



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY-CENTRAL FIRE STATION
5000 OKEMOS ROAD, OKEMOS, MI 48864
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018 6:00 pm – Minutes

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Chris Nugent (arrived at 6:35pm), Eric Foster, Bruce Peffers, Jeff Ross, Kellie Johnson, Supervisor Ron Styka and Chris Rigterink

MEMBERS

ABSENT: Barry Goetz, Brian Jones and Todd Huhn

STAFF

PRESENT: Economic Development Director Chris Buck

OTHERS

PRESENT: Brandon Rothwell, MSU Journalism Student

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Kellie Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm and read the mission statement.

2. MISSION: The Corridor Improvement Authority of the Charter Township of Meridian is dedicated to establishing the Grand River Avenue corridor in Meridian Township as a prime business and recreation destination in the Tri-County region. The Authority is focused on creating programs and projects that invigorate the streetscape and build partnerships among corridor property owners, business owners, and residents.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR STYKA TO APPROVE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER PEFFERS. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR STYKA TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER PEFFERS. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brandon introduced himself. He was assigned to Meridian to attend a meeting and report on it.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Lighting Along the Corridor

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Director Buck relayed the content of a meeting with Consumers Energy's economic development team. The Transportation Commission voiced concern a few weeks back about the updated lighting along the corridor in Lansing and East Lansing and now Meridian looks dark. This is bad for image and safety. Director Buck was asked to discuss the issue with Consumers (Lansing & EL are served by BWL). Consumers will, upon formal request, provide a free lighting study and make recommendations and options for upgrades along with pricing.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR STYKA FOR THE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY (CIA) TO DRAFT AND SUBMIT A LETTER REQUESTING THAT CONSUMERS ENERGY PROVIDE THE CIA WITH A STUDY OF THE LIGHT ALONG THE CORRIDOR. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER PEFFERS. MOTION APPROVED 6-0.

Director Buck will draft the letter and have Vice Chair Johnson to sign it and submit to Consumers Energy.

B. Orientation Binders

Director Buck explained that Redevelopment Ready Communities requires the Township to have a defined recruiting, orientation and training process for staff and board members. In an effort to develop an orientation process, he created a 3-ring binder for new members with a contact sheet, meeting calendars, state act, bylaws, maps and tabs to keep notes. Chair Buck distributed a binder to each member and asked for feedback.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. MUPUD Zoning Amendment Update

MUPUD zoning amendment update was given by Director Buck. The Planning Commission sub-committee created and updated a version of the ordinance language and voted 7:1 to pass it back to the Township Board. It is on the Township Board agenda for discussion on April 17th.

B. Form Based Code/Shaping the Avenue Update

The Shaping the Avenue lead consultants from Dover Cole are having a study session with the Planning Commission on April 30th from 6-9pm where they will discuss, in detail, the implementation process. The CIA members are welcome to attend since it effects the zoning along the corridor.

8. MERIDIAN MALL REPORT

None.

9. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

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Supervisor Styka discussed the following items:

- Jolly & Okemos Road construction begins Monday.
- Redi Ride expansion was approved. There will be longer hours and five new stops just outside of the Township.
- Sanctuary rezoning was presented and likely will not be approved
- Okemos Grand Estates concept plan was presented just outside the CIA boundary. Feedback was that it was too dense.
- LaFontaine dealership is proposed along Grand River Ave.
- Nassar/Brie agreement has been approved.
- Deborah in Communications has been working with a sign vendor to rebrand the street signs including those in the corridor.

10. CHAIR REPORT

None.

11. STAFF REPORT

- Congrats on the first anniversary of the CIA!
- Welcome aboard Jeff Ross & Eric Foster.
- CATA CEO to present at April's meeting.
- No new site plan for Panera has been formally submitted yet.
- Toys R Us will be for sale in liquidation process. Some developers have shown interest.
- Tri-County Transit and Economic Prosperity study results were presented earlier today. Additional public transit routes are being proposed.

12. OPEN DISCUSSION/BOARD COMMENTS

- Jeff Ross added that there is new technology that could be incorporated into the street lighting project called IoT via Smart Cities. He will share a link to see if that may be able to be incorporated.
- Also, it was asked what the status of the "campus to Lake Lansing" trail is since it does bisect the corridor. Director Buck was not sure, but agreed to follow up.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brandon asked for some clarification on the lighting project and Form Based Code.

14. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 6:00pm at the Central Fire Station

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection at 7:12 pm. Chris Nugent, Chairperson