



**MINUTES**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING  
Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 4:30pm  
Service Center

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**REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
  - A. Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
  
2. ROLL CALL
  - A. Present: Chair Nardo-Farris, Commissioners Stephens and Phelps
  - B. Commissioner McDonald arrived at 4:40 PM.
  - C. Absent: Commissioner Lick – excused.
  - D. Staff present: Director Wisinski and Administrative Assistant Pachucki
  - E. Guest: Jim Kelly from the 906 Adventure Team
  
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
  - A. There was no public comment.
  
4. PRESENTATION
  - A. 906 Adventure Team
    1. Jim Kelly from the 906 Adventure Team presented to the Park Commission about an outdoor adventure youth nonprofit that meets weekly at Eastgate Park. The presentation focused on the youth resilience bike program, and the two or three adult volunteer leaders that work with around eight to ten kids for ten weeks over the summer. In 2026, the meeting dates will be every Tuesday from June 2 until August 11, from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. There is a program cost of \$125 per youth, and there are scholarships available if the cost is prohibitive for any youth. The presentation concluded by thanking the Park Commission and Parks and Recreation staff for their partnership and support with this program.
    2. The Park Commissioners asked Mr. Kelly about program logistics (background checks for volunteers, youngest age group, largest age group, etc.). Chair Nardo-Farris asked if there was any challenges that the Park Commission could address. Mr. Kelly shared that the trails at Eastgate are well maintained, the progression of the Riverfront Park, and the new signage are all positives. Director Wisinski remarked that the Parks and Recreation staff is happy to collaborate with this group.
  
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
  - A. Commissioner Stephens motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Phelps seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
  
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. September 9, 2025 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
    1. Chair Nardo-Farris moved to change the title of Agenda Item 10.D from Framer’s to Farmer’s.
    2. Commissioner Phelps moved to approve the minutes, as amended. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. October Stewardship Calendars

1. Director Wisinski shared that it is currently native seed collection season, and the field assistants for the land stewardship team have identified a new sedge in Meridian Township. During this season, the land stewardship team will host “seed sorting parties” at the Service Center, and the events are very inclusive, and attract a large number of people who cannot always participate out in the field.
2. Director Wisinski also highlighted that as the Park Commission was meeting, simultaneously there was a Trailside Ecology event highlighting Creepy Cool Critters.

### B. Small Dog Park Shelter

1. Director Wisinski noted the email communication received from a current small dog park member, and shared that she has received previous requests from other members as well. Both the large dog park and the small dog park are well attended, but the large dog park is largely sheltered from the elements in the trees, while the small dog park is more exposed. Director Wisinski also met in-person with a few members of the small dog park to discuss their request for a shelter. The Parks and Recreation staff did not feel comfortable with anything temporary in that space – high winds, or adverse weather would destroy anything nonpermanent in that space. Director Wisinski had Kati Adams, our Parks and Land Superintendent price out an established enclosure – similar to an overgrown bus stop space – and the pricing came out to around \$17,000 without concrete. Director Wisinski is exploring other options, including construction in-house, and volunteer groups.
2. The commissioners discussed alternative options for the small dog park shelter, including purchasing surplus ballfield dugouts from other communities that may not be using them, concerns about using crowd-fundraising for the shelter, and that providing this space would harmonize with the township’s goal of supporting seniors in the community.

- C. Commissioner Phelps moved to accept and place the communications received on file. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Lee Moore Memorial

1. Director Wisinski shared some history of Nancy Moore Park, and that her daughter, Lee Moore recently passed away. The surviving family approached Director Wisinski about honoring Lee’s legacy by collecting memorial contributions that would benefit Nancy Moore Park.
2. Commissioner Phelps moved to place discussion item 8.A to action item 9.A. Chair Nardo-Farris seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### B. 2026 Event List

1. Director Wisinski distributed the tentative 2026 Event List, and reported that the pink color events/celebrations are new for 2026. These new items may not be grand celebrations, but may be smaller acknowledgements – even just by resolution by the Park Commission. Director Wisinski has Parks and Recreation staff reaching out to community groups to help lead cultural celebrations (like in the case of the long-standing Chinese New Year event). One new event for the upcoming year is a 5K walk/run that will benefit Meridian Cares, and features a Polar Plunge in January. The Parks and Recreation staff also are looking to host a few Movies in the Parks events over the summer, and a Dark Sky event in the fall.
2. Chair Nardo-Farris expressed that it feels like the Parks and Recreation department grows every year with new events, and Commissioner Phelps asked what the events in purple font meant. Director Wisinski clarified that those events are department sponsored, but not lead by one of our staff members.

C. Cricket – North Meridian Park Wetland Survey

1. Director Wisinski reviewed the wetland delineation survey provided to the Park Commission by Fishbeck, and shared that there are two emergent wetlands at North Meridian Road Park that would make construction of a cricket field at the site difficult. Director Wisinski reached out to one of the representatives of the cricket community with some alternative plans (cricket batting cages, smaller non-regulation sized fields, etc.), and the feedback was that they wouldn't want the Parks and Recreation staff to spend money on something that they wouldn't use (especially with a dedicated space like Delta Mills close by).
2. The commissioners discussed practice field spaces, collaborating with local schools/club teams, or using an existing field. Lake Lansing North's defunct baseball field was brought up as a potential space. The commissioners agreed to reach out to Ingham County Parks to investigate options. Commissioner McDonald suggested exploring what other immediately surrounding communities do, and Commissioner Phelps recommended reaching out to elected officials.

9. ACTION ITEMS

A. Lee Moore Memorial

1. Commissioner Phelps to accept the donations received for the Lee Moore Memorial at Nancy Moore Park to name a structure in the park after Lee Moore. Commissioner McDonald seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Budget Updates

- a. Director Wisinski reviewed the budget updates for October 2026, including the NRTF grant for the Okemos Road Trailhead. Parks and Recreation staff is still waiting for a decision to be made, preliminary scoring put the proposal at 380 out of 500 possible points, and some supplemental information was submitted. Commissioner Stephens asked when the last NRTF grant was received, and Director Wisinski shared that it has been a few years, but she would confirm and bring the information to the next meeting.
- b. Director Wisinski reported that the installation of the Towner Road and Ottawa Hills inclusive playground was delivered, and installation would happen in a few weeks once the fall sports season was completed. The concrete border for the poured-in-place surface would leave approximately \$7500 to \$10000 left over in the balance, and would be rolled back into the millage funds.
- c. The Red Cedar Waterway project funds would be for any needs that come in between receiving the Ingham County funding, and nothing had been expended or encumbered yet.
- d. Director Wisinski shared that picnic tables had been purchased for Marshall Park, but Parks and Recreation staff are still awaiting the shade structures for the park. Director Wisinski will reach out to Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works Opsommer for an update on the bioswale for the Park Commission.

B. Senior and Community Center Updates

- a. Director Wisinski discussed the progress that the Township staff has done over the last few months, including meeting with local school districts, and reviewing every possible site. The few sites that were recently reviewed do not meet all of the requirements. For example, one of the sites the developers were only willing to lease, not sell. The upcoming township board meeting on Tuesday will outline the available options for the public.

C. 5-Year Plan

- a. Director Wisinski mentioned that she met with consultants to potentially assist with the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. The 5-Year Plan is required to apply for Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants, helps guide priorities for the department and assists in identifying future needs for our community and region. Director Wisinski will post a Request for Bid (RFP) before the end of the month, and then review the bids at the end of November.

- b. The commissioners agreed that an outside perspective could help, and involve the community better than in-house teams can. Commissioner Stephens and Chair Nardo-Farris wished to review the budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) at a future meeting.
      - D. Towner and Ottawa Parks Play Structure Installations
        - a. This agenda item was already discussed during the budget updates.
- 11. PUBLIC COMMENT
  - A. There was no public comment.
- 12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS
  - A. Legg Park Prescribed Burn
    - 1. Commissioner Stephens shared that this was on the agenda for the Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting, and that the Park Commission will need to consider putting some money aside for park management, and stewardship in parks in the upcoming years.
  - B. Commissioner Rambo commended Director Wisinski on a job well done, and had nothing additional to add.
  - C. Chair Nardo-Farris did not have anything additional to offer, beyond that the next meeting of the Park Commission will be Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Service Center.
- 13. ADJOURNMENT
  - A. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 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.