



MINUTES
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING
Tuesday, August 11, 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 4:35 PM.
2. ROLL CALL
 - A. Present: Chair Nardo-Farris, and Commissioners McDonald, and Stephens
 - B. Commissioner Lick arrived at 4:45 PM.
 - C. Staff present: Parks and Recreation Director Wisinski and Administrative Assistant Pachucki
 - D. Absent: Commissioner Phelps – excused
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. There were no announcements.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - A. An opportunity was provided for the public to speak. There was no public comment.
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - A. Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the agenda. Chair Nardo-Farris seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. June 9, 2026, Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
 1. Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the June 9, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Chair Nardo-Farris seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
7. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Meridian Conservation Corps Calendar
 1. Director Wisinski reviewed the August Stewardship calendar and noted that the workdays for the month were focusing on invasive species removal, including bittersweet and Tree of Heaven. Director Wisinski also shared that one of the work days will involve kayaking out to the installed floating islands at Central Park South for trash removal and native planting, and the Green Fair will be held on Saturday, August 15th during the Farmer's Market.
 2. Director Wisinski remarked that all three of the part-time stewardship staff has secured full-time employment in their respective fields over the past few weeks. One of the seasonal maintenance staff has moved over to one of the part-time stewardship roles, and the position will be posted for another part-time stewardship role. With three staff members leaving, Senior Land Stewardship Coordinator Campbell is the only one certified in the department to apply herbicide. The new part-time employees will eventually also be certified.
 3. Commissioner McDonald noted that Saturday, August 15th is also the date of the Celebration of Life service for LeRoy Harvey at Woldumar Nature Center at 5:00 PM. Commissioner Stephens asked if the fence removal of the floating islands was for turtle habitat, and Director Wisinski confirmed.
 - B. Harris Nature Center Events
 1. Director Wisinski shared that last week was the final week of Summer Camp at Harris

Nature Center. Parks and Land Preservation Superintendent Adams reported to Director Wisinski that 501 children attended summer camp throughout the season. Upcoming events at Harris Nature Center include a sensory-friendly night on Friday, August 14, the fundraiser “A Night For Nature” on Saturday, August 29, and the Native Plant Sale pre-orders are open now through Wednesday, September 23. The Native Plant Sale and order pickup will be on Saturday, October 3.

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Parks & Recreation 5-Year Plan Public Meetings

1. August 13, 2026 – Towner Road Park
2. Director Wisinski reminded the Park Commission of the last 5-Year Plan Public Meeting on Thursday, August 13 at 6:00 PM at Towner Road Park. Director Wisinski also recapped the previous public meetings, and the stakeholder meetings for the Park Commissioners. The commissioners discussed the Township Board Listening Sessions, and a comment made at a recent one about downed trees, and woody debris.

B. Parks & Recreation 5-Year Plan Draft Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

1. Director Wisinski introduced the draft Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and stated that the 2027 budget requests for departments were due at the end of the month. The draft budget will go before the Township Board in early September. Director Wisinski requested preliminary feedback from the Park Commission on 2027 projects, and stated that years beyond 2027 are considered fluid, and can be moved based on the needs of the Parks and Recreation department, and Park Commission. She also reminded the Park Commission that most of the projects included on the proposed CIP have been there for several years, with only a handful of things added over the last few months. Two items on the Capital Improvement Plan for 2026 will need to be moved over to 2027 due to permitting, funding, logistics, and time (Wonch Park Canoe Launch, and Okemos Road Bike Trail Hub).
2. Director Wisinski explained the 2027 projects: Wonch Park Canoe Launch, Okemos Road Bike Trail Hub, Nancy Moore Park Playground Upgrade/Replacement, Farmer’s Market Electrical Upgrades, and North Meridian Road Parking Lot Expansion. The commissioners discussed the cost estimate for the Nancy Moore pavilion upgrade/replacement coming in lower than expected and working with Farmer’s Market vendors on a cost differential for those that use significant amounts of electricity. Part of the vendor fee could be spent on improvement funds specifically for Marketplace on the Green. The commissioners also discussed the use of solar panels for vendors at the Farmer’s Market.
3. The 2028 projects include Hartrick Park Parking Lot Expansion, Farmer’s Market Sunshades for the open area in the center, and Farmer’s Market Bathroom Expansion. In 2029, the Capital Improvement Plan will focus on Harris Nature Center Parking Lot Expansion and Harris Nature Center Outdoor Restrooms. One of the projects proposed for 2030 is a full replacement of pickleball courts at Hillbrook Park and at Towner Road Park. Projects for future years beyond 2030 include Hillbrook Park Restrooms, Nancy Moore Park Loop Trail, Central Park Splashpad, Meridian Riverfront Park Trail, Wonch Park General Improvements, Farmer’s Market Drainage and Access, Farmer’s Market Expansion, and Cricket Grounds.
4. The commissioners were agreeable to the projects as outlined, and discussion ensued whether the Red Cedar Water Trail should continue to be included in the Capital Improvement Fund. The Commission decided that in the future it should be included under construction/improvements in the budget.

C. Towner Road Plaque Discussion

1. Director Wisinski and Commissioner Lick described the history of the plaque recently installed at Towner Road Park, and that a resident reached out upset about the wording on the plaque honoring Greg Lemanski, as chosen by the family. Discussion by the park commissioners included reviewing the current process for

the naming policy, the level of fact-finding that the commission should do before approving plaque installations, and considerations of if the naming policy should even include plaques. Commissioners recommended reviewing the naming policy in 2027.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. There were no action items.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Parks & Recreation 2026 Ballot Language

1. Director Wisinski shared the ballot language that the Township Board approved at their July 21, 2026 regular meeting. The park commissioners discussed how the language in the proposal emphasizes the renewal, and that the Park Commission should also emphasize that it is not a new tax levied. Chair Nardo-Farris asked the commissioners to consider how to conduct outreach to the community, as both community members and as park commissioners.

B. Upcoming Events

1. Director Wisinski reminded the Park Commissioners that upcoming events are listed in the Meridian Playbook, and compiled by the Communications department. There will be a food safety workshop at the Farmer's Market on Wednesday, August 12, and Movie Night in the Park on Friday, August 28 at Towner Road Park.

C. Cricket Update

1. Director Wisinski continues to meet with members of the cricket community, and plans to bring together three different groups of cricket players for a work group moving forward. After meeting with representatives from one of the groups, Director Wisinski decided to move forward with installing a cricket batting cage in one of the parks. The group members are excited, as similar facilities are limited to Metro Detroit. After meeting with the work group, Director Wisinski will continue to work towards a non-regulation field space for the players.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Chair Nardo-Farris reminded the park commission that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be Tuesday, September 8th, 2026 at 4:30 PM at the Service Center.

13. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:15 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.