installed in the spring at Snell Towar Recreation Center and in North Meridian Road Park.
- North Meridian Road Park: the work has not begun yet on the sand volleyball Courts but hope to have it dug before end of year and sand will be brought in spring
- Maintenance staff will be working on refurbishing picnic tables over the winter.
- Staff met with MSU on topics including deer management, trails and canoe launch at the Dobie Reserve
- Met with MSU representatives and our IT staff on creating a web-based park and trail map; this will eventually be a mobile app;
- Legg Park Entry Drive paving completed. Parking lot striping and landscaping spring
- Newton Road Park: completed except for landscaping

- Farmers' Market has moved indoors to the Meridian Mall on the first and third Saturdays of the month from December to April, from 10am-2pm
- Chinese New Year/Spring Festival – will be held at the Meridian Mall on Saturday, February 21, from 2-6pm
- Christmas in the Village – will be held Sunday, December 14, from 2-5pm
- Family Fun Guide: is in preparation and will be mailed out around January 9, 2015
- Family Winter Weekends: copies of the flyer were distributed at the meeting; there will be activities every weekend through January and February
- Don Moore, former Nokomis Learning Center Education Director died over the weekend from cancer age of 47.
- Sander Farm Natural Area: the lease is due to expire in early 2015 and will be meeting with Dr. Sander at end of January
- Meridian Cares: the Township is assisting with raising \$3,000 for the Township Emergency Fund; tickets are \$10 a piece or 3 for \$20

9. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. 2015 Meeting Schedule

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Stephens and supported by Commissioner Banas.

WHEREAS, the Park Commission desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission deems the 2015 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board's Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board's Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that the Park Commission adopts its regular 2015 meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 6 *	Town Hall Room	<u>Joint Meeting</u> with Township Board at 6 pm
January 13	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
February 10	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
March 10	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
April 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
May 12	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
June 9	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
July 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
August 11	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
September 8**	<u>Service Center</u>	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
October 13	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
November 10	Town Hall	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
December 8***	<u>Service Center</u>	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg

2. The Park Commission has set a schedule to meet on the second Tuesday of the month.
3. Each of the above meetings shall be held in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, (517) 853-4000, with the exception of September 8, and December 8, when the Commission shall meet at the Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840 (517) 853-4600.
4. If the meeting location is in the Town Hall Room, the Park Commission meeting shall consist of a non-televised work session at 6 pm and the televised regular meeting at 7 pm. If the meeting location is other than the Town Hall Room, the non-televised meeting will consist of a non-televised work session at 6 pm and a regular meeting at 7 pm unless a work session is not required and therefore the regular meeting will begin at 6 pm.
5. Special meetings of the Park Commission may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
6. Regular meetings may be canceled, recessed or postponed by members of the Park Commission pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
7. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, and a copy of this resolution shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Teri Banas, Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

b. Election of Officers

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, TO NOMINATE TODD WILSON AS CHAIR. COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED.

Commissioner Wilson accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Teri Banas, Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, TO NOMINATE MIKE MCDONALD AS VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED.

Commissioner McDonald accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Teri Banas, Mike McDonald, Mark Stephens, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

c. Assignment of Land Preservation Advisory Board Representative

Commissioner Stephens volunteered to continue representing the Commission on the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Director Maisner expressed her appreciation of having Commissioner Stephen's experience on the Board. Chair Wilson thanked Commissioner Stephens for his commitment to serve. Commissioners discussed continuing the joint meetings between the Commission and LPA Board.

d. Budget Amendment Request – Safety Fence

Director Maisner stated the department has received bids for the construction of approximately 575 linear feet of 8' tall galvanized chain link fencing and two maintenance access gates at Nancy Moore Park. The project is budgeted in the 2015 Park Millage account.

The bids were as follows:

- Spartan Fence: \$9,900
- Dewitt Fence: \$14,178
- Cleary Fence: no bid received
- Sawdon Fence: no bid received

Base on bid results, we recommend the bid be awarded to Spartan Fence in the amount of \$9,900. The budgeted amount for this project is \$6,000. After investigating the site more closely, staff realized that additional fencing was necessary for the purpose of providing safety from fly balls and overthrows. The additional fencing increased the budgeted amount. A budget amendment is required in the amount of \$3,900.

COMMISSIONER McDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE BID FROM SPARTAN FENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,900 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING BALL FIELD SAFETY FENCING IN NANCY MOORE PARK; AND APPROVE AMENDING THE PARK MILLAGE BUDGET TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL \$3,900 FOR THE PROJECT IN 2015.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Teri Banas, Mike McDonald, Mark Stephens, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

e. 2015 Township Board Goals and Objectives

Director Maisner reported the Township Manager has led staff and the Township Board through a process of identifying goals with objectives that will be implemented through the 2015 budget. She has outlined how the Parks and Recreation Staff will be meeting the goals and objectives. Staff will be preparing a task list and timeline to keep projects moving forward.

f. Commissioner Banas Resignation

Commissioner Banas submitted her written resignation and staff will forward to the Township Clerk. She will be beginning with the County on January 2, has been attending training sessions and has been appointed to the General Government Committee that oversees roads and parks. She will also be serving on the Health and Human Services Committee and at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

Commissioners thanked Commissioner for her years of service and are excited to have her representing the Township at the County level.

10. Unfinished Business (green)

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications

Director Maisner stated the request for qualifications document has been drafted. After the written proposals are received, select those to be interviewed. Then ask for proposals from the top 3-4 firms.

The Commissioners discussed advertising for proposals, members on interview panel, including budget, and including a sample of the consultant contract with RFQ.

b. 2015 Grant Project Submissions

Director Maisner reported that according to recent grant award results, it appears projects \$50,000 or below were funded. All the Land and Water projects were funded as well.

The Commissioners suggested submitting \$50,000 requests to all three grant funds. The three projects selected include: Meridian Riverfront Park Trail pavilion, Hillbrook Park tennis and pickleball courts and North Meridian Road Park pavilion.

11. **Other Business** (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. **Discussion Items** (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT

a. **Park Commissioner Replacement**

Director Maisner stated the last time there was a vacancy on the Commission; an advertisement was published in the Towne Courier, on the website and on Facebook pages. Phil Deschaine has submitted an application for public service and Shane Goodale previously submitted an application that is still on file with the Treasurer's Office. Previously, the Commissioners conducted interviews and made a recommendation to the Township Board for approval. The Commissioners suggested conducting interviews on January 13 for Board approval on January 20.

13. **Final Comments**

Commissioner Jaramillo wished Commissioner Banas well on her next post.

14. **Announcements**

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2015
- b. Joint Meeting with Township Board and other Boards and Commission: Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 6 pm in Town Hall Room
- c. Farmers' Market – Saturday, December 6 and 20, Meridian Mall 10am-2pm
- d. Township Offices are closed December 25 and 26; and January 1 and 2 for holiday observance
- e. Christmas in the Village – Sunday, December 14 from 2-5pm

15. **Public Remarks**

None

16. Closed Session

None

17. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Park Commission Meeting
January 13, 2015
7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From:

B. Commission Information

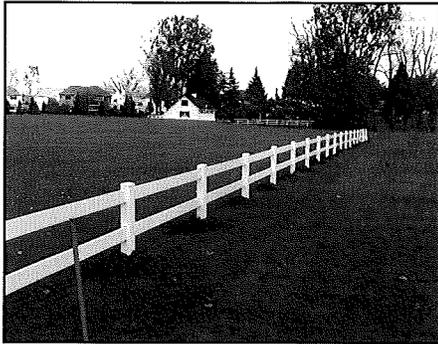
1. Meridian Township Parks – 2014 (distributed at Joint Meeting on 1/6/15)
2. 2015 Park Projects (distributed at Joint Meeting on 1/6/15)
3. January Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
4. Family Winter Sports Weekends Calendar of Events
5. Parks & Recreation Department December Monthly Report
6. Towne Courier: **Dec 7:** Christmas in the Village; Farmers Market in Meridian Mall; **Dec 14:** Chipmunk Story Time to be held; Meridian Township's Drive Thru Santa open Saturday; **Dec 28:** Registration set for annual Polar Bear run walk

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

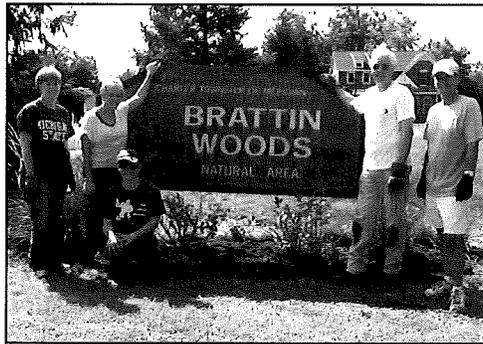
1.

Meridian Township Parks - 2014

"Creating Community through People, Parks, and Programs"



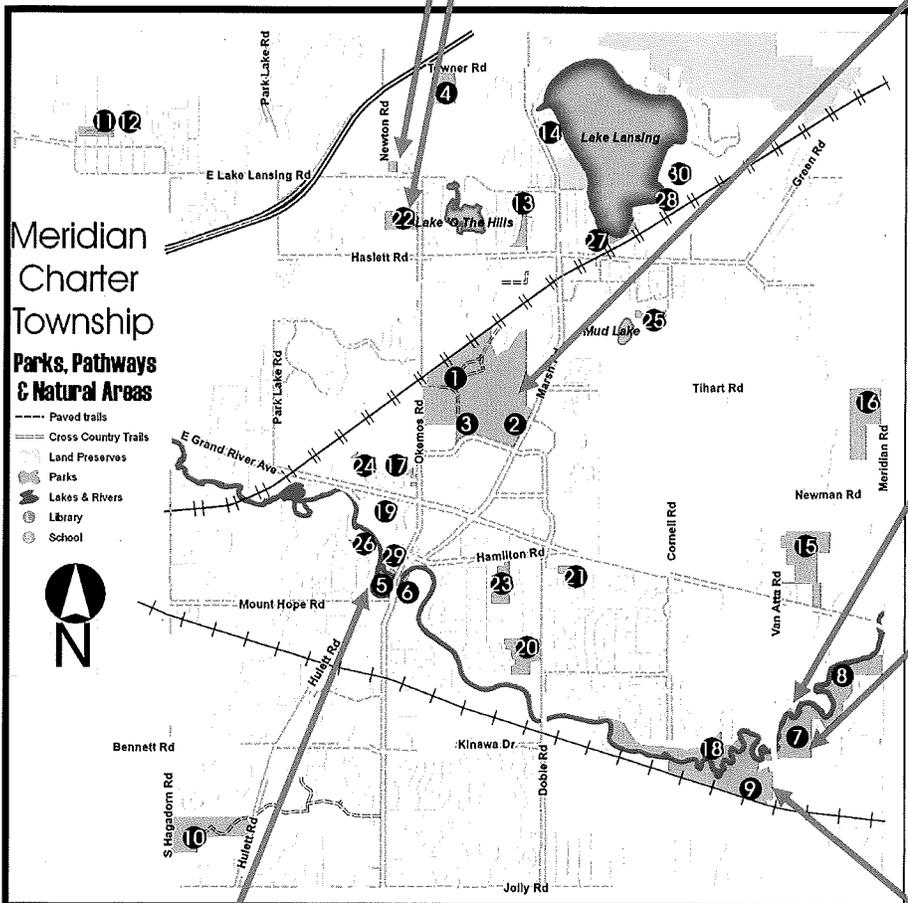
Newton Road Park—Parking & Vinyl Fence



Volunteer Stewardship—Brattin Woods



Claire Twohy Garden & Eleanor Luecke Memorial



Harris Nature Center—Fishing & Canoe Deck



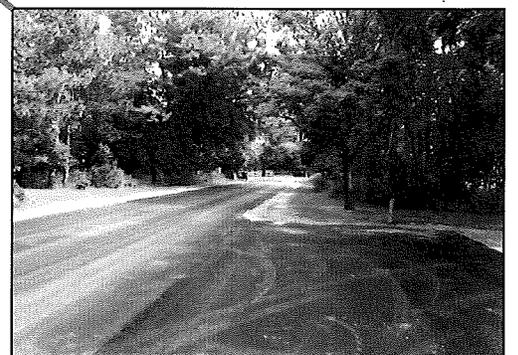
Volunteer Stewardship—Harris Nature Center



Wonch Park – Perimeter Walking Path



Trail Maintenance—(numerous parks)



Legg Park— Paved Entry & Parking



Meridian Township Parks & Recreation January Calendar of Events



January 3 – Winter Farmers Market

January 8 – Preschool Science
Exploration/Rocks Rock

January 9 – Howl at the Moon

January 9 – Weekday Science
Program/Fossil Puzzle

January 11 – Family Special: Crafternoon

January 15 – Chipmunk Story Time/Nothing Sticks Like a Shadow

January 16 – Polar Bear 5K Run Walk t-shirt
registration deadline

January 17 – Cross Country Ski Class

January 17 – Snowshoe Class

January 17 – Moonlight Ski and Shoe

January 17 – Winter Farmers Market

January 18 – Meridian Swims at Goldfish
Swimming School



January 24 – Moonlight
Sledding at North Meridian
Road Park



January 25 – Meridian Bowls at City Limits East

January 25 – Polar Bear 5K Run Walk

January 26 – My Cub and I: Nature for Toddlers

January 26 – Timber Tots

January 30 – Winter Kickball Tournament registration deadline

January 31 – Winter Wonderland at Harris Nature Center



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



Special Community Events

FAMILY WINTER SPORTS WEEKENDS

January and February



- JAN 9** Howl at the Moon at Harris Nature Center
- JAN 11** Family Special: Crafternoon at Harris Nature Center
- JAN 17** Cross Country Ski Class at Harris Nature Center
Snowshoe Class at Harris Nature Center
Moonlight Ski & Shoe at Harris Nature Center
- JAN 18** Meridian Swims at Goldfish Swimming School
- JAN 24** Moonlight Sledding at North Meridian Road Park
- JAN 25** Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk, Central Park/Nancy Moore Park
Meridian Bowls at City Limits East Bowling Center
- JAN 31** Winter Wonderland at Harris Nature Center
- FEB 6** Howl at the Moon at Harris Nature Center
- FEB 7** Cross Country Ski Class at Harris Nature Center
Snowshoe Class at Harris Nature Center
Moonlight Ski & Shoe at Harris Nature Center
Winter Kickball Tournament at Nancy Moore Park
Moonlight Sledding at North Meridian Road Park
- FEB 8** Meridian Swims at the Michigan Athletic Club
- FEB 14** Meridian Ice Fishing Derby
- FEB 20** Demmer Center Archery, Air Pistol and .22 Rifle Target Practice
- FEB 21** Demmer Center Archery, Air Pistol and .22 Rifle Target Practice
Wildlife Identification: Reptiles at Harris Nature Center
- FEB 28** Moonlight Ski & Shoe at Harris Nature Center



SPECIAL COMMUNITY
EVENTS

Join us on facebook
[www.facebook.com/ MeridianTwpParksRec](http://www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpParksRec)

For more info: 517-853-4600 www.meridian.mi.us

Family Winter Fun Weekends

Winter Farmers Market

Dates: Saturday
January 3 & 17; February 7 & 21
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
Location: J C Penney Corridor, Meridian Mall

Enjoy fresh, home grown, homemade goodies at this indoor market. See page 27 for details.

Howl at the Moon at Harris Nature Center

Dates: Fridays
January 9, February 6
Time: 7 pm
Location: Harris Nature Center
Price: \$3 / person

Enjoy a walk in the woods with your pet, family and friends. See page 36 for details.

Family Special: Crafternoon at Harris Nature Center

Date: Sunday, January 11
Time: 7 pm
Location: Harris Nature Center
Price: \$7 / family

Enjoy an afternoon making crafts with your family and friends. See page 36 for details.

Cross Country Ski Class at Harris Nature Center

Dates: Saturdays,
January 17 or February 7
Time: 9:30 - 11:30 am
Location: Harris Nature Center
Price: \$15 with own equipment
\$20 with HNC equipment

Learn cross country skiing with your family and friends. Two class dates offered. See page 35 for details.

Snowshoe Class at Harris Nature Center

Dates: Saturdays,
January 17 or February 7
Time: 1 - 3 pm
Location: Harris Nature Center
Price: \$15 with own equipment
\$20 with HNC equipment

Learn snowshoeing with your family and friends. Two class dates offered. See page 35 for details.

Moonlight Ski and Shoe at Harris Nature Center

Dates: Saturdays,
January 17, February 7, February 28
Time: 6 - 9 pm
Location: Harris Nature Center
Price: \$3 with own equipment / \$9 with HNC equipment

Enjoy a moonlight adventure with your family and friends. See page 35 for details.



Meridian Swims at Goldfish Swimming School

Date: Sunday, January 18
Time: 3 - 5 pm
Location: Goldfish Swimming School
Price: Free (Reservations Required)

Enjoy a swim with your family and friends. Reservations required. Call 517-458-5555.

Moonlight Sledding at North Meridian Road Park

Dates: Saturdays,
January 24, February 7
Time: 6 - 8:30 pm
Location: North Meridian Road Park
Price: Free

Bring your sled, toboggan, family, and friends to enjoy this age-old fun past time - sledding. To warm up between runs, enjoy a sip of hot chocolate at the bonfire.



January and February 2015

Polar Bear 5K Run Walk

Date: Sunday, January 25
Registration Time: 9 am
Start Time: 10 am
Location: Meridian Township Municipal Building, Central Park
Price: \$20 / person before race day
 \$25 / person on race day

Here is a great family recreation activity that is fun for all ages and abilities! Participants will enjoy a 5K Run or Walk through scenic Nancy Moore Park. Runners pre-registered by January 16 will receive a race shirt.

Race Day registration at Meridian Township Municipal Building. Awards in 14 divisions top 3 finishers in each division – Men's & Women's; Supported by Playmakers. Course is certified (MI 090225H)



Meridian Bowls at City Limits East

Date: Sunday, January 25
Time: 12 - 2 pm or 2 - 4 pm
Location: City Limits East Bowling Center
Price: Free (Reservations Required)
 Shoe Rental: \$2.50 / pair

Enjoy a game of bowling with your family and friends. Reservations required. Call 517-337-7000.

Winter Wonderland at Harris Nature Center

Date: Saturday, January 31
Time: 10 am - 3 pm
Location: Harris Nature Center
Price: Free / donations appreciated

Enjoy a winter hike, try out snowshoeing or cross country skiing or the Kids Outdoor Activity Area. See demonstrations by recreational dog sledgers, place a bid at the HNC Foundation Silent Auction. See page 35 for more details.

Winter Kickball Tournament

Date: Saturday, February 7
Tournament Starts at 9 am
Location: Hartrick and Nancy Moore Parks
Price: \$75 / team
Registration Deadline: January 30
 12 team maximum - 3 game guarantee.

Meridian Swims at Michigan Athletic Club

Date: Sunday, February 8
Time: 6:30 - 8 pm
Location: Michigan Athletic Club
Price: Free (Reservations Required)

Enjoy swimming with your family and friends. Reservations required. Call 517-364-8888

Meridian Ice Fishing Derby

Ages: Boys and Girls, 5 - 16
Date: Saturday, February 14
Time: 9 am - Noon
Location: Central Park Pond
Price: Free

Prizes awarded for biggest fish, 2nd biggest fish and smallest. Pre-registration not required. See page 12 for details.

Meridian Target Practice at MSU Demmer Center

Dates and Times:
 Friday, February 20 from 4 - 6 pm
 Saturday, February 21 from 1 - 5 pm
 Sunday, February 22 from 1 - 5 pm
Location: MSU Demmer Center
Price: Archery: \$8 / person
 Air Pistol: \$14 / person
 Air Rifle: \$14 / person
 .22 Rifle: \$25 / person

You and your family can try out archery, air pistol air rifle, and .22. rifle target practice on one of the three dates listed above. The fee includes 1.5 hours of instruction and ammunition.

Wildlife Identification: Reptiles at Harris Nature Center

Dates: Sunday, February 22
Time: 3 pm
Location: Harris Nature Center
Price: \$3 / person or \$7 / family

Enjoy learning to identify Michigan reptiles with your family and friends. See page 36 for details.

For more info: 517-853-4600 www.meridian.mi.us

PARKS & RECREATION

1. Park Commission:

At their December meeting, the Park Commission:

- Accepted the resignation of Teri Banas effective January 1, 2014
- Discussed process for filling vacancy on Park Commission
- Township Board's 2015 Goals and Objectives
- Proposed 2015 Grant project submissions
- Request for Qualifications for the Central Park Master Plan
- Elected Todd Wilson Chair and Mike McDonald Vice Chair for 2015
- Appointed Mark Stephens as the Commission's liaison to the Land Preservation Advisory Board

The next regular meeting of the Park Commission is Tuesday, January 13 in the Town Hall Room, in the Meridian Municipal Building. Work Session begins at 6 pm and Regular Meeting at 7 pm.

2. Administration:

The indoor Farmers' Market season began Saturday, December 6 and will continue on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10-2pm in the JC Penney corridor from December – April at the Meridian Mall.

Began organizational meetings for Chinese New Year (Saturday, February 14) and Celebrate Downtown Okemos (Saturday, June 13)

Met with representatives from MSU to discuss access to the Dobie Reserve for Deer Mgt, water trail access and trails. Waiting for response.

Met with representatives from MSU and our IT Dept. to discuss creation of a web-based park and trail/pathway map.

Volunteer Projects with MSU: Jane Greenway and I met with Shari Dann, MSU Fisheries and Wildlife, to discuss volunteer projects for an upcoming MSU class on sustainability.

LINC: Jane Greenway and I met with Eckhart Dersch to discuss LINC comments on future dog park at Legg Park

Attended meetings of the Meridian Senior Center Advisory Board, MRPA Foundation Board, Sr. Exercise Class Christmas Party at Meridian Mall, and Christmas in the Village tree lighting event sponsored by Friends of Historic Meridian.

Finalized 2015 "Family Fun Guide" and sent to printer for early January distribution. Special thanks to Robin Faust and Lynn Meikle for their dedicated effort and creativity.

a. Parks and Land Management
Land Preservation

- LPAB Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on February 11 at 6 pm at the Meridian Service Center.
- Future land preserve acquisitions: Continued to work toward a property acquisition
- Davis/Foster Preserve: Met with Brad Brogan, township resident and historical barn expert, to assess the conditions of the red barn on Van Atta Road.
- Joint Township Meeting: Developed materials for January 6, 2015 joint township meeting.
- Northwest Land Preserve: Worked with volunteers at the Northwest Land Preserve to draft a year end summary and to set goals for next year
- Mary Helmbrecht Butterfly Garden: Developed a pollinator planting sign for the Historical Village Pond planting

b. Deer Management

- Prepared for the 2015 January/February special hunt on Township properties
- Prepared a year end volunteer report/hunter participation report
- Sent thank you letters to all groups who assisted with our deer management program
- Responded to numerous questions and concerns via email, phone, and letters to residents regarding the deer management program
- Assisted in the carrying out of the deer management program tasks including: daily record keeping, transporting harvested deer to Merindorf Meats for donation, as well as daily communications with township staff and deer management program hunters

c. Parks

- Wonch Park Pathway project: Completed grant reimbursement paperwork and submitted it to DNR. Many park visitors have been enjoying the new pathway in the park.
- Central Park: Refined request-for-qualifications for design services for the master plan. Master planning services and community will begin in early 2015.
- Nancy Moore Park Fencing: Received bids for 550 lf of safety fencing for the ball diamonds. The fencing will be installed during early spring 2015. Spartan Fencing was low bidder.
- Joint Township Meeting: Developed materials for January 6, 2015 joint township meeting.
- Prepared year end reports and goals/work plan for 2015

3. Recreation

- December Registration Report
 - 262 currently enrolled in Haslett K-6th grade recreational basketball
 - 303 currently enrolled in K-8th grade recreational basketball
 - On Saturday, December 6, Winter Farmer's Market began in Meridian Mall with 32 vendors

- Sporties for Shorties Camp cancelled
- 24 cars with 60 participants in Drive Thru Santa
- Approximately 300 attended Christmas in the Village on December 14, best attended one in years

January Calendar of Events

- January 3 – Winter Farmers Market
- January 8 – Preschool Science Exploration/Rocks Rock
- January 9 – Howl at the Moon
- January 9 – Weekday Science Program/Fossil Puzzle
- January 11 – Family Special: Crafternoon
- January 15 – Chipmunk Story Time/Nothing Sticks Like a Shadow
- January 16 – Polar Bear 5K Run Walk t-shirt registration deadline
- January 17 – Cross Country Ski Class
- January 17 – Snowshoe Class
- January 17 – Moonlight Ski and Shoe
- January 17 – Winter Farmers Market
- January 18 – Meridian Swims at Goldfish Swimming School
- January 24 – Moonlight Sledding at North Meridian Road Park
- January 25 – Meridian Bowls at City Limits East
- January 25 – Polar Bear 5K Run Walk
- January 26 – My Cub and I: Nature for Toddlers
- January 26 – Timber Tots
- January 30 – Winter Kickball Tournament registration deadline
- January 31 – Winter Wonderland at Harris Nature Center

4. Harris Nature Center

Attendance: December 2014:

- 261 drop-in visitors to the Nature Building
- 147 students learned about nature (7 programs)
- 53 Elementary and Middle-High School students received (2) Outreach Programs
- 6 children enjoyed Preschool Science Exploration
- 2 children participated in Weekday Science
- 6 children attended Chipmunk Story Time
- 34 children enjoyed 3 Birthday Parties
- 9 adults received an Outreach Program
- 4 adults participated in 5 Elements Qigong (1 class)
- 9 people and 6 dogs participated in the Howl at the Moon walk
- 8 people rented/used the building for 1 meeting

Naturalist Staff Notes:

- Staff taught 19 programs in December.
- Staff sent out 13 press releases on upcoming HNC programs.
- HNC Facebook summary through 12-31-14:

• Total Likes	• 943
• Highest Reach	• 403
- Staff posted 13 times on Facebook and 6 times on Twitter in October.
- Staff was interviewed about upcoming programs on WLNZ radio: Coffee Break Show.
- Staff was interviewed on Michigan Talk Radio Network, the Deb Hart Loving Life Show.

- Staff posted all 2015 program information to ActiveNet.
- Staff posted winter and spring program information to the township website.
- Staff attended the Michigan Butterfly Network meeting.
- Cross country skis and snowshoes have been brought in and available to rent.
- All nature trails are open from dawn to dusk for walking, skiing and snowshoeing. The nature building hours for the winter and spring will be: open Tuesday-Saturday, 9am-4pm and Sunday 12pm-4pm. There is a porta-john available when the building is closed.

Upcoming Programs:

Preschool Science Exploration: Rocks Rock, Thursday January 8, at 1 pm; preschoolers (4 & 5 year olds) explore science topics through hands-on activities and time outdoors once each month (\$4/child)

Weekday Science: Fossil Puzzle, Friday January 9 at 1 pm; science enrichment for children 5-14 years old (\$4/child)

Howl at the Moon, Friday January 9 at 7 pm; guided night walk under the full moon; dogs welcome on a leash. Meet in the parking lot. (\$3/person)

Family Special: Crafternoon, Sunday January 11 at 3 pm; have fun on a snowy afternoon making crafts at the nature center. We will be making watercolor snowflakes, cardboard reindeer and pinecone snowmen. (\$3/person or \$7/family)

Chipmunk Story Time: Nothing Sticks Like a Shadow, Thursday January 15 at 10 am; preschool and elementary children join Chicory and Hickory Chipmunk for nature stories followed by a walk, game or craft (\$3/child)

Cross Country Ski Class, Saturday January 17 at 9:30- 11:30 am; lessons from an expert and time outside to practice. Class will be repeated on February 7. (\$15/person/your own equipment or \$20/person/our equipment)

Snowshoe Class, Saturday January 17 at 1- 3 pm; lessons from an expert and time outside to practice. Class will be repeated on February 7. (\$15/person/your own equipment or \$20/person/our equipment)

Moonlight Ski and Shoe, Saturday January 17 at 6- 9 pm; all trails will be open and lit by the moon and stars. This event will be repeated on February 7 and 28. (\$3/person/your own equipment or \$9/person/our equipment)

Nature for Toddlers and Young Preschoolers: Mondays beginning January 26, the winter sessions for Timber Tots at 9-10 am and My Cub & I at 10:30-11:30 am will run for 6 weeks with no class on Presidents Day. (\$35/child for a 6-week class) Please pre-register.

Winter Wonderland, Saturday January 31 at 10 am- 3 pm; free cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dog sled and ice sculpting demonstrations, kid's activity area, silent auction and much more!

Winter Photography Class, Wednesdays, February 4-18, at 6:30-9 pm; learn photography techniques for any camera from professional photographer Ron St Germain (\$55/person/3-week class)

5. Meridian Senior Center

A. Events and Programs

- 23 attended a variety of eight (8) events such as Action Winter Craft, Genealogy, Computer Club, etc.
- 149 attended eight (8) lunch dates
- 203 attended six (8) exercise classes
- 324 attended ten (10) game event offerings such as bingo, bridge, chess, etc.

- 25 attended five (5) health screening events such as blood pressure, chair massage, footcare, etc.
 - Shared information and resources on 15 occasions
 - Loaned out equipment on 15 occasions
 - 40 attended four (4) media events, such as Friday Flicks, Documentary Monday, etc.
 - 94 attended three (3) special events
 - Six (6) attended the Advisory Board Meeting
- B. Volunteers
- 17 volunteers assisted the Center for a total of 147 volunteer hours
- C. Professional Development/Networking
- Staff will be attended the MiCafe Appreciation Training/Luncheon
- D. Building Closures
- Center will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Day
 - Reminder, the Center is closed when Okemos Public Schools are closed for inclement weather

7. The Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division

In December, 2 interments, 34 interments to date, 0 disinterment, at Glendale Cemetery

Assisted Village staff with site preparations for annual Christmas in Village event including hanging new lights on tree

Moved skies and snowshoes from barn into Harris Nature Center and assisted staff with installing portable ski racks and setup

Assisted staff with preparations for annual Drive-Thru Santa event

Installed and removed Christmas lights at Service Center building

Prepared Nancy Moore Park parking area for annual Christmas tree drop off; closed and hung signage at Wonch Park

Removed numerous deer carcasses from Van Atta and Tihart Roads and one from Brattin Woods

Picked up and chipped debris at Roseland, North Water Tower and Glendale Cemetery

Removed trees over trails in Nancy Moore, Central, Legg, Eastgate Parks, Ted Black Woods and at Harris Nature Center

Removed shrubs at North Fire Station and dead trees at South Fire Station

Removed hanging limbs on Hulett and Sophia

Trimmed tree from south side of Snell Towar Recreation Center building

Repaired washout areas on bridge between Nancy Moore and Central Parks; on Okemos and Burcham; on Park Lake between Lake Lansing and old M-78

Cut trees along pedestrian bicycle pathway from Raby Rd to old L & L Building

Installed caps and pickets on fence in Cedar Bend Heights

Cold patched various pathway locations

Removed trash and restocked dog waste receptacles in 18 Parks and at the Cemetery

Continued with off-road trail maintenance

Assisted building maintenance crew with repairs

Hung announcement banners on Township Hall site

• Sunday, December 7, 2014 • Towne Courier

Christmas in Village Tree Lighting Dec. 14

The Friends of Historic Meridian will be hosting their annual "Christmas in the Village" event on Dec. 14 at the Meridian Historical Village from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. This family-friendly event includes a tour of historic buildings decorated for the holidays, volunteers in period dress sharing their Christmas traditions from days past, make and take crafts, refreshments and a visit with Santa.

Sunday, December 14, 2014 • Towne Courier

Chipmunk Story Time to be held

Children are invited to join Chicory Chipmunk at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. for this month's Chipmunk Story Time, "Snow Time." The story times are open to preschool and elementary children. The fee is \$3/child/session and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or (517) 349-3866.

Sunday, December 28, 2014 • Towne Courier

Registration set for annual Polar Bear run, walk

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation is accepting registrations for the 8th annual Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk scheduled for 10 am on Sunday, January 25.

The event is sponsored by IDEAL Mortgage Services and supported by Playmakers. Divisions for the event include overall male and female, male and female master's winners, and the top 3 in fourteen (14) age categories. Cost for the event is \$20.00. All runners registered by January 16th will receive a race shirt.

Persons interested in pre-registering for the "Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk" may do so online at www.bit.ly/activenet or by contacting Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department at 517.853.4616 or e-mail to grothous@meridian.mi.us. Race packets may be picked up at Playmakers on Saturday, January 24th from 11a.m. - 2 p.m. and on race day at the Meridian Municipal Complex, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, beginning at 9 a.m.

Sunday, December 14, 2014 • Towne Courier

Meridian Township's Drive-Thru Santa open Saturday

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department invites all residents to visit Drive-Thru Santa this Saturday, Dec. 20, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court (Nancy Moore Park entrance).

Drive-Thru Santa provides an opportunity for families to visit with and have their picture taken with Santa without ever leaving the car.

"This is a great way for children to participate in their annual visit with the "Man in Red" while remaining in the safety and comfort of their car and without the wait of long lines," stated Mike Devlin, Parks and Recreation Specialist.

The price of the program is \$5 per car plus one canned good which includes a visit with Santa, a photo, and a small treat. All food collected will be donated to local food banks

Farmers market in Meridian Mall

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP — The Meridian Township Farmers' Market will start a new season indoors at the Meridian Mall.

The Winter Farmers' Market can be found in the JC Penney corridor on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting Dec. 6.

This variation of the Farmers Market will feature a variety of locally

home grown and home-made goods that are sure to satisfy shoppers and bring warm feelings during the cold winter months.

"The market is one of the most popular destinations for township residents and other from surrounding areas," said LuAnn Maisner, Meridian Township's director of Parks and Recreation.

If individuals are interested in participating

in the Winter Farmers' Market, the application for vendors and a list of rules are available online at www.meridian.mi.us.

The market also accepts the Michigan Bridge Card. To join the "market friend" e-mail list to receive weekly updates, e-mail farmers.market.manager@gmail.com.

— From Meridian Township

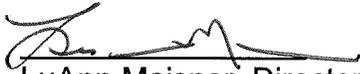
Park Commission Meeting
January 13, 2015

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Park Commissioner Candidate Recommendation
- b. Ingham County Trails Millage Meeting – January 26, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 9, 2015

RE: Park Commission Appointment Recommendation

Effective December 31, 2014, elected Park Commissioner Teri Banas resigned her seat on the Park Commission. The Park Commission is very appreciative for her years of dedicated service on the Park Commission and to the community.

Staff placed a notice in the Towne Courier seeking applicants to fill the vacant seat for the remainder of the vacant term which expires in November 2016.

On Tuesday, January 13, 2015, Park Commission members will be interviewing three interested candidates during their work session. The candidates are: Philip Deschaine, Shane Goodale, and Christopher Wickman.

Motion for Board Consideration:

**MOVE TO RECOMMEND THE APPOINTMENT OF _____ TO THE
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION TO FILL THE SEAT VACATED
BY TERI BANAS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM WHICH EXPIRES
NOVEMBER 2016.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 9, 2015

RE: Ingham County Trails Millage

The Ingham County Parks Board is conducting a meeting on Monday, January 26, 2015 to discuss the implementation and distribution of millage funds for trails and parks throughout Ingham County. I feel it is important for as many of you as possible to attend this meeting so we get a clear picture of the County's plan and more importantly the procedure it intends to utilize to determine expenditures.

I look forward to our discussion Tuesday on possible projects in Meridian that may qualify in obtaining support from this millage. Potential projects include:

1. Web-based park and trail map
2. Boardwalk on Okemos Road south of Nancy Moore Park
3. Multi-use trail connecting Lake Lansing to MSU (Rysberg Property)
4. Meridian Riverfront Trail Project

I believe this millage may provide an opportunity for increased communication and collaboration with the County Parks Board and boards from other communities.

Subject: Trails Stakeholders - Save the Date!

Save the Date! Monday, January 26, 2015, 6:00pm

The Ingham County Parks Commission will be discussing trails planning at the January 26, 2015 Park Commission meeting. The meeting will be held at 6:00pm in Room A of the Human Services Building #3 located at 5303 S. Cedar St, Lansing. We are planning on having a draft scope of work for a Trails and Greenway and Blueways Master Plan Request for Proposal available for comments from stakeholders.

We will be e-mailing out this draft scope prior to the meeting.

If you cannot make this meeting feel free to send your comments electronically to Ingham County Park Director, Timothy Morgan, at tmorgan@ingham.org. Please send your input no later than 3pm on January 25th.

Thank you.

Nicole Wallace
Executive Assistant
Ingham County Parks
517-676-2233
parks@ingham.org

Park Commission Meeting
January 13, 2015

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - a. 2015 Park Projects

2015 Project Plan

January 9, 2015

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Hartrick Park roof structure for players benches | \$4,000 |
| | a. With Okemos Baseball Club Feb-April | |
| 2. | Nancy Moore Park Pavilion residing | \$4,000 |
| | a. April-May | |
| 3. | Nancy Moore Park Safety Fencing | \$9,600 |
| | a. Bids received – installation Spring | |
| 4. | Harris Nature Center engineer and rebuild island drain | \$4,000 |
| | a. With Engineering Dept – August-Sept | |
| 5. | Harris Nature Center crack seal/stripe parking area | \$5,250 |
| | a. May | |
| 6. | Ferguson Park crack seal/stripe parking area | \$5,250 |
| | a. May | |
| 7. | Wonch Park Pavilion | \$250,000 |
| | a. Construct without grant? | |
| 8. | Wonch Park parking lot paving | \$100,000 |
| | a. Engineering Department – July | |
| 9. | Hillbrook Park accessible playground | \$90,000 |
| | b. August- Sept | |
| 10. | Orlando Park swing/slide | \$35,000 |
| | c. August-Sept | |
| 11. | Legg Park parking area, dog park, stewardship | \$170,000 |
| | d. February Work Session | |
| 12. | Towner Road Park Phase I | \$224,000 |
| | e. March Work Session | |
| 13. | Central Park Master Plan | \$16,000 |
| | f. RFQ distributed (Firm Selection by March 15) | |
| 14. | Eagle Scout Projects | \$1,500 |
| | g. Ongoing – Jane/Kit | |
| 15. | Legg Park Footbridge Replacement | \$5,000 |
| | h. Dennis – August-Sept | |