



AGENDA

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 4:30pm
Service Center Conference Room

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 - A. Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.
2. ROLL CALL
 - A. Present: Chair Nardo-Faris, Commissioners Lick, McDonald, and Stephens
 - B. Absent: Commissioner Phelps – excused
 - C. Staff present: Parks and Recreation Director Wisiniski and Administrative Assistant Pachucki
 - D. Guest: Jim Kelly, 906 Adventure Team
3. PRESENTATION
 - A. Adventure Team
 1. Jim Kelly, a representative of 906 Adventure Team – Lansing Eastgate, presented on the 906 Adventure Team program's 2026 season. The 906 Adventure team is a youth resilience bike program that originated in the Upper Peninsula. Over 10 weeks, 75 riders and 35 volunteer coaches rode over 1500 miles and put in 750 hours' worth of work on Tuesday evenings. There were many returnees to the program this year, and new elements for challenges were created (including an obstacle course that was set up and torn down each week). The presentation concluded by thanking the Park Commission and Parks and Recreation staff for the facility support, including ordering additional port-a-johns, and providing space for their storage trailer.
 2. The Park Commissioners asked Mr. Kelly about the history of the program, dividing youth by age instead of skill level, the commitment required from families, weather challenges, and how interested parties could get involved. The Park Commissioners also asked if there were any specific needs that could be addressed by the Park Commission.
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. There were no announcements.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - A. An opportunity was provided for the public to speak. There was no public comment.
6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - A. Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lick seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. August 11, 2026 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 1. Commissioner Lick moved to approve the August 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
 - B. August 11, 2026 Park Commission Special Meeting Minutes
 1. Commissioner Lick moved to approve the August 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

C. June 8, 2026 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes Closed Session

1. Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the June 8, 2026 regular meeting minutes Closed Session as presented. Commissioner Lick seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meridian Conservation Corps Calendar

1. Director Wisinski reviewed upcoming Weekday Warriors and Stewardship Saturday events, and highlighted an additional event on Saturday, September 26th to slay autumn olive with MSU Community Sustainability students. She also reminded the Park Commissioners of the upcoming Volunteer Thankquet on Friday, September 18th at Central Park pavilion from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

B. Harris Nature Center Events

1. Director Wisinski noted that several school groups are visiting Harris Nature Center over the next few weeks, and that A Night Out in Nature for Kids would return on Friday, September 18th. The Harris Nature Center Foundation is also hosting a fundraiser at Buddy's Pizza on September 24th. Commissioner Stephens commented that he would like to host a fishing event at Harris Nature Center in the future.

C. Commissioner Lick moved to accept the communications received and place them on file. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 5-year Master Plan Survey

1. The Park Commissioners discussed the preliminary results as compiled by Mannik-Smith, the consulting group hired for the 5-Year Plan. Commissioners noted that age demographics improved since the last review of the results, but continued to be skewed towards an older population, even with continued outreach. The Commission also noted that there was an overwhelming lack of "zero" children in the home of survey respondents – suggestions for future improvements for the survey could include a "visiting children" in the home section to capture extended family members that may participate in the programs but are not living in the home full-time. Commissioners were surprised by open-ended comments on special events, high deer management approval ratings, and awareness of parks/services.

B. 5-year Goals and Objectives

1. Commissioners created five phrases that will serve as the over-arching ideas for the goals and objectives for the 5-Year Plan. The Commission also asked to review the Parks and Recreation department mission and vision statement to ensure alignment between the two. The five draft goals are as follows:
 - Partnerships
 - Maintenance and Strategic Development
 - Accessibility and Connectivity
 - Stewardship and Sustainability
 - Communication

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. There were no action items.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Park Commission Agenda Tracker

1. Director Wisinski explained the Agenda Tracker document to the Park Commissioners and asked if the Commissioners had anything that they wish to include at a future meeting, to either email Director Wisinski, or add it directly to the document once Director Wisinski grants access. Commissioner Lick asked if

budget updates could be included on the tracker, and Director Wisinski affirmed that the quarterly updates will be placed there.

B. Upcoming Events

1. Director Wisinski noted the following upcoming events: Fall Native Plant Sale at Harris Nature Center – Saturday, October 3; Movie Night in the Park at Towner Road Park – Friday, September 25; Farmer’s Market and Summer Concert Series at Marketplace on the Green both continuing through the end of October; and the fall youth soccer and flag football season beginning after Labor Day.

C. Cricket Update

1. Director Wisinski recently met with a work group composed of representatives from three local cricket leagues. The group approved the idea of batting cages, and Director Wisinski is working to source equipment (many parts need to be sent from England or overseas due to lack of availability in the United States), and to write a Request for Proposals for the concrete work/installation.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. An opportunity was provided for the public to speak. There was no public comment.

13. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Commissioner McDonald asked Director Wisinski about the parking situation at the new trailhead located at Haslett Village Square. Director Wisinski answered that the developer will install six new spaces near the trailhead for public access. Commissioner Stephens let Park Commissioners know that former Michigan Department of Natural Resources director and Fisheries Division chief Howard Tanner passed away on August 16, 2026. A memorial service will be planned over the next few weeks, and Commissioner Stephens will share the details once finalized.
- B. Chair Nardo-Farris reminded the Park Commission that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be Tuesday, October 13th, 2026 at 4:30 PM at Town Hall, and would be televised.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:36 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.