



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
Meridian Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022 4:30 PM**

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Mike McDonald
ABSENT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
STAFF: Jane Greenway, Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator; Rebecca Fisher, Stewardship Intern

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:38 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission.

All present other than Commissioner Stephens.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Eagle Scout Project – Zach Sieloff, Bike Fix-It Station at Eastgate

Zach was not present at the meeting. Staff will reach out to him to ask him to attend a future Park Commission meeting.

B. Rebecca Fisher – Report on Floating Islands

Rebecca gave a presentation on the recent installation of the floating islands in Central Park South. Five islands have been delivered and native plants were installed in the islands by 12 volunteers. The islands are currently “beached” on the edge of the pond as they are being watered for three weeks. After that they will be launched into the pond. The floating islands are a green technology that “biomimics” natural floating wetlands to clean the water and provide habitat in a variety of ponds, lakes, and other waterbodies. The intention is that the islands will quickly create a diverse floating ecosystem. Plants flourish due to the greater access to sunlight than on the shore and the ability to float which allows the roots to have a constant supply of water. The island will quickly attract small aquatic life forms, butterflies, dragonflies, birds, turtles, frogs, ducks, and fish.

The commissioners were excited to hear about the planting day and look forward to a “launch party” that will be planned in the future.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Emily Stivers, 1010 Cliffdale, Haslett, Ingham County Commissioner and Ingham County Park Board Commissioner
Susan Andrews, 6088 Columbia Street, Haslett

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They stated that some residents are concerned about duck hunting on Lake Lansing. Duck hunting was observed in the fall of 2020 and again in fall of 2021. There is a small area greater than the 450 feet from homes near the south end of the lake that the hunters are utilizing to comply with the required isolation distance for hunting. Lake Lansing was established as a Wild Life Sanctuary in 1925. At one time, there were signs posted noting the Sanctuary Lake status, but signs have since been removed. Township police and the Michigan DNR said they cannot enforce without signs being posted to alert hunters that there is No Hunting. Residents have asked the DNR to re-post Sanctuary Lake/No Hunting signs. The DNR then asked for a review by the Attorney General's Office. The AG's guidance was to not re-post signs. However, the Sanctuary Lake status has not been revoked. The homeowner's association is willing to raise funds for signage, if township is willing to deem as a park with no hunting with firearms. Ms. Andrews presented a mock-up for the NO HUNTING sign that could be placed at the Township's Lake Lansing Marsh property on the south side of the lake. Ms. Stivers said that Ingham County will post NO HUNTING signs on their properties (Lake Lansing South and the boat launch) along with the rules and will also post the rules on the Ingham County website. The Ingham County Park Board will discuss this further at their July 11 meeting.

Commissioners are requesting conversation with township police, attorney for further guidance with legality of hunting on Lake Lansing before making signage decisions. Director Maisner will follow up on this.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.**
Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.** Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Eastgate Park – horses on trails

Commissioner Lick moved **TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE THE LISTED ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION.** Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. None

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Roundtable Discussion on Various Topics

A. CIP – Capital Improvement Plan 2023-2028

Jane Greenway presented the proposed CIP plan for 2023. This plan assists with planning,

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funding, and coordination of capital projects of \$5,000 or more in the Township. The plan is reviewed annually by the Park Commission. The Commission was asked to pay special attention to the projects included for 2023 as those projects will be included in the 2023 budget request. Staff presented recommendations including: Central Park Pavilion Renovation; Historical Village Buildings Maintenance and Repair; and Park Sign Replacement. The Park Commission unanimously agreed that the projects should be prioritized. Further discussion will be held at the July meeting.

B. Red Cedar River Trail Project with Rotary Club – Jane Greenway presented an update on the recent development of a regional Rotary Club’s initiative to develop an adopt-a-river program. The intention is to develop a safe and navigable water trail along the Red Cedar River. The steering committee will provide guidance to the Rotary clubs so that they are able to provide outreach to get volunteers involved to help clear the river. Ingham County Parks has pledged to coordinate wayfinding signage.

10. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. **Eagle Scout, Ethan Olds** completed his Eagle Scout project by planting a wetland buffer near the pond in Central Park South.
2. **Five floating purification islands** were planted over the weekend for launching into the pond in Central Park South. They will remain on land for three weeks to monitor and manage a watering schedule. Short fences were also installed deter geese. The islands will be anchored in various areas of the pond.
3. The Harris Nature Center Foundation hosted its second “**Music in Nature**” concert on Sunday, June 12.
4. Our intern Angela Pontius planned and implemented our first “**Yappy Hour**” event at the Large Dog Park on Monday, June 13 with music, dog treats, goodie bags, pup cups, and tons of fun. Participants brought their dog along with their favorite beverage. A total of 25 dogs participated.
5. The **Free Wednesday Summer Music Concerts** started in June and will run through September from 6-8:30pm.
6. The Farmers Market is going strong on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Tom Cary is doing a great job in managing this program.
7. Harris Nature Center Summer Camp programs are full for the entire summer with a large waiting list. Camp begins on Monday, June 20.
8. Plans are underway for the **HNC 25th Anniversary Celebration** with scheduled for Saturday, July 23. The formal portion of the event is scheduled for 11am. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We will also be conducting the ribbon cutting for the pavilion and restroom. The HNC Foundation will also cut the ribbon on the new bird overlook deck and formally gift it to the Park Commission. The day is filled with nature programs, guided walks and tours.
9. Emma, Rebecca and Commissioner Mark Stephens hosted the **Free Fishing Weekend Fishing Derby** in the Historical Village on Sunday, June 12.
10. **CELEBRATE MERIDIAN FESTIVAL** is set to take place on Saturday, June 25 with activities at Central Park and at Marketplace on the Green. The Farmers Market kicks off the day followed

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by food trucks, live music, Childrens' game area with inflatable obstacle courses, business booths and of course, FIREWORKS!

11. **Vandalism** – in May and June, some of our parks experienced graffiti in numerous locations multiple times. The police were able to apprehend the culprit and we have pressed formal charges. Damage and clean-up is estimated at over \$4,000.
12. We have received a large number of complaints about **horses in parks** and horse poop on multi-use trails. This is a topic that the Park Commission will need to address in the near future. Eastgate, Legg and HNC seem to be the parks with the highest use based on the nearby horse farms on Meridian Road. There also is a person who rides a cart pulled by a horse on the trails. We have received complaints about horse droppings on trails for years but not like we have in 2022.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **July 12, 2022** at the Meridian Service Center, 4:30 pm.