



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 4:30pm
Service Center

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 1. Chair called meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL
 1. Chair Farris, Commissioners Stephens, McDonald, and Rambo present at roll call.
 2. Director Wisinski present at roll call.
 3. City Manager Dempsey arrived at 4:39 pm.
 4. Commissioner Lick arrived at 4:59 pm.
 5. Guests: Richard Miksicek, Environmental Commission liaison, was also present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
 1. There was no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 1. Chair Farris asked to move Discussion Item #1 to #3. Commissioner McDonald supported.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously, as amended.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. February 11, 2025 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 regular meeting as submitted by Chair Farris and supported by Commissioner Rambo.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS
 1. March Stewardship Calendars
 - a. Director Wisinski highlighted upcoming vernal pool trainings and reminded the commission of established Weekday Warriors and Stewardship Saturdays events.
 2. March Harris Nature Center Calendars
 - a. Director Wisinski noted that Kati Adams and Allison Goodman will be out at a National Association for Interpretation conference early next week. Camp registration also opened on Monday, and was fully booked on the same day. She also pointed out that this is the first year of a no refund policy due to families registering and then canceling later.
 - b. Commissioner McDonald was complimented by a non-resident on Snell-Towar Rec Center, even with the reduction in hours, and reminded the commission that non-residents of the township may have a Meridian Township Park as the closest park to their residence.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 1. Park Commissioner Liaison Assignments
 - a. Environmental Commission – Commissioner McDonald
 - b. Historical Village – Commissioner Rambo
 - c. Land Preservation Advisory Board – Commissioner Stephens
 - d. Township Board – Chair Farris
 - e. Nokomis Cultural Center – Commissioner Lick
 - The commission was reminded by Director Wisinski to reach out to

their liaison groups and introduce themselves as a resource over the next month, and reminded everyone that they don't have to attend every meeting or event, the liaison should just be a point person for the group.

2. Park Commission Liaison Roles and Responsibilities

a. Discussion included:

- Chair Farris asked that the language be clarified that the roles and responsibilities “may” include instead of include. Director Wisinski suggested instead of written input, the list include e-mail. Commissioner Rambo asked that under the third bullet point “ask relevant questions” include the line “on behalf of the parks commission” at the end for precision.

3. Cricket field for practice

a. Cricket Field Dimensions

- Director Wisinski provided some background into the request for a space to play cricket from residents, which led her to direct staff to come up with a temporary solution, and then look towards the future for a permanent solution.
- For the temporary solution, Director Wisinski worked with the Parks and Recreation specialists to create a matrix of availability of the baseball fields that the department could rotate a temporary pitch between three parks in Meridian Township. Director Wisinski noted that cricket is a family-oriented event, and Commissioner Stephens shared that it was cultural, like ultimate Frisbee. Due to existing programs such as baseball and softball, only Nancy Moore is available on Sundays from April through mid-July. In the middle of July, when summer sports programming comes to a close, Hillbrook and Newton become available, and the cricket players could practice six days a week between three fields until the end of October. Commissioners Stephens and Rambo asked for the department to consider other parks such as Marshall and Ferguson as options as well. Chair Farris mentioned that rotating the parks not only helps with resting the fields between uses, but also helps alleviate traffic, and exposes residents to a different sport they may not have heard of.
- Chair Farris asked if there were other parks that could be available in 2026 and beyond for the cricket players. Director Wisinski shared that there is a potential to partner with one of the local school districts, but Ingham County Parks was not initially interested. Commissioner Rambo questioned why they were not interested, if their parks were underutilized. Director Wisinski said that Ingham County was hesitant due to field maintenance, but there may be a potential for Meridian Township to help with maintenance if Ingham County was willing. Commissioner Lick encouraged Director Wisinski to approach Ingham County to help fill the gaps instead of Hillbrook or other smaller parks. She also noted that the rotation may be confusing for participants, and thanked Director Wisinski for her hard work on this temporary solution. Director Wisinski will follow up with the commissioners after meeting with Ingham County.
- Director Wisinski then shared a tentative long-term solution for the cricket players: building a cricket pitch at North Meridian Road Park. There is a large enough space, and the area they were envisioning is flat enough for a permanent pitch. Chair Farris noted the potential need for a new entrance, and Commissioner McDonald agreed. Director Wisinski shared that the Ingham County Road Commission and the Meridian Township Fire Department would need to be involved in the planning, along with having engineers look at the area and do environmental testing. The environmental testing is already included in the budget. The commissioners discussed the secondary parking lot, and Commissioners Stephens and McDonald suggested to close the parking

lot except when in use.

4. Meridian Historical Village Memorandum of Understanding Update

a. Discussion included:

- Director Wisinski shared that the Friends of Meridian Historical Village group is aging in membership and cannot do a lot of maintenance required on the group of buildings. Chair Farris commented that they lost their primary benefactor previously and there has been some operational changes. In the current MOU, the Parks and Recreation Department is only responsible for mowing grass. Director Wisinski shared that by updating the MOU, the department would be able to budget for assisting with maintenance and helping care for aging buildings. Essentially, the historical village is responsible for the inside of the buildings, and Parks and Recreation would be responsible for outside of the buildings.
- Chair Farris mentioned that there is an opportunity for a relationship to be built. Commissioner Rambo saw an opportunity for the Meridian Historical Village to diversify their programming, and Commissioner Stephens shared some ideas for community marketing. Director Wisinski noted that the lease term agreement was previously every two years, and the new agreement renews every five years. Commissioner McDonald thought that the lease terms were general, but was content with it if the leadership was, and the attorneys were happy.

8. ACTION ITEMS

1. There was no action items.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Upcoming Events

- a. Indoor Farmer's Market
 - i. March 15, 29
 - ii. April 5, 19
- b. Michigan Waterways Clean-up – March 23

10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens

1. Commissioner Stephens did not have anything to share. Director Wisinski noted that this was the last time this would be a standalone item on the agenda, and in the future would be folded into the Liaison reports.

11. SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT – Chair Farris

1. Senior and Community Center Concept, Staffing, and Operations Plan
 - a. Chair Farris shared that this was the last meeting for the Senior and Community Center Task Force, and that there would be a recommendation that they would be able to share at the next meeting.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. There was no additional public comment.

13. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT at 5:49 pm

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.

Meeting Location: Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840