

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
Meridian Municipal Building  
March 4, 2015 - Approved**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Chair McConnell and Commissioners Searl, Jackson, Schools, Scherbarth, Sarver, and Kielbaso

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP Associate Planner

**OTHERS:** Harmony Gmazel of Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

**1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Jackson to approve the agenda. Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Approved 7-0.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 4, 2015 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes as corrected during the Work Session. Supported by Commissioner Scherbarth. Approved 7-0.

**4. PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

**5. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION BY HARMONY GMAZEL OF TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, ENTITLED: "WRAPPING UP THE MID-MICHIGAN PROGRAM FOR GREATER SUSTAINABILITY"**

Aspects of the completed program included:

- A five-year Comprehensive Regional Fair and Affordable Housing Plan
- Regional Affordable Housing Plan
- A Regional Affordable Housing Study
- Community Reinvestment Fund
- Energy Audit of Built Structures
- Build Capacity for a Regional Urban Service Management Area
- Greening Mid-Michigan - A Prioritized Green Infrastructure System

- Sustainable Design Portfolio for Michigan Avenue Corridor
- Build Capacity for Complete Streets Planning and Implementation
- Create an Online Portal

6. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Brief summary of communications he has had with the IT Department Director regarding the Greenspace Plan maps.

7. **COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT**

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- ITC tree grant check for \$5,000 presented to the Township Board
- Two wetland use permits are coming up soon – on Association Drive and along Van Atta Road
- Spring recycling event on April 25<sup>th</sup>
- Quiet Waters Symposium is this coming Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>
- Summarized two webinars recently attended:
  - Solar Power for Resilient Communities and
  - Building Healthy Places Toolkit - listed and summarized the 21 recommendations made by the Urban Land Institute (see attached).

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

a. **Approve Environmental Stewardship Award recipients:**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Jackson to approve the slate of nominees discussed during the Work Session. Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Approved 7-0.

9. **STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS**

a. **Land Preservation:** No report.

b. **Energy Team:** Commissioner Sarver noted the February Energy Team meeting was held followed by the first meeting of the Solar Committee. Director Kieselbach was chosen to be the Chair of the committee.

c. **Street Tree Replacement:** No report.

d. **Parks:** Commissioner Searl summarized what took place at the most recent Park Commission meeting, including:

- Installation of a zig-zag fence behind the log cabin in in the historic village;
- Only six deer were taken during the extended Deer Management effort in January and February;
- They are working on a master plan for Central Park; and
- Plans for repairing the tennis courts and the pavilion in Hillbrook Park.

10. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Jackson to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Supported by Commissioner Scherbarth. Approved 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.