



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 4:30pm  
Service Center

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**REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. October 8, 2024 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
  - A. November & December Stewardship Calendars
  - B. November & December Snell Towar Calendars
  - C. November & December Harris Nature Center Calendars
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - A. Park Commission Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates
8. ACTION ITEMS
  - A. Election of Officers
9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  - A. Community Center Updates
  - B. Red Cedar Waterway Project Updates
  - C. Farmers' Market Murals
  - D. Upcoming Events
10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens
11. PUBLIC COMMENT
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
13. ADJOURNMENT

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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.

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



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Township Hall Room  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024 4:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Commissioner, Amanda Lick; Commissioner, Michael McDonald; Commissioner, Mark Stephens  
**ABSENT:** Commissioner, Ami Van Antwerp - excused  
**STAFF:** Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation and Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Farris called the meeting to order at **4:33 pm**.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission. Commissioner Van Antwerp excused absent.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Lick moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Chair Nardo-Farris presented a gift to Commissioner Stephens to recognize and thank him for his years of dedicated service to the township and for being the longest standing elected commissioner/board member in the township.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Nardo-Farris asked for correction to September 10, 2024 minutes. Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting that date and asked to have her name replace Commissioner Van Antwerp as commissioner adjourning meeting.

Commissioner McDonald moved **TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 AS AMENDED**. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. September Stewardship Calendar: Director Wisinski reviewed the Stewardship calendar and Commissioners discussed the upcoming stewardship events, including the upcoming Fantastic Fungi Walk on October 23. Director Wisinski also noted there would be seed sorting parties scheduled throughout the winter months, that are indoor MCC activities at the Service Center that

allow more volunteers to participate and these events have less physical barriers.

- B. September Snell Towar Calendar: Director Wisinski updated the Commissioners on upcoming events and noted there are several Halloween events scheduled for the end of October that are open to the public.

Commissioner Lick asked if Harris Nature Center event calendars could also be included in the monthly Park Commission Meeting packets. Commissioner Stephens asked for the Friends of Historic Meridian monthly event calendar also be included in the monthly packet. Director Wisinski said that she may include the village events on her Director’s Report each month, as they do not always have monthly events that are open to the public.

Commissioner McDonald suggested posting the Snell Towar Rec Center’s event calendar at the local laundromat. Commissioner Stephens suggested partnering with Groovy Donuts for Snell Towar activities. Director Wisinski stated the Parks staff would make that connection and thanks commissioners for their input.

- C. Budget Updates: Director Wisinski referred to the budget spreadsheet in meeting packet. Commissioners discussed upcoming projects outlined in the spreadsheet. Chair Farris recalled the 5280 Okemos Road parcel was purchased with Trust Fund Grant monies and stated the commission should be aware what the use of that parcel is limited to. Commissioner Lick agreed as the Senior/Community Center Task Force has had discussion as possible site for the community center and commissioners need to make sure the parameters are allowed.

Commissioner Lick commented on budget update layout and was very appreciative of work that was put in to the spreadsheet to allow commissioners to see what is complete and what projects are in the works for the current calendar year. She requested this layout be utilized throughout the year so commissioners can better plan and also see what to budget for in the calendar year.

- D. Towner Road Pickleball Thank You: Director Wisinski was happy to share the positive feedback from the pickleball players and the appreciation for the volunteers at Towner Road pickleball courts and also Hillbrook Park pickleball volunteers. It is not common to receive so many compliments in our department.

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO PLACE THE COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE**. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

None

**9. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- A. Community Center Update

Commissioner Lick is serving as the liaison for the Senior Center Task Force and states they meet publicly the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Commissioner McDonald states the task force should also be looking at properties that the school owns, so they are not limited to only

Meridian Township park properties. Director Wisinski states they are looking to place the community center in a location that is more central or unified.

- B. Red Cedar Waterway Project Updates  
Waiting on interim funding. The next step on this project will be to draft an RFP for a professional tree service to remove the log jams and tree fall in the river.
- C. Harris Nature Center, Marshall Park and Ted Black Woods Parking Lot Replacement  
Harris Nature Center - ready for striping and will reopen to the public tomorrow.  
Marshall Park – just posted a native plant garden yard sign in the future site of the native plant garden. It is saturated soil and is not buildable.  
Ted Black Woods – reduced footprint, same number of parking spaces (Grand River Road parking lot)
- D. Farmers’ Market Murals  
The artist has completed painting the mural panels. They need a protective coating and need to be fastened in their permanent locations. We will schedule a ribbon cutting and invite both the Park Commission and the community to that ribbon cutting.

Chair Farris inquired what the update was from Dan Opsommer regarding painting the crosswalk across Central Park Drive in front of the Farmers’ Market. Director Wisinski to follow up with the Deputy Township Manager.

Discussion of crosswalks and flashing lights on Okemos Road, with installation of Lake Lansing to MSU Trail and also access to Inter-Urban trail on Okemos Road. Director Wisinski to inquire with the police department concerning legalities of stopping at the crosswalks and also addressing the congestion issue at Nancy Moore Park entrance, as she has been receiving calls from residents as well. Director Wisinski to confirm the pathway is 10 feet wide.

- E. Upcoming Events  
Director Wisinski has been trying to attend SMRPA meetings. She believes they are great brainstorming sessions.

- 10. LAND PRESERVATION REPORT – Commissioner Stephens**  
No acquisition of land parcels are currently in progress. The Land Stewardship interns have brought a lot of energy, knowledge and excitement to the department.

Chair Farris requests Community Center Updates as its own line item on future agendas, following the Land Preservation Report.

- 11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
Kyle Keegan, Author at Spartan Newsroom, has assignment to write a news story and would like a phone interview with Director Wisinski in the next week or so.

- 12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**  
Commissioner Lick congratulated Commissioner Stephens on his years of service as the longest standing elected commissioner currently serving on a board or commission. Commissioner Lick commended Director Wisinski on her organization and attention to detail with budget items and Parks and Recreation direction. The organization makes it easier for Park Commissioners to answer questions from the general public and opens the lines of communication.

Commissioner Stephens would like to see the deadfall trees in our parks and preserves utilized for public educational purposes. He suggested utilizing the wood from the trees to allow MSU Surplus to make wood products for their store.

Chair Farris noted that the Park Commission will have a new park commissioner effective January, 2025. The 2025 Park Commission Meeting Calendar will be discussed at the November 12 Park Commission meeting.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at **6:03 pm**.

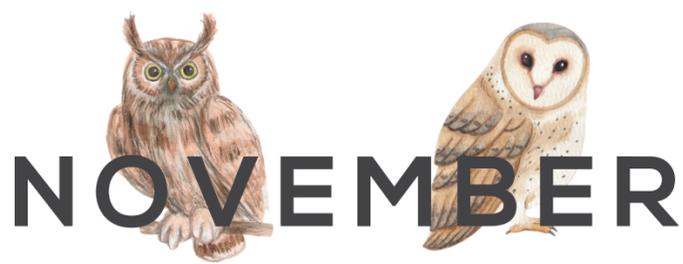
The next scheduled meeting is **November 12, 2024**, at the Service Center Meeting Room, 4:30 pm.

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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.

Meeting Location: Township Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864



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# STEWARDSHIP<sup>6.A</sup>

## STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- November 2nd, Lake Lansing North Preserve, native seed collection & invasive removal
  - 1000 Wild Ginger Trail, Haslett MI
- November 16th, Tihart Preserve, Invasive shrub removal to prep the sites for native seed sowing
  - 1000 Tihart Road, Okemos (Park on road at the intersection of Whitetail Circle & Tihart Rd.)
- November 30th: Holiday weekend, no stewardship!

## WEEKDAY WARRIORS: Occurs every other Thursday

- November 7th, Sander Farm Nature Preserve, American plum & new Jersey tea planting
  - End of Sago Way in Okemos, MI (park along the road)
- November 21st, Township Service Center, Seed Sorting Party | Help us prep native seeds, chat, and eat snacks!
  - 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI



**\*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF**

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T                                   | F                       | S  |
|----|----|----|----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|    |    |    |    |                                     | 1                       | 2<br>STEWARDSHIP<br>SATURDAY<br>9:30 - 12 PM |
| 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7<br>WEEKDAY<br>WARRIORS<br>1-3 PM  | 8                       | 9  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14                                  | 15                      | 16<br>STEWARDSHIP<br>SATURDAY<br>9:30-12 PM  |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21<br>WEEKDAY<br>WARRIORS<br>1-3 PM | 22                      | 23   |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28<br>←<br>THANKSGIVING<br>HOLIDAY  | 29<br>OFFICES<br>CLOSED | 30   |

TO RSVP CONTACT EMMA AT [ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US](mailto:ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US), OR 517.853.4614

# DECEMBER



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# STEWARDSHIP

## STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- December 14th, Tihart Preserve Native Seed Sowing
  - 1000 Tihart Road, Okemos (Park on road at the intersection of Whitetail Circle & Tihart Rd.)

## WEEKDAY WARRIORS: Bi-weekly, 1 - 3 PM

- December 5th, Red Cedar Glen Preserve, Invasive shrub removal and clearing
  - End of Sylvan Glen Drive in Okemos
- December 19th, Nancy Moore Park, Invasive shrub removal from stewardship area
  - 1960 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett

## TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY: WINTER SOLSTICE SUNRISE HIKE, 8 AM - 9:30 AM



- Welcome winter with a lovely sunrise hike at Red Cedar Glen Preserve. We will walk to appreciate early morning in nature, and talk about the winter season and the changes in our natural areas. Groovy donuts and coffee will be provided!



| S  | M  | T                    | W                    | T                                | F  | S  |
|----|----|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----|--|
| 1  | 2  | 3                    | 4                    | 5<br>WEEKDAY WARRIORS<br>1-3 PM  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10                   | 11                   | 12                               | 13 | 14<br>STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY<br>9:30 - 12 PM |
| 15 | 16 | 17                   | 18                   | 19<br>WEEKDAY WARRIORS<br>1-3 PM | 20 | 21<br>TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY<br>8 - 9:30 AM     |
| 22 | 23 | 24<br>OFFICES CLOSED | 25<br>OFFICES CLOSED | 26                               | 27 | 28<br>NO STEWARDSHIP!                      |
| 29 | 30 | 31<br>OFFICES CLOSED | 1<br>Happy New Year  | 2                                | 3  | 4  |

\*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF

# SNELL TOWAR 6.B

## November

| S   | M  | T                 | W  | T                 | F  | S  |
|---|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|----|
|   |    |                   |    |                   | 1  | 2  |
| 3<br>   | 4  | 5<br>OPEN CENTER  | 6  | 7<br>OPEN CENTER  | 8  | 9  |
| 10<br> | 11 | 12<br>OPEN CENTER | 13 | 14<br>OPEN CENTER | 15 | 16 |
| 17<br> | 18 | 19<br>OPEN CENTER | 20 | 21<br>OPEN CENTER | 22 | 23 |
| 24<br> | 25 | 26<br>OPEN CENTER | 27 | 28<br>OPEN CENTER | 29 | 30 |

\*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF  
CENTER HOURS OPEN FROM 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM





# SNELL TOWAR

## December



S M T W T F S

|    |    |   |   |                      |    |    |
|----|----|---|---|----------------------|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3   | 4   | 5                    | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10<br>OPEN<br>CENTER  | 11  | 12<br>OPEN<br>CENTER | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17<br>CLOSED  | 18  | 19<br>OPEN<br>CENTER | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24<br> | 25<br> | 26                   | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31<br><i>Happy<br/>New Year</i>   |   |                      |    |    |

**\*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF  
CENTER HOURS OPEN FROM 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

# HARRIS NATURE CENTER ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## October - November 2024

6.C.

| SUN       | MON   | TUE   | WED   | THU  | FRI   | SAT   |
|-----------|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|           | <b>28</b><br>Annie's Big Nature Lesson (ABNL)<br>Wilcox Elementary<br>2nd Grade | <b>29</b><br>ABNL<br>Wilcox Elementary<br>2nd Grade   | <b>30</b><br>ABNL<br>Wilcox Elementary<br>2nd Grade   | <b>31</b><br>ABNL<br>Wilcox Elementary<br>2nd Grade                            | <b>1</b> ABNL<br>Wilcox Elementary<br>2nd Grade<br>5-7 pm<br>MSU Volunteers <br>7 pm - Dogs after Dark | <b>2</b><br>Open<br>9 am - 3pm  |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>Kati & Allison<br>NAAEE Conference<br>Building Open<br>9 am - 3 pm                            | <b>7</b><br>Kati & Allison<br>NAAEE Conference<br>Building Open<br>9 am - 3 pm | <b>8</b><br>Kati & Allison<br>NAAEE Conference<br>Building Open <br>9 am - 3 pm                        | <b>9</b><br>Open<br>9 am - 3pm  |
| <b>10</b> | <b>11</b><br>HOLIDAY<br>CLOSED  | <b>12</b><br>AM:<br>Okemos Public<br>Montessori<br>Kindergarten<br>PM:<br>Cornell Elementary<br>1st Grade | <b>13</b><br>AM:<br>Okemos Public<br>Montessori<br>Kindergarten<br>PM:<br>Cornell Elementary<br>1st Grade | <b>14</b><br>10 AM:<br>Chipmunk<br>Story Time                                  | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b><br>Open<br>9 am - 3pm<br>7 pm All about Crows<br>Campfire Program |
| <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade                               | <b>19</b><br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade   | <b>20</b><br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade   | <b>21</b><br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade                              | <b>22</b><br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade   | <b>23</b><br>Open<br>9 am - 3pm   |
| <b>24</b> | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b><br>HOLIDAY<br>CLOSED   | <b>29</b><br>HOLIDAY<br>CLOSED  | <b>30</b><br>closed for<br>holiday<br>weekend                               |

# HARRIS NATURE CENTER ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Building Hours:  
Tuesday-Saturday  
9 am- 3 pm

# DECEMBER 2024

| SUN | MON                                       | TUE                                       | WED  | THU                                       | FRI  | SAT   |
|-----|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1   | 2<br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade | 3<br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade | 4<br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade                    | 5<br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade | 6<br>ABNL<br>Bath Elementary<br>3rd Grade<br>5:30-7:30 pm<br>Night Out in Nature<br>for Kids | 7<br>Open<br>9 am - 3pm                                 |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11<br>11 am<br>Ribbon Cutting<br>for Log Jam play<br>feature | 12<br>10 am<br>Chipmunk Story Time        | 13<br>3:00-4:00 pm<br>Seasonal Ecology<br>Outreach to<br>Woodlands of Dewitt                 | 14<br>Open<br>9 am - 3pm<br>7-9 pm<br>Wine in the Woods |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18   | 19  | 20   | 21<br>Open<br>9 am - 3pm                                |
| 22  | 23  | 24<br>HOLIDAY<br>CLOSED                   | 25<br>HOLIDAY<br>CLOSED                                      | 26  | 27   | 28<br>closed for<br>holiday<br>weekend                  |
| 29  | 30  | 31<br>HOLIDAY<br>CLOSED                   |  |   |  |   |

**Park Commission Meeting Dates  
2025 Meeting Schedule**

**RESOLUTION**

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, at 4:30 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_.

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 2025 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 2025 meeting schedule as follows:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Time</u>                       |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 14  | Service Center  | 4:30 pm regular meeting           |
| February 11 | Service Center  | 4:30 pm regular meeting           |
| March 11    | Town Hall **    | 4:30 pm televised regular meeting |
| April 8     | Service Center  | 4:30 pm regular meeting           |
| May 13      | Service Center  | 4:30 pm regular meeting           |
| June 10     | Town Hall **    | 4:30 pm televised regular meeting |
| July 8      | Service Center  | 4:30 pm regular meeting           |
| August 12   | Service Center  | 4:30 pm regular meeting           |
| September 9 | Town Hall **    | 4:30 pm televised regular meeting |
| October 14  | Service Center  | 4:30 pm regular meeting           |
| November 18 | Service Center  | 4:30 pm regular meeting           |
| December 10 | NO MEETING      | NO MEETING                        |

ADOPTED:      YEAS:

                  NAYS:

Resolution declared adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)  
  )ss.  
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chair of the Park Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Commission on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Nardo-Farris, Chair  
Park Commission



**To: Park Commissioners**

**From: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks and Recreation**

**Date: December 12, 2024**

**Re: Election of Park Commission Officers**

Chair opens the floor for nominations for **Chair**.

COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_ MOVED, TO NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_ AS CHAIR.

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

Chair opens the floor for nomination for **Vice Chair**.

COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ MOVED, TO NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_ AS VICE CHAIR.

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NAYS:



## 9. Director's Report