

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING PLANNING COMMISSION
5000 Okemos Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Townhall Room
Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Chair Shrewsbury, Vice-Chair Snyder, Commissioners Romback, Brooks, McCurtis, McConnell, and Nahum

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Principal Planner Shorkey

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Shrewsbury called the January 12, 2026, regular meeting for the Meridian Township Planning Commission to order at 6:42 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Shrewsbury called the roll of the Board. All Board members were present. Commissioner Nahum introduced himself to the Planning Commission.

3. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Shrewsbury asked for approval of the agenda.

Commissioner McCurtis moved to approve the January 12, 2026, Regular Planning Commission meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner McConnell. Motion passed unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Brooks moved to approve Minutes of the November 17, 2025 meeting as written. Seconded by Vice-Chair Snyder. Motion passed unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Principal Planner Shorkey pointed out a communication regarding an upcoming special Board meeting that all Boards and Commissions are invited to.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. None

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Parking Ordinance Discussion

Principal Planner Shorkey introduced the draft parking ordinance update and pointed out some highlights.

Commissioner Romback asked for a clarification about language empowering the Community Development Director. Principal Planner Shorkey explained the language. Commissioner McConnell asked for consistency in the Community Development Director's title and asks for clarification language for non-motorized language. Commissioner McConnell discussed micromobility parking on MSU campus and said that they might want to be more specific. Discussion about non-vehicular parking ensued.

Chair Shrewsbury asked Principal Planner Shorkey how recent developments would be affected by proposed parking maximums. Principal Planner Shorkey discussed Trader Joe's. Commissioner Romback expressed concern that a parking maximum might discourage new restaurants from opening up. After discussion, said that he would present parking data on the recently approved Panda for analysis.

Commissioner McConnell discussed parking number regulations and shared parking. Commissioner McConnell mentioned a couple observations about parking for recent developments. Commissioner Brooks asked if there has been any discussion about removing parking minimums. Principal Planner Shorkey said that was discussed during the update of the parking standard ordinance.

Commissioner Brooks proposed a carve out in the ordinance for alternative transportation parking, that could be adaptable for changes in alternative transportation. Principal Planner Shorkey discussed potential designs with the Planning Commission. Chair Shrewsbury discussed alternative transportation and suggested incentivizing it. Staff would look at alternative transportation parking regulations for discussion. Chair Shrewsbury suggested that Staff look at other sections of the zoning ordinance to make sure it aligns with the proposed changes to the parking ordinance.

Commissioner Brooks said that it seemed odd to add the Community Development Director to the ordinance after it was scrubbed from the Village of Nemoka update previously. Principal Planner Shorkey said that he would look into that and get back to the Commission.

Commissioner Brooks brought up a question about the single-family residential parking language and gravel driveways. Principal Planner Shorkey said that gravel driveways are allowed. Further conversation about driveways and single-family residential parking ensued. Chair Shrewsbury asked for a definition of a Commercial Vehicle. Commissioner Romback asked Staff to clarify the language about commercial trucks and vehicles.

Commissioner Romback asked if new gravel could be placed over old gravel for a driveway. Principal Planner Shorkey said that would be fine and that the Township does not have a driveway permit. After further discussion, Principal Planner Shorkey said that he would update the commercial vehicle language. Further discussion about single-family residential parking. Commissioner Brooks discussed the differences in parking between properties in the USB versus those outside of the USB.

Commissioner Brooks asked about the parking number regulations. Principal Planner Shorkey said none of that was being changed and was already updated and offered to remove it from the draft. Chair Shrewsbury said to leave it in for now and that it was helpful to see the ordinance in its entirety.

Commissioner Brooks asked about the change of the width of a parallel parking space. Principal Planner Shorkey said that Staff found an updated number and proposed the change. Commissioner McConnell asked where there are parallel parking spaces. After discussion, Principal Planner Shorkey said that some is proposed for the Haslett Village project.

Commissioner Brooks asked about illumination and asked if safety is defined in the ordinance. Principal Planner Shorkey said no and that well lit areas are safer than dark areas. Commissioner McConnell said that most of our ordinance dealt with restricting light. Principal Planner Shorkey said that the lighting ordinance restricts the light leaving a site at a property line. Chair Shrewsbury said that the ordinance referred to the lighting section and that the language about the why could be struck. Commissioner Rombach asked who would update the lighting ordinance. Principal Planner Shorkey said it is outside of the zoning ordinance and would be updated by the Board.

Commissioner Brooks asked about landscape buffers. After discussion, Commissioner Brooks asked about requirements for green infrastructure in the buffer area. Principal Planner Shorkey said that it is allowable in buffers and that it is deferred to the Drain Commissioner's office. After further discussion about parking landscaping, Commissioner Brooks asked if native landscaping is required in the landscaping language. Principal Planner Shorkey said that Staff would look into that and update the ordinance. Commissioner McConnell asked for comments to be placed in a bubble and to shut off format change comments on the draft.

Principal Planner Shorkey said that he would update the draft ordinance based on the conversation and include a memo that answered the questions that the Planning Commission asked and have them on the next agenda for further discussion.

B. 2025 Annual Report

Principal Planner Shorkey introduced the 2025 Annual Report and asked for a motion to forward it to the Board.

Commissioner McConnell moved to approve 2025 Annual Report. Seconded by Commissioner Rombach. Motion passed unanimously.

C. 2026 Officers and Appointments

After discussion, Commissioner McConnell nominated Commissioner Rombach as the new Chair, Commissioner McCurtis as the new Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Shrewsbury as the new Secretary as a slate. The Planning Commission unanimously elected the officers as nominated.

Principal Planner Shorkey said that the Planning Commission needed to appoint a representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals and suggested Commissioner Nahum. Vice-Chair Snyder nominated Commissioner Nahum to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Planning Commission unanimously elected Commissioner Nahum as the new Zoning Board of Appeals representative.

10. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Township Board Update

Principal Planner Shorkey said that the Authentix proposal was on the next Board agenda.

b. Liaison Reports

Commissioner McConnell said that the Environmental Commission had elected a new Chair.

11. PROJECT UPDATES

None

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Shrewsbury thanked the Planning Commission for supporting her during her time as Chair. Commissioner McConnell asked Principal Planner Shorkey if he could report the result of the recommendations that the Planning Commission had made in 2025 at their next meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Shrewsbury called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm

Commissioner Brooks moved to adjourn the January 12, 2026 regular meeting of the Planning Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Nahum. Motion passed unanimously at 8:14.