



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Date, Time October 9, 2018; 7 pm

PRESENT: Chair Michael McDonald; Commissioner Annika Schaetzl; Commissioner Mark Stephens, Commissioner Wisinski

EXCUSED: Commissioners Lick

STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Recreation Department Director

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McDonald called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR JOE PENONNI

Director Maisner shared with the Commissioners that Joe Penonni had recently passed away at age 62 from a work related accident. He performed a large number of the volunteer projects for the community with regards to tree trimming, tree removal, and retrieving boulders from Alpena for the Harris Nature Center's new "Bolder Garden" exhibit. Chair McDonald called for a moment of silence to honor Joe Penonni.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATION

A. Able Eyes

Megan from Able Eyes explained that her business provides an on-line location to assist people with special needs by placing 360 degree virtual tours of parks and facilities in the community. This provides users an opportunity to view locations prior to actually visiting them. It is just another great tool to expand accessibility of our park system. Clients pay a fee for each facility listing.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 17, 2018 Work Session Minutes

B. July 17, 2018 Regular Minutes

C. September 11, 2018 Regular Minutes

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2018 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 AS SUBMITTED.**
Seconded by Schaetzl.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Held **kickoff meeting** last week for the Marketplace on the Green project with consultants from KEB's, Inc. The funding is in place to move forward with bidding and construction. A ceremonial **Ground Breaking Ceremony** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at noon.
- B. Investigating **synthetic ice surfacing** for the new pavilion.
- C. **Deer management** program is underway as of October 1. A total of 8 deer have been harvested.
- D. We are in the process of closing the construction project with Laux Construction for the development of **Towner Road Park**. Site furnishings including benches, tables, bleachers and grills have been ordered and will be assembled and installed this fall or early spring.
- E. The new pavilion at **North Meridian Road Park** is near completion. This is a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant that requires reporting and submitting paperwork for reimbursement to close out the project. We will be expanding the **parking lot** as well either later this month or first thing in the spring. The project has already been put to bid.
- F. **Central Park Master Plan** – Design and engineering work is underway for the **Gateway Footbridge and Restroom Project** in the Historical Village; and the **Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector** in Central Park, which have all received grant funding through either the LWCF or MNRTF. We plan to bid these projects in January for 2019 construction. We are also in the process of building the **small dog area** in Nancy Moore Park, **expanding parking at Central Park South** and planning for the large dog area in Central Park South.
- G. We are sending out request for proposals for consultants for two other grant programs we have committed to that include a **composting restroom and pavilion** at Harris Nature Center. We will work to be ready to bid in January for 2019 construction. These two projects are funded by the LWCF and MNRTF.
- H. **Eastgate Parking** lot and Glendale Cemetery roadways were paved in September.
- I. Corey Patrick is our new permanent part-time staff member in charge of running the Farmers' Market and youth programming at Snell Towar Recreation Center
- J. We have over **1,100 children** participating in soccer and flag football this fall.

9. ACTION ITEMS

None

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Able Eyes
The Commissioners moved this item to the November 13, 2018 meeting.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- A. Next Park Commission Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2018
- B. Event Calendar:
 - 1. October 13; 3rd Annual Fire Prevention Open House, 10 am – 1 pm; Central Fire Station
 - 2. October 14; Autumn Color Walk at Harris Nature Center; 2 pm
 - 3. October 19; Meridian Cares Benefit Night at Old Chicago; 4-10 pm
 - 4. October 26; Howl at the Moon; Harris Nature Center; 7 pm
 - 5. October 27 Meridian Spooktacular Adventures:
 - A. Halloween Adventures at the Harris Nature Center; 10 am – 5 pm
 - B. HOMTV's Studio Fun House; Municipal Building; 10 am – 1pm
 - C. Meridian Farmers Market; 8 am – 2 pm;
 - D. Meridian Police Department; Public Safety Building; 10 am – 1 pm
 - E. Halloween in the Village; 10 am – 2 pm
- C. Meridian Farmers
 - 1. Summer/Fall Market: Wednesdays, October 31 (last day) and Saturdays October 27 (last day); 8 am – 2 pm
 - 2. Day Before Thanksgiving Market: Wednesday, November 21; 10 am – 2 pm

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

14. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 13, 2018** in the Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI. Work Session at 6 pm and Regular Meeting at 7 pm.